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Pike County pair charged with crimes

MURFREESBORO -- A Kirby man has been charged in Pike County for aggravated assault and residential burglary.

William M. Fant, 33, was charged Feb. 12 for an incident in January. Fant was reportedly involved in a domestic dispute at his home on Highway 70 West. He allegedly forced his way into the home and assaulted a female subject, who tried to get away but was choked and drug back into the home. The incident was witnessed by a neighbor who called 911.

Also on Feb. 12, Tyler Wayne Caldwell, 26, of Glenwood was charged in Pike County with two felonies and two misdemeanor offenses.

Caldwell, who has a criminal history and is a convicted felon, was arrested in December 2020, following an altercation on Seventh Street in Glenwood. He reportedly threatened to kill a subject with a gun and then left the area. Caldwell was later stopped and was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia, a suspended license and a loaded assault-style weapon.

Residents asked to conserve utilities

NORTH LITTLE ROCK – Utilities are asking customers in Arkansas to conserve the amount of natural gas and electricity consumed during the current winter weather event. Additional demands on energy sources due to extreme cold weather could cause disruptions to customers in affected areas. Large amounts of winter precipitation continued to fall throughout the region, and frigid temperatures will continue through the week.

NATURAL GAS

Consumption of natural gas can be reduced by lowering thermostats at night. Thermostat settings are recommended to be set between 60-65 degrees during the day when at home – and by lowering the setting an additional 5-10 degrees when away from home. Consumers can also lower the temperature of hot water heaters as well as limit the consumption of hot water. During daylight hours, consumers are encouraged to open blinds and shades to take advantage of the sun's natural heat.

Arkansans can also reduce their energy footprint within their homes by reducing the number of rooms they use during prolonged cold weather events. Select several rooms to use during winter weather events and close doors to rooms that are not being used in an effort to reduce heating efforts to other parts of the home. It's a good idea to have a few extra layers of clothing, blankets, water and other preparedness items readily available in the rooms where household members will spend time.

"Utilities are asking their customers for help in conserving the available natural gas supply during this winter weather event," said Arkansas Division of Emergency Management Director A.J. Gary. "Natural gas continues to be a reliable source of energy for Arkansans, however these are unusual circumstances and the call for conservation this week is one that will help the utilities while they work to keep wellheads functioning."

Temperatures are expected to remain low for the next several days. An additional winter weather storm is expected to impact Arkansas later this week. Taking steps now to reduce the strain on energy sources will help Arkansans prepare for the next round of winter weather.

ELECTRICITY

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas ask members to immediately limit the use of electric service through the next 24 hours to ensure that members will continue to receive at least a minimum of electric service. Additional appeals may be necessary.

According to Andrew Lachowsky, vice president of planning and market operations for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, this is an emergency situation and that rolling electrical outages are possible, unless electric consumption is reduced immediately. He said because of the extremely cold weather and the unusually high requirement for electricity, Arkansas' electric cooperatives and other regional utilities have reached a point where demand for electricity has exceeded the supply. The western part of Arkansas is particularly impacted at the current time, and it is possible conditions may worsen state-wide.

Electric cooperative officials are working diligently with the reliability coordinator to restore normal service as soon as possible.

"This is an unprecedented time, and we urge electric cooperative members to immediately reduce the use of electrical requirements by turning off or not using non-essential lights and electric appliances, especially electric water heaters, clothes dryers, and dishwashers and to turn heating thermostats to lower settings," he said.

UTILITIES Continued on Page 2



AREA BLANKETED WITH SNOW, MORE POSSIBLE THIS WEEK



Staff Photos

SNOW IN ABUNDANCE ... The Murfreesboro area saw 5+ inches of snow over the weekend into Monday afternoon, slowing down local travel and ending any Presidents' Day holiday plans for many people. With school already out on Monday, local children had the ability to frolic in the wintry wonderland, but plans for the rest of the week are still up in the air with consistently freezing temperatures and more snowfall expected later this week.



Local farmer's market seeks potential vendors for 2021

BY CHRISTINA MYRKLE
Volunteer Market Manager

MURFREESBORO -- Volunteers from around Pike County are partnering with the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce to help local farmers and consumers with the development of a farmers' market.

Farmers' markets have been gaining in popularity nationwide in the past five years, but with the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, more consumers are looking for more local and fresh options when it comes to their produce selections. In 2020, the online sales of home goods and garden products grew by nearly 63 percent, a clear indication that consumers are looking for more fresh healthy choices regarding their produce.

A farmers' market would provide not only for the local consumers, but also an opportunity for local farmers, giving them the opportunity to increase profits over selling to wholesalers or large grocery firms. It would also cut down in the amount of time the produce is in transport, allowing for not only fresher choices to the consumer, but reduced costs for the farmer.

Another benefit for the farmer is the variety of produce and goods that are offered at a farmers market, which can attract a more diverse group of consumers. Farmers are able to provide a selection of in-season fruits and vegetables direct to the consumer, whether that consumer is a local resident or a visitor to the area. Honey, handmade soaps, and organic options are just a few that could be offered to those shopping the market.

Another wonderful benefit to a local farmers' market is what it brings to the community, such as an increased awareness of attractions in the surrounding area and activities that are offered, including our local parks and camping, entertainment, festivals, as well as the foot traffic to local businesses and restaurants, hopefully encouraging the consumer to come

Murfreesboro Farmers Market Buy Local, Buy Fresh



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870-925-3413

Saturdays May thru September

for the farmers' market and stay for the day exploring the rest of what Murfreesboro has to offer.

The Murfreesboro Farmers' Market will be a place where local farmers support local families by bringing quality fresh choices directly

to the consumer.

If you are a farmer that is seeking a place to sell your produce or handmade product, please reach out to our Volunteer Market Manager at (870) 925-3413 for further details on becoming part of the Murfreesboro Farmers' Market.

SPC Schools to seek new elementary principal

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The South Pike County School Board re-hired two of its administrators during its February meeting and will soon be looking for a new elementary principal.

The board approved the rehiring of High School Principal Davey Jones and Tanya Wilcher, director of programs, but did not ad-

dress the employment of Elementary Principal Cindy Lee in open session.

Lee reportedly announced to her staff the week of the meeting that she planned to retire at the end of the school year. Superintendent Brad Sullivan confirmed Lee's plan and said following the meeting that the board is expected to act on the matter next month.

SCHOOL Continued on Page 2

UTILITIES

Continued from Page 1

Lachowsky emphasized that public cooperation is essential until the electric power issue has passed. If reductions are not sufficient to permit continuity of service, it may be necessary to begin temporary interruptions of electric service in specific areas across the state.

Cooperative representatives are also directly contacting large industrial and commercial members asking their cooperation as well. The interconnections of electric systems frequently make it possible for one system to secure additional electricity from neighboring systems. However, the present extreme cold weather is widespread in this region, making additional electric power very limited. Thus, conservation of energy is important to help insure a restoration of complete electric service. The cooperatives will continue to keep the public advised of further developments concerning cutbacks of electric power.

Southwestern Electric Power Co. (SWEPCO), acting upon a request of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), is asking all customers to conserve electricity this week as extreme cold grips the region. SPP, the regional organization that manages the electric grid across 17 central and western U.S. states, reports a high demand for electricity that is expected to increase over the next several days because of persistent, widespread and extreme cold.

Steps to reduce electricity use include:

- Turn down the thermostat 2 to 3 degrees, especially overnight. (Consider wearing additional layers of clothing to remain comfortable.)
- Set programmable thermostats to lower temperatures when no one is home.
- Limit use of large appliances (i.e., dishwasher, washer, dryer, etc.)
- Avoid using unnecessary lighting and other electrical devices.

Open curtains on the sunny side of the house to warm up your home. If there's no sun, close the shades to keep warm air inside.

SWEPCO asks its customers to take whatever measures they can to limit the use of electricity, so that no further actions are necessary. Customers' combined efforts can reduce overall demand for electricity and help ease the situation.

SWEPCO announced Monday afternoon it has begun temporarily interrupting

power to parts of its service territory in an emergency procedure prompted by extreme winter temperatures.

The controlled outages are being implemented by utilities across multiple states as part of emergency procedures to reduce load on the electric system and prevent wider area outages.

SWEPCO is rotating the areas affected by the controlled outages so customers are not without service for more than a few hours whenever possible. The amount of time required to restore service could be delayed in some cases due to system and weather conditions. The temporary outages should not affect critical public health and public safety facilities.

All efforts are under way to return service to normal as quickly as possible.

Customers should be prepared for electric service outages as the emergency continues in the next few days.

For customers who have service, please continue to conserve energy. Use energy needed for personal safety and to protect against property damage. Minor adjustments to thermostats, plus reduced use of lighting and appliances, can make a significant difference to the overall electric system.

SWEPCO will provide updates through the news media, on SWEPCO.com, and on the company's Facebook and Twitter pages.

SAFETY

As a major winter storm bears down on the region, SWEPCO is prepared to respond. Widespread or lengthy outages are not expected with a forecast of primarily snow and sleet.

"We've activated our storm management processes and are coordinating with local emergency management authorities across our service territory," said Drew Seidel, SWEPCO vice president of Region Distribution Operations. "The forecasted snow and sleet for most of our service territory generally do not create the same utility problems as freezing rain and ice. We continue to monitor the forecast for potential weather-related impacts."

SWEPCO has more than 1,000 line, tree and support personnel ready to respond if needed.

You can report outages and get the latest restoration times by downloading the SWEPCO app at SWEPCO.com/App or going to SWEPCO.com/OutageMap. You also can call us at 1-888-218-3919 to report outages or safety hazards.

EXTREME COLD TIPS

Your appliances may kick into overdrive during frigid weather, including heat pumps, gas furnace blowers, and portable space heaters. These conditions can not only drive up your electric bill, but they can be unsafe too. Here are some key things to remember during the extreme cold.

Being Efficient and Staying Warm

- Set thermostats as low as appropriate for staying healthy and comfortable.
- Turn off lights and electric appliances that you don't need or aren't using.
- Keep doors and windows closed as much as possible, including overhead doors on attached garages.
- Open curtains on the sunny side of the house to warm up your home. If there's no sun, close the shades to keep warm air inside.
- Add door sweeps and weatherization strips to reduce outside air coming in.
- When the fireplace is not in use, be sure the damper is tightly closed.

COLD WEATHER SAFETY

- Take extreme care when using a space heater. Place it at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including curtains and walls, and unplug it before you leave the room.
- Never use a stove or oven to heat your home.
- If you're using a fireplace, use a glass or metal fire screen. Be sure it's large enough to catch sparks or rolling logs.
- Use generators correctly - never operate one inside your home, including the basement or garage.
- Guard against carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure you have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and that they are working properly and have fresh batteries.
- Prevent your pipes from freezing by running a constant trickle of water. Open the kitchen and bathroom cabinets to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Be aware of downed power lines, which can be hidden by snow, sleet or ice. If you see a downed line, stay away and keep others away, especially children and pets. Call SWEPCO or 911.



Staff Photo

LOVE THE EFFORT ... The East Delight Extension Homemakers Club provided workers at the CADC Senior Activity Center in Murfreesboro with Valentine's Day gifts last week to show their love and appreciation of the workers. The group, represented by Betty Woodley and Barbara Denny, presented the gifts of cards and candy to Center Director Vickie Hutson. "It was to say thank you and to show our appreciation for all the hard work they do to feed and help our community," said Woodley of the effort.

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1

In other business, the district's BX3 team made a presentation to the board. BX3 is a statewide initiative designed to build district behavioral teams trained to effectively deal with a variety of behavioral issues.

BX3 team members, who all underwent three years of training and coaching, include: Traci Jones, special education administrator; James Riley, elementary counselor; Beth Perrin, Lynn Gleba and Amber Stone, self-contained teachers; and Candace Hughes and Monica Riley, elementary paraprofessionals.

The board also heard a presentation from Jason Holsclaw of Stephens Inc., concerning the district possible restructuring its bonded indebtedness. The proposal would finance a \$4 million bond for 30 years. The board took no action on the matter with Board President Steve Only requested more time to "digest" the proposal and revisit next month.

The board also approved the district 2021-2022 school calendar.

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-2022 CALENDAR

Includes 178 student/teacher interaction days and 2 parent/teacher conference days

August 11-12	District Professional Development Days
August 12	Open House (3-7)
August 16	First Day of School
September 6	Labor Day - No School
September 14	Parent/Teacher Conferences
September 15	District PD Day (No Students)
October 11	Columbus Day - No School
October 15	End of 1 st Quarter (42 Days)
November 22-26	Thanksgiving Break - No School
December 20-21	Semester Test Days
December 21	End of 2 nd Quarter (42 days)
December 22-January 4	Christmas Break - No School
January 5	District PD Day (No Students)
January 6	School Resumes
January 17	Martin Luther King Day - No School
February 17	Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 18 & 21	Mid-Winter Break - No School
March 16	End of 3 rd Quarter (47 Days)
March 21-25	Spring Break - No School
May 25-26	Semester Test Days
May 27	End of 4 th Quarter (47 Days)
May 30	Memorial Day

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 June 20, 2021 • 8 Days/7 Nights • \$1495
 Picture Perfect Southwest featuring:
 The Grand Canyon, Santa Fe, Sedona and Palo Duro Canyon
 July 9, 2021 • 10 Days/9 Nights • \$1985
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 Asheville, North Carolina and Charleston, South Carolina
 September 17, 2021 • 7 Days/6 Nights • \$1350
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 Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

Q: During these trying times, what can I do to feel better?

A: The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed our lives but there are steps we can take to remain physically and mentally healthy. Take it outside. Sunshine can improve your mood and offers several health benefits. Walk at least 5,000 steps daily (even if it is around the house) to lower the health risks associated with a sedentary lifestyle. Staying connected with others through calls or texts can reduce anxiety. Limit intake of news or social media and add relaxing activities like taking a long bath. Research has proven hobbies are good for your health and keep your mind off worry. Consider keeping a gratitude journal or a diary to record events, thoughts and feelings.

Give help to others and ask for help when you need it. Setting goals can help maintain focus and provide a clearer purpose but do not demand too much of yourself right now. Watch for unhealthy patterns, such as increased drinking or angry outbursts. For those in recovery, that may mean reconnecting with a support group. Remember that everyone is having similar experiences and give others grace if they are not their usual selves.

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

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mineral Springs School District has chosen Doyle Howard Construction to be the Construction Manager for the Construction for the Pre-K Outdoor Pavilion. We will be taking bids from subcontractors and suppliers for the construction of this new facility.

Prints can be sent by email or contact Doyle Howard Construction for Viewing.

Contact for Doyle Howard Construction Scott Howard 870-703-7534 Scott.dhconstruction@yahoo.com

Bid Packages:

1. Cast in Place Concrete with all reinforcing steel
2. Masonry
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Bids will be Privately opened at 2:00 p.m. on the 26th day of Feb 2021 at the Admin Office
 2031 Main Street Saratoga, Arkansas 71859

All bids must be in a sealed opaque envelope with company name, contractor license number, project name, and Bid Package contractor is bidding on. Bids will be required to be filled out on provided Bid Form provided by Construction Manager. Subcontractors are encouraged to have a scope of work sheet in bid package. Proof of liability insurance and workman comp insurance is required in bid envelope.

All information needed to bid on this project can be found in project manual under general conditions and supplemental conditions. Subcontractors must use summary of work on sheet 01010. All subcontractors must agree to a signed contract.

Bids received after the listed time and date will not be opened and will be returned to the company that turned in bid form.

Bid proposal must have a 5% bid bond or cashier's check for 5% included in their bid. Contractors to include in their bonds should be payment and performance bond.

Bidders shall conform to all the requirements of the Arkansas Contractors Laws for Contractors performing work in the State of Arkansas. Contractors to follow all State and Osha Laws for working in the State of Arkansas.

The Owner, Construction Manager and Architect reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any formalities.

Address bids to:
 Mineral Springs School District-Admin Office
 Attention Doyle Howard Construction
 Billy Lee, Craig Boone

No bids shall be withdrawn for a period of 60 days without written consent of Owner and Construction Manager.

Doyle Howard Construction reserves the right to bid on any bid packages concerning general construction.

(m.s.s.d., 383w., 31-32)

MHS basketball regular season concludes

Conference tourney set, but up in air with possible weather delays

BY MIKE WALLACE
AND P.J. TRACY

MURFREESBORO -- The MHS basketball teams have concluded their regular season with games against Dierks and Kirby last week.

On Monday, Feb. 8 the senior Rattlers hosted the Dierks Outlaws to resolve a game that was postponed earlier this season due to COVID-19 issues. The Outlaws would prevail in the conference game by a 56-29 final.

Murfreesboro would open the game staked to a 10-6 lead after the first quarter.

The Outlaws would dominate the rest of the game however, holding a lead of 23-15 at halftime and 42-24 after the third period.

Aden Henderson would score 11 points to lead MHS, followed by teammates Kade Caldwell and Ketrick Dennis with five points each.

AT KIRBY

The visiting Murfreesboro Senior Rattlers stayed right with the host Kirby Senior Trojans Thursday night, February 11, trailing by just one point after the first period.

Murfreesboro went on an 11-2 run as the period came to

a close to make the score 27-26 opening the second stanza.

Kirby would survive the hot shooting of the visiting Rattlers, pulling away in the second period with a 24-9 run of their own for a 51-35 intermission lead.

The Kirby senior boys led Murfreesboro 68-46 into the final period and winning 79-52.

Caldwell led the Rattler scoring with 20 points including a trio of three-pointers. Other high point Rattlers included Henderson eight, Gavin Rawls five and Ethan Waters four.

MHS couldn't stop either Brody Tucker or Christian Miller of Kirby, as Tucker scored 31 points in three periods and two minutes of the fourth. Miller consistently out jumped the Rattlers under the hoop for tip-ins and spin moves, scoring 22 points in three periods.

Dallin Markham added 8 points for the Trojans.

The Kirby Senior Lady Trojans ran their way to a 53-33 victory.

Emma Corbitt scored 19 for the Lady Rattlers, but couldn't fight off the Lady Trojans the entire night.

KHS would hold team leading scorer Rhealee Campbell to a fourth quarter three-pointer as her only basket.

Kirby led 16-6 after one period, 30-12 at the half, and 42-24 into the final period.

Mallorie Stivers scored five for the Rattlers.

McKenzie Jones score 18 for the Lady Trojans, while teammates Jacey Vines added six points and Allyson Strasner five.

7-AA TOURNAMENT

Editor's note: delays of the tournament have yet to be determined due to inclement weather.

By virtue of being the higher seeds, both the Lady Rattlers and Rattlers are scheduled to host home conference tournament games this week. All games noted are set to start at 6 p.m.

The Rattlers, 7-AA's fourth seed, will host the winner of the Poyen-Foreman winner set for Monday night on Wednesday.

Should the Rattlers prevail, they would then travel to Dierks for a semi-final matchup against the Outlaws on Friday. The confrence championship will be held at either #1 seed Dierks or #2 seed Caddo Hills on Saturday.

The Lady Rattlers are the 7-AA's number two seed and won't play until the semi-finals on Thursday, hosting either Magnet Cove or Dierks.

With a win in that game, the Lady Rattlers would either travel to Poyen or host the championship game should the top-seeded Lady Indians lose in the semi-finals.

The championship game is set to be held on Saturday.



Staff Photos/Mike Wallace

COMPETING AT KIRBY ...

The Murfreesboro Rattlers and Lady Rattlers concluded their regular season in a pair of game last Thursday at Kirby. Pictured (above) is Kade Caldwell, who looks to drive against a pair of Trojan defenders. Caldwell would lead the team with 20 points in the contest. (Left) Lady Rattler center Mallorie Stivers gets a shot off in the paint against the Lady Trojans, while (below) Emma Corbitt looks to score a basket from near the baseline. Corbitt had 19 points to lead the team against Kirby.

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ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Mr. Washington

Lee Trevino has a street named after him in El Paso. Abraham Lincoln has a town named after him in Nebraska. Monty Montana has his namesake state and I've even got some hills named in my honor in South Dakota. But there is one feller who left his mark all over these United States. He's got more towns and cities and counties and streets and states named after him than anyone else. An ex-president. No, not Jimmy Carter. It's ol' George Washington.

I've noticed in most every town of any size there's a Washington Street or Washington Avenue. I dug out my Rand McNally and looked. Thirty-one states have Washington counties. I found nineteen states that have cities called Washington, not counting Washington, D.C. Of course, we have Washington state.

From what I recall from my dusty history books, ol' George was a modest man. They wanted to make him a king but he refused. They wound up making him first in a long line of presidents. I'm sure there's a Fidel Castro Boulevard in Havana. They probably had to twist Fidel's arm to let 'em name it after him. We have a whole raft of politicians who get dams, buildings, airports and other pork barrel

projects named after them. They might have even insisted on it. But we've named our hometowns and counties after George because we admired him, not because he suggested it.

It's not regional either. There's plenty of states in the northeast with his moniker; NY, PA, RI, VT, MD and MA. You'd expect it there. But the south is covered with 'em. Too; AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, MO, NC, FL, GA, TN, TX and VA.

In the Midwest, which was still a wilderness when our young fought the battle and ran the British back to London, you can find lots of Washington's. They're in IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, NE, OH, OK, and WS.

And as if that wasn't enough, just to show you his stayin' power he's represented in CO, ID, OR, UT and the folks in Seattle named their state after him.

Yes sir, he left his mark. But what if his name had been Bumgarner or Svenson or Alvarez. We'd probably have still used it. Or what if his opponent in the election primary had won. Every April we'd have to send our checks to our nation's capital on the banks of the Potomac, Dewey, D.C.

Obituaries

Freddie Leon Clay, 80, Delight



Freddie Leon Clay, age 80 of Delight, Arkansas, passed away on Saturday, February 13, 2021 in his home. He was born on September 25, 1940 in Plainview, Arkansas to the late T.H. Clay and Nora Avery Clay Adams.

Mr. Clay was a Mason and a Grand Lodge Representative for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Union.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter Konlee Hargrove.

He is survived by his wife Chris Clay; three daughters Brenda McCartha, Pamela Dietze and husband Shawn and Lucy Bowman and husband John; fifteen grandchildren Jaime Hargrove, Sarah Bayer, Michael McCartha, Steven McCartha, Nick Estrada, Anthony Estrada, Parker Dietze, Lauren Jones, Cassandra Bowman, John Bowman, Jr., Ashleigh Andrews, Sydney Andrews, Thomas Bowman, Joanna Loretz and Avery Loretz; thirteen great-grandchildren as well as a host of other family and friends.

Visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 2021 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro. Burial will follow in Delight Cemetery under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

You may make a donation to the Wounded Warriors Project in lieu of flowers, if you so choose.

You may send an online sympathy message at www.latimerfuneralhome.com

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Breakfast: Super donut, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Meatball sub w/cheese, potato wedges, baked beans, mixed fruit, milk

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Breakfast: Pancake on stick, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Frito chili w/cheese, salad, broccoli w/ ranch, cinnamon roll, pineapple, milk

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Breakfast: Glazed honey donuts, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Crunchy beef tacos, refried beans, lettuce, tomato, salsa, cookie, pears, milk

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Breakfast: Breakfast pizz, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Hot ham and cheese, flatbread, baked beans, curly fries, peaches, milk

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Breakfast: Cereal, fruit, milk
Lunch: Burrito w/cheese sauce, pinto beans, carrot & celery sticks w/ ranch, blueberries, milk

MURFREESBORO CADC LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, broccoli, french bread, chilled pears, cookie

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Glazed meatloaf, mashed potatoes, succotash, whole wheat roll/bread, peach shortcake

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Fried fish, pinto beans, cole slaw, hushpuppies, cheese cake
Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. Call for more information 870-285-2312.

'Dear Preacher'

By R.J. Tracy, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

In Matthew 25:1-13, we have the parable of the five wise and five unwise virgins. We all probably know that parable by heart, the five unwise slept instead of preparing like the five wise had, and so when the time came to begin the wedding, they were not ready, and consequently were not allowed entrance.

Something to consider, the five unwise were not unwise because they slept, they were unwise because they did not prepare before they slept. In that time weddings were not run on a strict schedule; the wedding began whenever the groom and his party arrived. However, no one knew exactly when that would be. It was the job of these 10 virgins to be prepared for his arrival, no matter the hour. "For yourselves know perfectly that



the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night" (1 The. 5:2). Just as they knew not when the groom would come, we know not when the Son of God will return, so it is on mankind to always be prepared.

Just as Solomon spoke about "a season for everything" in Ecclesiastes 3, there is most definitely a time to work and a time to rest. The wise virgins slept just as the unwise did,

but the wise slept knowing that they were prepared for the future. So, the moral of Matthew 25:4-8 is not that one should not sleep, but that one should sleep the sleep of a righteous and prepared person.

In the end of the parable, when the five unwise were told by the bridegroom that He "knew them not," they received the right response for their lack of action.

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Today, make sure that you have fully prepared yourself for the Saviors return.

Direct all questions to: church of Christ, P.O. Box 256, Murfreesboro, AR 71958, or murfreesborocofc@gmail.com. Thank you for reading and have a blessed day!

Paid Advertisement

Richards to speak at author's group Saturday

MURFREESBORO -- Multi-published and award winning Delight author Penny Richards will be the featured speaker for this month's meeting of the Diamond Authors Association. Her topic will be naming your story characters, how the names of characters and places can add setting and tone to your story.

This regional writer's group will meet at 10 a.m. this Saturday, Feb. 20, in Murfreesboro at Southern Dine Restaurant.

If you are interested, please feel free to attend.



PENNY RICHARDS

Submitted Photo

Light at the end of the tunnel

BY U.S. REP. BRUCE WESTERMAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- As we cross the one-year mark in fighting the global Coronavirus pandemic, we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. Thanks to the great work of Operation Warp Speed, we have multiple safe and effective vaccines available to the public. I encourage everyone to take the vaccine once it becomes available.

I am proud that Arkansas is a leader in vaccine administration. The state has coordinated well with local pharmacies and hospitals to allocate over 67% of doses received from the federal government thus far. Arkansas is currently in Phase 1-B of our distribution plan where any resident aged 70 or older, education workers, childcare workers, health care workers, and others may receive a vaccine. With the coming increase in vaccine availability, families will now

face the sometimes difficult choice of whether or not to take the COVID-19 vaccine.

While this is a very personal decision to make, I encourage each of us to receive the vaccine so that we can protect our families and our communities, and we can soon return to normal life as soon as possible. For the last year, we have all suffered immensely. Elderly residents have been afraid to leave their houses, businesses have closed forever, children have lost a year of quality education despite the hard work of our incredibly talented educators, and those struggling with addiction and mental health challenges have faced a battle like never before.

The vaccine will not solve all our problems, of course, but it will put America back on the right track. I hope you will all consider taking the vaccine for the sake of those who are hurting. I know Arkansas is strong and resilient - we will get through this together.

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- Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
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THE SHUNAMMITE'S SON, ON HIS WAY TO VISIT HIS FATHER IN THE HARVEST FIELDS, PROLDS IN THE HOT SUN WITHOUT A COVERING TO PROTECT HIS HEAD FROM THE INTENSE HEAT, AND NOW...

OOH!!! MY HEAD, MY HEAD!

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AMIDST THE MOURNING OF HIS SERVANTS, THE FATHER CARRIES HIS YOUNG SON FROM THE FIELDS, TERROCK IN HEART OVER THIS CRUEL BLOW FROM THE GRIM HAND OF TRAGEDY....

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MATH 101
* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS**
- ¿ la mode
 - Westminster broadcaster
 - Lamb's momma
 - Depression drifter
 - Alternative to truth
 - Like a Druid, e.g.
 - Verify
 - Flair
 - Avoid paying taxes
 - *Same as power in math
 - Surrender territory
 - Mini, midi or maxi
 - Longnosed fish
 - *Round #23 Down
 - Adverb derived from zone
 - Miner's bounty
 - Curved like a foot
 - Mother Earth to Ancient Greeks
 - Truck amounts
 - "_____ the land of the free..."
 - Hitler's Third
 - Capri, e.g.
 - Walked
 - Grande, e.g.
 - Remove scales
 - Accustomed, two words
 - Like arctic air
 - More capable
 - Tibetan priest
 - *Part of a whole number
 - Grinding tooth
 - Stare amorously
 - Hoofbeat sound
 - Garlic mayo
 - Kick out
 - Gossamer
 - *Pi's second digit
 - High _____
 - "Brave New World" drug

- DOWN**
- Half a particular dance
 - Past tense of heave
 - Type of mountain goat
 - Body six feet under
 - Harvest helper
 - Small goose
 - Abe's coin
 - Exclamation of surprise, archaic
 - Do like fly fisherman
 - Between northeast and east
 - One who denies
 - Popular pie nut
 - *Sum divided by count
 - Southern cuisine pods
 - Apollo to ancient Greeks
 - *Three-dimensional object
 - Not poetry
 - Mends
 - *Whole number between -1 and 1
 - Scottish landowner
 - In accordance with law
 - Search engine pioneer
 - Pigeon's home
 - H in British HMS
 - *Kind of point
 - Set to zero
 - Cunning
 - Pleasing to the ear
 - Ticks and mites, taxonomically speaking
 - Short for Fredericas
 - Lock horns
 - Popular craft wood
 - Under a fig leaf?
 - Gel producing plant
 - *0.3048 meters
 - Pasta with _____ and alio
 - "Cheers" regular
 - Cultural Revolution leader
 - Money in Myanmar

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Businesses protected by legislation under pandemic rules

LITTLE ROCK – Businesses would not be penalized by state regulators for violating Covid-19 restrictions because of the behavior of their customers, under legislation passed by the Arkansas Senate.

Senate Bill 254 provides that during the public health emergency declared by the governor, businesses would not be liable for violations if they were the result of the behavior of patrons.

Also, SB 254 provides that businesses would not be penalized by state inspectors, such as officials of the Health Department or agents of the Alcoholic Beverage Control board, as long as the violation resulted from the behavior of customers.

If an ABC agent entered a restaurant and saw a customer not wearing a face mask, the agent would have to confront the customer and not the manager of the business.

The bill only governs violations of public health orders issued due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and no other health regulations. Also, the business would still be responsible for ensuring that employees follow public health directives. SB 254 passed by a vote of 32-to-1.

After a thoughtful debate, the Senate approved SB 289 to allow health care providers to refuse to perform procedures if they have objections based on conscience. They would not be civilly or criminally liable and could not lose their staff privileges or board certification. SB 289 passed by a vote of 27-to-6.

The Senate also passed SB 183, to prohibit a candidate from using campaign funds or carryover funds to pay fines for ethics violations. Under SB 183, using campaign funds to pay ethics fines would be considered the same as converting campaign funds to personal use. It passed by a vote of 31-to-2.

The penalty for racing on public highways would be more severe under SB 247, which the Senate passed by a 34-to-1 vote. A first offense would remain a class A misdemeanor but a second offense and any additional offenses would be Class D felonies.

SB 245 adds to the potential penalties for sex trafficking. If convicted offenders used a truck in committing the offense, they would be prohibited from holding a Commercial Driver's License. That means they could not legally drive a heavy truck.

After the Senate passed the Senate bills, they were sent to the House and referred to the relevant committee. Assuming they are advanced by the committees, they then will be voted on by the entire House.

The Senate passed a House bill, HB 1202, which requires

counties to publicly post sample ballots in advance of elections. The sponsor said that 55 of the 75 counties in Arkansas already do so. The Secretary of State would post the sample ballots on an Internet page that would be easy for voters to find the correct ballot for their precinct.

HB 1202 originated in the House. It has been approved by both chambers and has been sent to the governor for his signature.

The Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor has advanced SB 6, to prohibit abortions in Arkansas except to save the life of the mother. It will next be considered by the entire Senate.

State drivers encouraged to stay off roads whenever possible during current winter conditions

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) are encouraging residents to stay off the roads and stay warm during the upcoming winter weather event. Starting Sunday, February 14, AHP is preparing to assist motorists during the dangerous conditions that could be caused by the winter storm while ARDOT crews work to keep the roads passable.

AHP will have officers aiding ARDOT maintenance crews on major highways by providing traffic control for equipment operators and on patrol checking on road conditions to help keep IDriveArkansas updated with the most recent information.

Some safety measures if you must travel during this winter weather event:

- Let others know your planned route and expected arrival time

- Check brakes, wipers, fluids, and tire pressure
- Pack warm clothing, blankets, flashlight, ice scraper, sand or cat litter, jumper cables, non-perishable food, and drinking water
- Change your phone before you go and take a charging cord with you
- Allow extra time for your drive
- Slow down and avoid distractions
- And as always, make sure to buckle up

Drivers should exercise extra caution when approaching and traveling through all highway work zones during the winter weather. Additional travel information can be found at IDriveArkansas.com or ARDOT.gov. You can also follow us on Twitter @IDriveArkansas for traffic and @myARDOT for everything else.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Murfreesboro is accepting bids for a new 2022 Sanitation truck with a 20 yard rear loader. Call Mayor Fagan at 870 285-5377 or contact Mayor's office 285-3732 for additional information.

Seals bids need to be in office at 805 North Washington Avenue, Murfreesboro, AR no later than March 3, 2021. The City of Murfreesboro reserves the right to accept or reject bids.

(c.o.m.67w., 32-33)

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Restaurateur happy to be in Murfreesboro

MURFREESBORO -- Having been in the restaurant business for the past 20 years, Armando Zacarias of Telinga's Mexican Restaurant in Murfreesboro said he wouldn't rather be any place else.

It's not because he didn't have options. The owner of the former Las Agaves chain of six Mexican restaurants around southwest Arkansas found that the grind of managing the extended logistical chain on a daily basis simply became a monster he didn't wish to deal with any more.

"It just didn't work. It got too big and we lost control, so I sold the others into great hands [managers of the individual locations] and changed the name so it's not tied to anyone else."

The location in Murfreesboro has been here for the past 12 years, and the business' new name is coined after his mother's nickname.

"It's just what I love doing," Zacarias said definitively. "We are so happy to be in this town ... this is the town that gives me everything I need or want. Everyone here is so supportive, and that means a lot."

Further evidence of his love for Murfreesboro is exemplified in his recent move from Hot Springs to here.

"I just enjoy being here and really like the people of Murfreesboro. The last 12 years have been the best of my life."

Zacarias is originally from Aguascalientes, Mexico, which translates to "hard water" in English, and he finds it amusingly meaningful that he moved to Hot Springs when he relocated from his native county 20 years ago, simply trading one type of water for another.

He said he enjoys a good draw of customers not only from Murfreesboro, but also a regional following from Nashville, Dierks, Kirby and Delight.

Now down to a single business to focus on, Zacarias said he is always looking to improve the business wherever possible -- be it improving on the interior decor while keeping the place "nice, clean and bright" or upgrades on the outdoor look with landscaping.

"Hopefully, there is always something different, and people do notice," he said. Future plans for the

restaurant include the expansion of parking to better accommodate those with boats and RVs as well as the addition of an outdoor patio that will be finished this year. Zacarias envisions the addition of a high quality coffee bar to go along with the patio setting, giving residents and visitors alike an experience similar to Starbucks.

"People love their coffee and will line up for it," Zacarias said. "I'm always thinking about ways to improve the business and customer satisfaction, as opposed to what would be easier for myself. My primary goal is to see people happy here, because if they are happy, that's all that really matters -- if the customers are satisfied, I really am as well. If that wasn't the number one goal, I'd be in the wrong business."

As far as the restaurant's selections, Zacarias said that he tries to keep his menu "smaller" than many Mexican restaurants by only offering better selling customers favorites, most of which are inspired by his mother's family recipes.

"I don't need to offer 10 different types of fajitas, we only have three," he said by example. "Just the ones that people really like is all that we need to have."

He also hopes that down the line liquor sales are approved in Pike County so he can offer several types of adult beverages with meals.

Zacarias said that his employees are the backbone of the business, and that they do become like a family. In the continuity vein, the location in Murfreesboro has had the same primary cook for the past 11 years.

It is also a true family business, as Zacarias' mother, brothers and son make up part of the effort.

He concluded by saying he was "impressed and really thankful" for being selected as the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce's business of the Month for February. "I'm happy they picked this place, showing our potential."

For more information about the business, which is open seven days a week and has various daily and lunch specials, please visit them on the web at telingas.com or follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TelingasMurfreesboro.



Staff Photos
SERVING MEXICAN FOOD WITH EXCELLENT SERVICE ... (above left) Telinga's Mexican Restaurant, the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month for February, is driven by positive customer experiences, according to owner Armando Zacarias (pictured far above, right, with brother Alejandro and waitress Tori Whisenhunt. (above) A photo of the restaurant's "Welcome to Murfreesboro" sign, which has become a tourist favorite for social media photos.



Staff Photos
GRAND OPENING ... In conjunction with the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce, Diamond City Fitness held their grand opening last Friday, Feb. 12. The business, located at 628 West Main Street in Murfreesboro, served refreshments including chili. Pictured above in the ribbon cutting ceremony is (L to R) Mandi Wofford, Debbie Wofford, Robin Dildy, Rylee Wofford, Brandon Wofford, Allison McCauley, Johnny Tidwell, Gary Lovejoy, Cyndi Lovejoy, Jane Fugitt and Dewight Mack. For more on the business, including membership information, follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/diamondcityfitness.

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Submitted Photo/Rylee Wofford
WINTER WONDERLAND ... Terrell Access on the Little Missouri River was picturesque following the significant snowfall Sunday night into Monday morning.

Pisgah EHC members celebrate Delight businesses

BY AVONNE PETTY

DELIGHT – Members of the Pisgah Extension Homemakers Club recently celebrated Valentine’s Day by presenting Delight area businesses and their employees masks to show their appreciation for these local jobs. Members made 128 masks for the 26 local businesses. They also presented the Delight/ Antioine Rural Volunteer Fire Department with 30 masks for the firemen and first responders.

The EHC group has continued to serve their communities during COVID-19 mainly by making and donating 935 masks as listed above as well as to the school, nursing home and Veterans. Members have individually made at least 500 more which were distributed to hospitals, and those in need.

Another project was making 40 Red Hats donated to Baptist Hospital in Arkadelphia for distribution to babies born during February as part of Arkansas Heart Month recognition.

For our club project last year, we made “Fidget Mats” which were donated to the Nursing Home in Murfreesboro. These have zippers, ribbons, beads, etc. for patients to improve their coordination skills. We also sent cards and “Care Packets” of personal items to the patients to show we were thinking of them during the trying COVID lockdown.

At Christmas we decorated the barrels and fence along the main street of Delight. The CADC Head Start students were presented with gift bags of fun items, masks, and toboggans along with a pillowcase, members made during a workshop.

Arkansas EHC is in the middle of a project “One Million Meals – One Dime at a Time” raising funds for the area Food Bank programs. Our club raised \$105 which will provide 525

meals. In spite of COVID-19, Pisgah EHC has continued to support our community. We held several workshops to complete our projects while wearing masks and continuing social distancing. The club meets the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the old computer room of the Picket Building. This room is

especially good for our projects and we greatly appreciate the support of the town for use of this room. We do many activities, learn new crafts, share information, sometime take trips, and have a great time together.

If you are interested in joining our group, please call Avonne Petty at (870) 379-2242 for further information.



Submitted Photo/Avonne Petty
MASK UP FOR SAFETY ... The Delight Volunteer Fire Department members pictured received masks from Pisgah EHC recently.



**DIAMOND CITY FITNESS
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**Weather shuts down local
 trash collection for week**

MURFREESBORO -- According to Pike County Judge Dewight Mack, the Pike County Courthouse will be closed for the remainder of the week, Tuesday, February 16, thru Friday, February 19, due to inclement weather and road conditions.

No rural trash pickup will occur until Monday, February 22.

According to Mayor Rodney Fagan, the city of Murfreesboro offices will be in similar shape, unless things improve in an unlikely scenario.

There will also be no trash collection for the City of Murfreesboro.

Even should the roads improve enough for trash collection across the city, the landfill is currently closed until further notice, so there would be no place to take the refuse.

Additionally, the city’s dumpster at the old chicken plant is full until conditions improve.



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2021 Winter Storm Part 1 Feb. 13-16

Pike County Fox • Feb. 14 • John Balch



Full Cedar • Feb. 15 • John Balch



Frozen Pond • Feb. 16 • John Balch



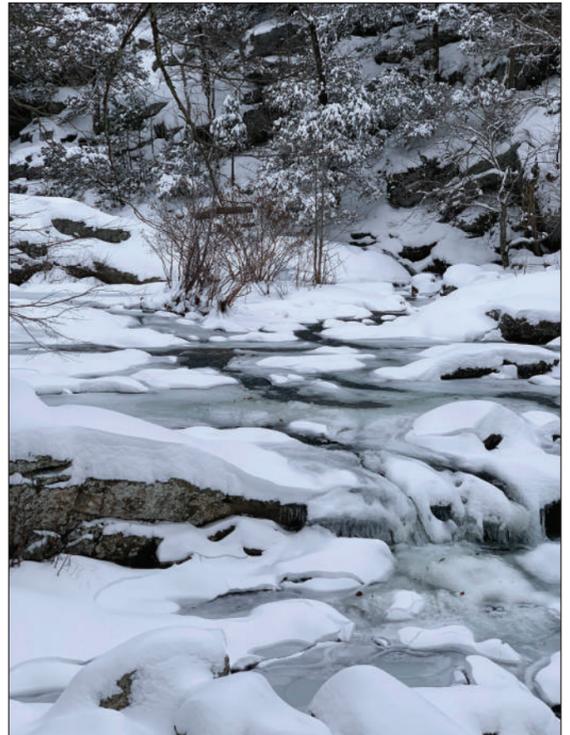
Snow Angel [Alex Bailey] • Feb. 15 • Tracy Denny Bailey



Pike County Gobbler • Feb. 14 • John Balch



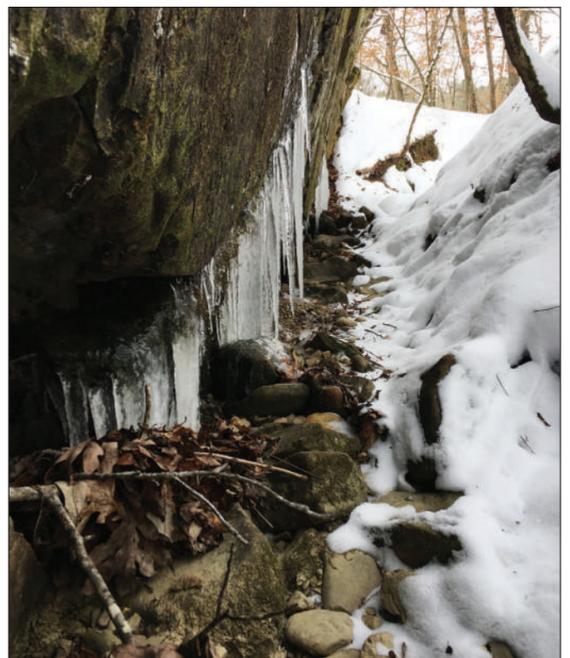
Narrows Dam • Feb. 15 • John Balch



1st One There: Little Missouri Falls
Feb. 15 • Jon Chambers



Puppy's 1st Snow • Feb. 15 • John Balch



Frozen Scene • Feb. 16 • Mary Balch