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October 22nd

CHICKEN DINNER

GIRLS & BOYS BASKETBALL PROGRAMS FUNDRAISER

\$10

Lunch or Pregame Meal Tickets Available

smoked chicken
potato salad
beans
roll
water

MHS/MJHS basketball teams to host chicken dinner fundraiser

MURFREESBORO -- The Rattler basketball program will host a smoked chicken dinner fundraiser on Friday, October 22.

A lunch or dinner option will be offered before the Rattlers take on the Dierks Outlaws in senior football action.

See a 7-12 grade MHS/MJHS boy or girl basketball player for your ticket.

MHS junior class to host fall carnival

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro High School junior class will host a fall carnival on Thursday, October 28 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The event will be held in the MHS courtyard and will features games, prizes and spooky times to be had by all.

The public is invited to attend the event for friends, family and fun.

Chamber’s Fall Fest set for Oct. 30

MURFREESBORO -- The Diamonds In The Fall Festival is set for Saturday, Oct. 30 on the historic Pike County Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro.

The public is invited to attend with events including:

- Cake walk and games (ongoing throughout festival)
- Dog costumer show contest -- 1p.m.
- Kids Unlimited performance -- 2 p.m.
- Costume contest with divisions -- 4 p.m.
- Trunk or Treat event -- 5 p.m.

It is asked that all participants of the trunk or treat to please start on the Cowling Title side of the square so that the flow is uniform.

Members of the public are invited to decorate their vehicle trunks and to come hand out candy to the participating youth. Participants are asked to arrive by 4 p.m. and once parked must remain until the trunk or treat event is over.

The local public is reminded that the Pike County Courthouse Square will be closed to traffic from noon to approximately 6:30 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce, who invites local vendors to participate.

The vendors will be assigned spots as they arrive to the event, based on need of electricity and the like.

Spaces will be approximately 12x12 and cost \$25 -- which will be non-refundable in the event of inclement weather. Vendors will be allowed to arrive beginning at 11:30 a.m., and can leave before the trunk or treat event or stay until it is completed.

Interested participants are asked to provide the following information prior to the event:

- Vendor Name/ Contact Person
- Address (including City and Zip Code)
- Email and Cell/Phone Number
- Type of Vendor (Food, Craft or Non-Profit)

For questions, contact Jane Fugitt at (870) 285-3131 or e-mail the chamber at murfreesboroar.chamber@gmail.com.

Vendor application information and payment may be sent to the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 166, Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!

mdiamond@windstream.net

Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information

Former coach pleads guilty to charges

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The speculation is over in the case against the former Lady Rattler coach charged with sexually abusing three students during his time at Murfreesboro High School.

Charles “Si” J. Hornbeck, 38, had maintained his innocence in the case since his arrest in September 2020, but on Monday the former coach pleaded guilty to five counts of first-degree sexual assault and one count of second-degree sexual assault.

He was sentenced to 20 years with eight years suspended in the Arkansas Department of Correction on each charge. Hornbeck’s sentences will run concurrently for a total of 12 years on all charges. He will be required to serve at least three to four years in prison before becoming eligible for parole and he will be required to register as a sex offender upon his release.

Hornbeck was set for a jury trial on Oct. 27.

Hornbeck worked as a coach and teacher on the MHS campus of the South Pike County School District from 2007 to 2014. Hornbeck was most recently employed by the Farmington Public School District in northwest Arkansas but he resigned from that position in August 2020 just weeks before charges were filed on Sept. 9, 2020 in Pike County.

The assault involved three female victims, all less than 21 years old and there was a four-



CHARLES “SI” HORNBECK
Submitted Photo/PCSO

year time span when the assaults happened. The victims at the time of the assault ranged in age from 15 to 18. The victims said the assaults took place in the Rattler Field House, at the coach’s Murfreesboro home, and at his in-law’s home.

The investigation began in 2019 when the

Arkansas State Police Crimes Against Children Division Child Abuse Hotline received notification regarding an alleged assault of a 16-year-old former MHS student.

As part of the agreed-upon plea deal, Hornbeck had to face his victims as they stood before him to deliver victim impact statements.

(Editor’s Note: Though the victims spoke in open court and their identities were revealed, The Murfreesboro Diamond will not publish the names of the victims.)

The victims all stated they felt they needed to keep their secret to themselves and that they hoped stepping forward will keep Hornbeck from abusing more victims. They all said they had lived with guilt and shame for many years.

Tears streaked down Hornbeck’s face and he nodded in agreement when the first impact statement was delivered. The victim said she found “clear direction” from the Bible, particularly Ephesain 5:11: “Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.” She also said she forgave her former coach for his crimes.

“Si, I can stand here today and say I forgive you. Today is not about trying to get back at you. Today has happened because of your bad choices but today is also happening because of a good choice. A choice to stand up and speak out so another little girl didn’t have to worry

HORNBECK

Continued on Page 2

Opportunistic Rattlers win third straight by corraling Gators, to host Outlaws this week

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers (3-3, 2-0) garnered their second conference victory while keeping the visiting Foreman Gators (0-7, 0-2) winless on the season with a 21-12 victory at home last Friday night.

The game began slowly as the teams felt each other out -- MHS would have a turnover on downs and a pair of punts in their first three possessions, while Foreman had three punts and a turnover on downs in their first four possessions.

Murfreesboro would break through on their fourth possession after a botched punt attempt by the Gators -- tackled by Andrew Howard -- gave the ball to Murfreesboro on the Gator 14-yard-line.

Jay Stuard would rush the ball four consecu-

tive times to gain the score, the final attempt a two yard sneak. Alex Bailey would add the extra point attempt to set the game at 7-0.

Now deep into the second quarter, the Gators would answer on the ensuing possession. Starting at their 42-yard line, Foreman would drive inside the red zone on the strength of a 28 yard pass play from Hunter Fowler to Curtis Young. Fowler would then complete a 7 yard pass on the next play to Desmond Cornelius for a touchdown. The Gators would attempt a two-point conversion on a Fowler rush, but the trio of Tay Johnson, Haydan Pickett and Howard would stop him short to preserve a 7-6 MHS lead at the halftime break.

On their first possession of the second half, the Rattlers would move into Foreman territo-

ry on rushes of 11 and 13 yards by Stuard. Five plays later Tyler Nichols would rush for 14 yards to the FHS 10 yard line. A Rattler holding penalty temporarily disrupted the drive, but Stuard would score from nine yards out two plays later to augment the MHS lead. The teams would trade penalties before the Bailey PAT was good, making the score 14-6.

Foreman would drive to the MHS 36 yard-line, but the Rattler defense held, forcing a turnover on downs.

MHS would punt the ball back to the Gators four plays later, and Foreman would proceed to drive for their second score when Fowler hit Cornelius with a 23 yard pass. The two point

RATTLERS

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RATTLERS DEFEAT GATORS ... The Murfreesboro Rattlers defeated the Foreman Gators 21-12 at home last week, moving their record to 3-3 on the season and 2-0 in conference play. Pictured above (left) is Landon Silva, as the injured senior represented the Rattlers for the pregame coin toss. Quarterback Jay Stuard (right) utilizes blocks to gain some of his 117 yards rushing in the game that ultimately culminated in all three MHS touchdowns.

School board debates fate of Delight campus

MURFREESBORO -- The former Delight school campus was the focal point of the South Pike County School Board meeting on October 12.

Noting that the sale of the superintendent’s house and office had closed and become official, the fate of the remainder of the campus was discussed.

“The reality is that it’s time to get this behind us,” said school superintendent Brad Sullivan. “It’s never a good time to do this.”

He said that the outcome had been brewing over the course of the last decade or so, when

the circumstances for both districts [Murfreesboro and Delight] ultimately led to the state deciding on a merger between the two entities.

“I love both communities, but I am charged with the district’s well-being, and ultimately taking acre of the students’ needs,” Sullivan told the board.

Stating that he would go in whatever direction the board wished, he recommended giving the remainder of the campus in the school district’s possession to the Town of Delight.

Sullivan said he originally wished to include a provision that would not allow the school to

ever be used again as a primary or secondary camps for local children. However, current law prohibits such a move, leaving the district in a quandary as to whether to hold on to the property or to surrender it for logistical concerns.

He would go on to say that he had heard rumblings of the desire to transform the former school into a private or charter educational entity, which would likely draw students away from the Murfreesboro campus, detrimentally costing the South Pike County School District

SCHOOL

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MURFREESBORO LADY RATTTLERS

RED & WHITE GAMES

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 23RD

3:00 PM- BIG/LITTLE REVEAL 8TH-12TH

3:30 PM- 7TH GIRLS

4:15 PM- 8TH-9TH GIRLS

5:00 PM- SENIOR GIRLS

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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.

HORNBECK

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about being quiet.”

The victims also said they were unaware they were being groomed and manipulated by Hornbeck. One victim said she first met Hornbeck as a fourth-grader and he soon became a figure of trust. “Growing up with you as a figure in my life for the next eight years, I was not able to see the grooming and manipulation that was happening to me. But I grew into a strong, educated woman, and realized the mental, emotional and sexual abuse you put me through. For years, I dealt with confusion, guilt and shame that was not mine to carry. It was yours.”

The victim continued, “Although today looks like it’s about me, it’s not at all. This moment is for all the other girls that were going to be in your path until you were stopped.”

This victim also quoted the Bible’s Psalm 94:16: Who will rise up for me against the wicked? Who will stand for me against those who practice iniquity? “I find my peace knowing that’s what I’ve done today,” she concluded.

Hornbeck struggled to keep his head up while facing the victim who delivered the last statement. The victim stated

RATTTLERS

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conversion was fumbled, setting the score at 14-12.

Now in the fourth quarter, MHS would drive to the Foreman 44 before punting the ball back to the Gators.

The Rattler defense would come up big on the second play of the drive when Travis Reed would intercept a Fowler pass to return the ball to MHS at the Foreman 20-yard line.

Stuard would rush for 19 yards on the first play and seal the game with a TD rush from the one-yard-line on the second. Bailey added the PAT to finalize the scoring at 21-12.

On their last gasp, the Gators would progress to the Rattler 33-yard line, but a Nichols interception would seal the deal.

In sum, Foreman would outgain the Rattlers on offense 220-177 and earn more first downs 16-13, but the pair of second half interceptions proved costly as the game’s only turnovers along with the errant punt snap in the first half that al-

she had planned to keep her secret but a phone call informing her that Hornbeck had also violated a younger family member changed her mind. “In that moment, I felt a whole new level of disgust, anger and more guilt. I knew then, I couldn’t keeping hiding it any longer.”

She also said Hornbeck’s grooming and manipulation was so deep, she still struggled to come forward because she did not want to hurt his family or children.

“But, I was finally able to open my eyes and realize that I’m not the one doing this to them. You are. You did this to them. You knew what you were doing not just once, twice or even three times, but without a doubt in my mind, many, many more times.”

The victim said she is proud to play a part in “ending your long streak of using and abusing young girls.”

“You’re a liar, manipulator, a predator. And my only regret is not coming forward sooner.”

Those words stung Hornbeck and he dropped his head. Unable to speak, Hornbeck had his lawyer, John Pickett of Texarkana, deliver his statement to the victims and their families. Hornbeck faced them with his head up as the lawyer told them Hornbeck was sorry for “letting you down” and that he has accepted responsibility for his crimes.

lowed MHS to be opportunistic.

The Gators would rush for 65 yards and pass for 155 yards on 65 plays.

Murfreesboro would rush for 170 yards and pass for 7 yards on 44 plays.

The contest was filled with penalties, with MHS having 11 for 108 yards and Foreman incurring 13 infractions for 92 yards.

Fowler would pass 15/34 for 155 yards with a pair of touchdowns and interceptions in the game for Foreman. He also gained 13 yards on six rushing attempts.

Tyrance Marks would lead the Gators in rushing with 42 yards on 16 attempts. He added seven receptions for 65 yards.

Cornelius would catch six passes for 62 yards and a pair of scores for Foreman.

For the Rattlers, Stuard would pass 1/9 for seven yards, while rushing for 117 yards on 18 attempts and three touchdowns. He accounted for 11 of the MHS first downs.

Reed would amass 40 yards on nine rushing attempts for MHS.

Noah Cox was the recipient of the lone Rattler completion for seven yards.

Malachi Sanders would lead the de-

Within minutes of his guilty pleas, Hornbeck was escorted from the courtroom and into the booking station where his mugshot was taken again and he was fitted with “jail orange” clothing to await bed space in the state prison system.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jana Bradford, along with DPA Erin Hunter-Sprick and Special Investigator David Shelton spearheaded the case against Hornbeck and said the victims should be praised for their courage to step forward.

“The prosecuting attorney’s office is so proud of these ladies in this case for having the courage to come forward against their former coach. They are the true heroes. Through their bravery, they prevented him from being able to groom and prey on future young athletes and students that he might have taught or coached,” Bradford said.

“The victims and the prosecution team spent countless hours preparing for this case for trial. The plea agreement allowed Hornbeck to be punished and allowed the judicial system to continue to keep an eye on him following his release from incarceration.”

fense with 21 tackles, including two for loss. Cox would add 14 tackles, also with two for loss, while Avery Manley had 13 tackles and two for loss. Howard and Brandt Stevens would each tally 12 tackles for the Rattle defense.

In addition to his 3/3 effort on PATs, Bailey would punt four times for a 39.5 yard average, leaving two inside the 20 yard line and one return for minus-four yards.

This Friday, the Rattlers -- winners of three consecutive games -- will host the Dierks Outlaws.

Dierks is 2-6 on the season and 1-0 in conference play. The Outlaws will be coming off a bye week after having defeated Foreman 38-28 in their previous game.

The Outlaws have won three of the last four matchups against Murfreesboro

Maxpreps.com ranks the Outlaws as the 16th best team in Class AA, while it has the Rattlers at number 19.

Hooten’s has the Outlaws ranked number 10 in the classification with Murfreesboro at 24. They favor Dierks by six points in this week’s matchup.

The colorful minerals found at the Crater of Diamonds

BY WAYMON COX
*Interpreter,
Crater of Diamonds State Park*

MURFREESBORO -- Greetings from Crater of Diamonds State Park! Each fall, changing leaves enhance the colors and natural beauty of our surroundings. For visitors to Crater of Diamonds State Park, colorful minerals can also add bursts of excitement for anyone exploring the park!

Mineral colors are caused by certain elements, chemicals, defects, and processes. Though some come in a wide variety of colors, others are only found in one color. Barite, chrome diopside, and amethyst are three such crystals that stand out for many of our guests.

Barite from the mine is usually small, with a tabular shape. It is made of barium sulfate, which gives it a characteristic blue-gray color. Worldwide, it may be white, yellow, or brown, as well. Barite is also easily identifiable by its weight, as it is quite a bit heavier than most other minerals of a similar size.

Though fairly soft, barite is occasionally used in simple jewelry that allows its beautiful blue hue to truly stand out. However, it is often crushed for use in drilling mud and an x-ray contrast in hospitals. Most barite is mined in the United States, but is also found in Morocco.

Chrome diopside is another colorful mineral that our visitors love to find. Its lime green hue comes from chromium, the same element that colors emerald. Although typically very small, chrome diopside’s intense green color stands out in the dark volcanic soil.

This green gem is sometimes used in jewelry and has industrial value in diopside-based ceramics. Chrome diopside is often found in diamond-bearing locations and also serves as an indicator mineral for prospectors. Like diamonds, chrome diopside can be found in Russia, Canada, South Africa, and Brazil.

A third colorful mineral found at the Crater of Diamonds is amethyst. This purple variety of quartz runs in veins at the park, particularly in the Canary Hill

section of the search area. The amethyst here is usually very light, though it can be found in shades ranging from light pink to deep violet in other mines around the world. Its distinguishing hue comes from iron impurities and other trace elements.

Amethyst’s beautiful color and shine make it a popular choice for jewelry. Deep purple amethyst traditionally has a higher value, but lighter shades are becoming more widely used. Some of the world’s best amethyst mines are found in Russia, Sri Lanka, Peru, and Uruguay.

These colorful crystals are standouts for many guests at Crater of Diamonds State Park. Keep an eye out for them during your next visit!

Recent diamond finds (100 points = 1 carat):

October 10 – Kenny Acuff, Crescent, OK, 11 pt. brown; Adriana Swell, Tyler, TX, 5 pt. white; Chris Horvath, Grapevine, TX, 13 pt. yellow; Nancy E Webb, New Castle, IN, 11 pt. brown

October 11 – Daniel “Van” Crump, Wiggins, MS, 8 pt. white

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

CONCERNING THE REDISTRICTING OF PIKE COUNTY'S QUORUM COURT DISTRICTS

PIKE COUNTY 2020 CENSUS POPULATION: 10,171

Pike County

Justice of the Peace Districts Overview - Phase 1

Map Created: August 24, 2021

EFSS

GeoTechnologies

Map showing proposed districts 1-9 with population statistics.

Population Statistics

District	Population	% Deviation	% White	% Black	% Hispanic	% Asian	% Other	% 2+ Races	18+	18+ % Deviation
1	1117	-1.30%	85.51%	5.03%	4.46%	0.00%	0.13%	0.00%	4,480	-4.60%
2	1188	-6.68%	88.11%	5.69%	5.04%	0.00%	0.08%	4.48%	1000	\$4.20%
3	1118	-1.51%	82.99%	5.48%	5.48%	0.54%	0.72%	0.00%	5,48%	0.18%
4	1071	-5.29%	85.30%	6.91%	2.81%	0.60%	0.00%	4.00%	888	-4.72%
5	1167	-3.36%	90.21%	6.43%	3.43%	0.00%	0.70%	4.80%	888	0.88%
6	1052	-9.30%	85.25%	5.03%	6.03%	1.50%	0.00%	0.10%	812	-2.48%
7	1107	-2.18%	87.15%	5.82%	5.82%	1.80%	0.00%	0.30%	908	2.93%
8	1166	-3.18%	87.32%	6.09%	28.82%	0.60%	0.00%	0.09%	812	-0.50%
9	1172	-2.71%	81.66%	6.43%	12.29%	0.80%	0.43%	0.00%	808	-1.42%

Map showing proposed districts 1-9 with population statistics.

Population Statistics

District	Population	% Deviation	% White	% Black	% Hispanic	% Asian	% Other	% 2+ Races	18+	18+ % Deviation		
1	1093	-3.20%	84.13%	3.84%	4.46%	1.00%	0.10%	0.00%	4,00%	-5.08%		
2	1162	-2.87%	90.62%	1.72%	3.18%	0.60%	0.09%	0.00%	4,48%	987	-12.49%	
3	1077	-4.48%	81.77%	5.67%	5.67%	0.56%	0.74%	0.00%	5,02%	841	-1.91%	
4	1106	-1.87%	85.84%	6.67%	2.32%	0.61%	0.00%	0.00%	0.27%	4,00%	872	-0.51%
5	1162	-3.20%	90.21%	6.43%	3.43%	0.00%	0.00%	0.26%	4,80%	888	0.66%	
6	1117	-0.65%	86.66%	6.09%	6.09%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	3,27%	892	1.60%	
7	1107	-2.20%	86.25%	5.82%	5.82%	1.70%	0.00%	0.00%	0.30%	4,00%	892	-2.66%
8	1166	-3.18%	87.32%	6.09%	28.82%	0.60%	0.00%	0.09%	2,49%	872	-0.62%	
9	1172	-2.71%	81.66%	6.43%	12.29%	0.80%	0.43%	0.00%	0.31%	3,84%	888	-1.42%

(OLD AP MAP)

(NEW AP MAP)

Color copy maps of the proposed districts are available for viewing at the Pike County Clerk's Office. ARKANSAS ANNOTATED CODE §14-14-406. CONTEST OF APPORTIONMENT. Original jurisdiction of any suit to contest the apportionment made for county quorum court districts by a county board of election commissioners is vested in the circuit court of the affected county. Any such contest shall be filed with the circuit court within thirty (30) days following the date publication appears in a newspaper of general circulation.

(p.c.c. 106w, 15)

SCHOOL Continued from Page 1

much needed state funds, including approximately \$7,000 per child in per-student funding.

Sullivan added that in his opinion the costs and resources for such a venture made it improbable, but certainly not impossible.

“In the lawyer’s wording, we legally can’t put never into the resolution [to not allow a school upon surrendering the property to Delight], legislation in 2018 put a stop to that. However, the buildings are not in the best shape and the upkeep costs alone would be significant.”

Sullivan told the board that he thinks that the resolution to surrender the school can be completed and ready for passage at the next school board meeting on November 9.

The resolution will include the temporary keeping of one building on campus for storage [perhaps the Scudamore old kindergarten building] as well as access to the cafeteria, as some items -- including a walk-in freezer, pots, pans, prep tables and a tilt skillet -- will be taken to the Murfreesboro campus for use by the district. Utilities, which are still active in the district’s name, would then be able to be turned off for their part. The school -- not currently insuring the buildings as they would not be replacing them if something like a fire or tornado razed them.

It was noted that a full inventory of all contents at the school was ongoing and would take “a while” to complete. Items that can be used at Murfreesboro -- including desks in good shape, bulletin boards, art supplies, microscopes, water fountains and an air conditioning unit at the cafeteria that is only a couple of years old -- would be brought over. The district will take nothing that affects the structure of the current building in Delight.

“All we can use in-house we need to go get,” Sullivan said, noting that anything left behind could be offered to the public at a yard sale. He added that the district would likely keep the bus bin at Delight for a place to park busses during breaks and summer.

Sullivan stated that perhaps the biggest reason to surrender the buildings was because of continued liability on the part of the school district with vacant and unmaintained edi-

fices being a potential danger to children and the general public alike. It was unknown if the school’s tort liability immunity would hold in a situation involving closed buildings.

As an example, it was mentioned that after a glass window was recently broken out at the gymnasium, the broken glass remained inside the building as a potential hazard until it was discovered and cleaned up by school personnel inventorying the contents of the building. While their current insurance policy on students would cover any student of the district to one degree or another in an accident on current district property, the same could not be said of an injury to a non-student.

With the gymnasium and cafeteria being highly sought after venues by the public for a variety of uses, the school was advised by their lawyer to not allow access to the buildings until the transfer had taken place. As such, buildings have been securely padlocked to disallow entry in order to “protect our interest for now.”

Members of board immediately questioned about the availability of the gym for the use of the soon-to-be-upcoming pee-wee basketball season.

Sullivan said the campus has been closed, but if resolved by November 9, the pee-wee league could gain access via the Town of Delight. Until then, Sullivan said the group could use the gymnasium in Murfreesboro to hold practices if they wished.

He added that the Delight Volunteer Fire Department had requested use of the cafeteria for an event and he had offered the use of Murfreesboro’s in its stead.

The board generally agreed that it would be best to “shelter ourself from liability,”

While it was stated by school board president Steve Conly that while the plan was always the “full intent” to bequeath the campus to Delight, without the ability to control the outcome of the buildings at that point, he questioned the board if they still wished to do such.

When we started to close the school, we knew it would be a several year process ... but the possibility of a private/charter school goes against all our recent movements. I don’t want to do anything to hurt what we’ve done. If we just give it away, we can’t guarantee it won’t become a [competing] school. Where there’s a

will there is a way,” Conly said.

Conly said that a plan to incrementally give the school to the Town of Delight piecemeal over a timeframe of five years would be ideal, but wouldn’t solve the immediate issue of liability nor maintenance.

He added that he, for his part, never would have voted to close the school in the first place had it been known that the district would be receiving just shy of two-million dollars in covid-related ESSER relief funds [which are earmarked for specific spending options]. He added that the vote to close the school was one of the most gut-wrenching decisions of his life.

Boardmember Andrew Henderson said he agreed with Conly.

“We have a vision of the future and this is for the entire school district -- the longer we sit, the more disrepair there will be -- and that is detrimental to the district as a whole.”

What remains is the question if the Town of Delight will want to take control of the whole campus. Boardmembers have gone on record as to definitely wanting the gymnasium and cafeteria in past meetings. At the recent October meeting, Delight Mayor Paul Lane questioned the town’s ability to afford to maintain the campus as a whole, and while admitting he couldn’t impact the board’s vote, he stated definitively he wouldn’t sign off on any decision that would be financially detrimental.

Several members of the school board stated that they had yet not heard of a plan by Delight of being able to maintain the campus, but it was noted that if the city took control of the buildings, only to action them off, “that’s on them.”

Sullivan said that he will present the plan to the Delight City Council at their next meeting on Monday, November 8, should the proposal be “completely in place.” The work by the lawyer on the resolution will cost the district around \$1,000.

Additionally, it was noted that besides the block of campus in Delight, the school district also owned two parcels of land in Pisgah and on Old Caddo Gap road that was acquired in the 1970’s.

In other school board news, board training for yearly required professional development hours will be available for local board mem-

bers on November 8 and 11, including a required bullying seminar for those that had yet to complete such.

Also, Sullivan said he was waiting on an update on zoning from the state -- that may yet require another special session before producing a bill that will finally allow school districts to set zones in place. Changes in districts would require sitting members of the board to face reelection.

In new business, after having received bids for the proposed construction of two new classrooms and bathrooms -- which would have cost around \$900,000 -- Sullivan offered the board a modified plan.

Instead of building from scratch, the plan is now to procure a modular building with “2x6 flooring and walls -- well built” and to brick around it to match the look of the school.

“It will relieve the pressure of the bathrooms in the sixth grade hallway,” Sullivan said.

In order to make it look further like the school, window air conditioning will be eschewed for the use of central units.

By utilizing the modular building, the cost will drop to around \$250,000, including brick, electric and sewer work as well as a hand-capped accessible walkway, a covered deck and dry coverage to the main building. ESSER III funds will be utilized to pay for the effort.

Scott Howard has been hired as the construction manager to oversee the project.

The board unanimously approved the order of the \$191,711 modular building, which Sullivan said will take six weeks to deliver, or toward the end of December.

In order to solve issues with the auditors, board members approved a contract addendum for Steve Martin for \$275. Martin, who charges the same for other local schools, schedules basketball referees for the entire set of home season games.

Following an executive session, the board accepted the resignations of cafeteria worker Michelle Morehead and maintenance assistant Louie Bell.

The board also approved the hire of Adam Morris as a maintenance assistant at the rate of \$17.50 an hour for eight hour days.

CADC to distribute commodities October 20-21 in Pike County

PIKE COUNTY -- Central Arkansas Development Council will distribute USDA Commodities on Wednesday, October 20 and Thursday, October 21. Distribution will begin at a.m.

In Pike County, commodities will be distributed at the following locations:

- Mufreesboro Senior Activity Center, 120 E. Court, Ste., Murfreesboro, AR. 71958, Phone: 870-285-2312
- Glenwood Senior Activity Center, 229 Betty St., Glenwood, AR. 71943, Phone: 870-356-4212

Food items may include: applesauce, kindey beans-can, beef-can, cream of mushroom soup, farina cream of wheat, dried figs, peanut butter, instant milk, orange juice, peaches, potato flakes, salmon-can, tomato soup

ID must be present to receive commodities. All customers receiving commodities must present identification. Photo ID preferred.

WE GET LETTERS

Letter to Rattlers

To the Murfreesboro Rattlers football team:

I wish I could have been there to see you all play, you are playing so good. Hope I will see you all Friday night! Keep it up.

Coaches get my boys ready! Shoutout to the Junior high team too! Keep up the good work guys!

Love you all,
From Peggy Jordan
1 Fan



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Obituaries

Judy Cottingham, 71, Delight

Judy Cottingham, age 71 of Delight, Arkansas, died on October 12, 2021 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She was born January 9, 1950 in Little Rock, Arkansas the daughter of the late Elton and Ethel Whitten.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her son Chris Cottingham.

Survivors include one son John Paul Cottingham, one

daughter Becky Ewing and husband Tony, two grandsons Tristan and Ryan Ewing, and one brother Jack Whitten.

Graveside services were held on Friday, October 15, at Bowen Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

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

View local obituaries at swarkansasnews.com

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Boot Camp

Do you ever give much thought to where your weaner steers and heifers go when you load’em on the truck or take’m to the sale? You think maybe it’s like goin’ off to college? Stay in the dormitory, have a nice roommate who doesn’t bawl or stay up all night talking about the cute Charolais they met in the cafeteria. Maybe join a fraternity or sorority, Milka Dama Cow. Play intramural head butting, horn wrestling or pin the tail on the Holstein? They can learn a foreign language like Corriente, Water Buffalo or Emu. And eventually graduate Phi Beta Moo and go on to Hi Concentrate Feedlot Graduate School eventually attaining a Ph D in Hi Choice. Sounds idyllic, doesn’t it? Just like you imagine for your own kid going off to college. But the feedlot hands are reading this dreamy scenario like a drill sergeant listening to an Army recruiting ad; “Be all that you can be.” A growing yard or feedlot is more like boot camp. No hallowed halls of ivy here. Does the name Powder River, WW or Bowman ring a bell?

Indoctrination for recruits involves standing in line for hours, being shouted at and vaccinated for things you can’t pronounce. Sound familiar? The intimate dormitory sleeps 260. Courses studied include Feed Ingredient Identification, Cowboy Outer Wear, Mud 101 and 102, and Hot Shot Evasion. Sports that are available for participation are Intramural Pneumonia, Find the Water Tank, Coughing Practice and Long Distance Diarrhea. Within a month the successful recruits are moved up to a better class of grub from the mess hall kitchen and are left alone. So when you watch yer little weaners scamper on the truck with the untroubled mind of a high school graduate, remember their next few weeks are not gonna be easy. But you can be comforted in the fact that almost all of them will get through boot camp and most will achieve knighthood; as in Sir Loin. Whereas the most a weaner chicken can hope for is colonel.

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25
Breakfast: Cereal bar w/ yogurt, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, green beans, salad, garlic bread, pineapple, milk
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26
Breakfast: Chicken biscuit, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, roll, peaches, milk
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27
Breakfast: Mini pancakes, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Frito chili pie w/ cheese, pinto beans, carrot & celery sticks, orange slices, milk
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28
Breakfast: Goody bun, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Sausage pizza, fresh broccoli w/ ranch, seasoned corn, applesauce, milk
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29
Breakfast: French toast sticks, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Cheeseburger, french fries, lettuce, tomato, pickles, pears, milk

MURFREESBORO CADC LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25
Lasagna, salad w/ dressing, garlic bread, oranges, pudding parfait
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26
Glazed meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, citrus twist trifle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27
Breaded pork chop, black eyed peas, greens, cornbread, apple spice custard 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

God is Not ...
Man has a number of ideas about who God is. Yet, the truth is that God is not what many think Him to be. Consider some things the Bible teaches that God is not. God is not...
A Respector Of Persons: Peter declared, “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34 KJV). That God is not a respecter of persons means that He does not show partiality. Many other passages bear out this idea. Paul taught, “For there is no partiality with God” (Rom. 2:11). Because God shows no partiality, He offers salvation to all regardless of their skin color, education, social standing, financial state, geographical area, or the family into which they were born. Furthermore, He demands the same thing from all men no matter who they are.
A Man: God is not human like you and me. Numbers 23:19 declares, “God is not a man...” Instead of being a man like you and me, “God



is Spirit” (John 4:24). Because God is not a man, he does not lie or go back on His word. Additionally, God does not think like you and me – “so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:8-9).
Mocked: Rhetorically, Job asked, “Can you mock Him as one mocks a man?” (Job 13:9). You may mock man, but you will not mock God. Why? Because God has assured that before Him you will reap what you sow. Thus, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked” (Gal. 6:7-9).
Tempted With Evil: “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I

am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone” (James 1:13). God’s nature is such that temptation does not affect Him. As such, He does no wrong, nor does He encourage wrongdoing in others.
Ashamed To Be Called Our God: “But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them” (Heb. 11:16). It is an amazing thought that if we, like they, desire heaven and live in obedient faith, the great God of heaven and earth is also not ashamed to be called our God. Have you been living your life this way? If not, you need to begin today! God is not ashamed to be called our God!
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!

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PECAN ORDERS BEING ACCEPTED -- The Pike County Conservation District is now taking orders for Fresh Mammoth Pecans. The last day to order is October 21. For more information or to place an order call Monday thru Thursday at (870) 285-2424.

NATHAN VFD FUNDRAISER -- The Nathan Volunteer Fire Department will hold a drive-through barbecue and raffle fundraiser on Saturday, October 30. The meal serving will begin at 4 p.m. Raffle tickets may be purchased from Nathan firefighters at the Nathan Country Store or by calling either (870) 285-2246 or (870) 557-

2440. As items are added to the raffle, they will be listed on the Nathan Country Store Facebook page.

HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY -- John Featherston, EEA Facilitator for the Arkansas Energy Office will make a presentation on “myths and facts about home energy” at the Murfreesboro branch of the Pike County Library on Friday, October 29 from 11 a.m-Noon. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. More information can be found at energyefficiencyarkansas.org. For further details, call the library at (870) 285-2575 or e-mail murfreesboropubliclibrary@gmail.com.

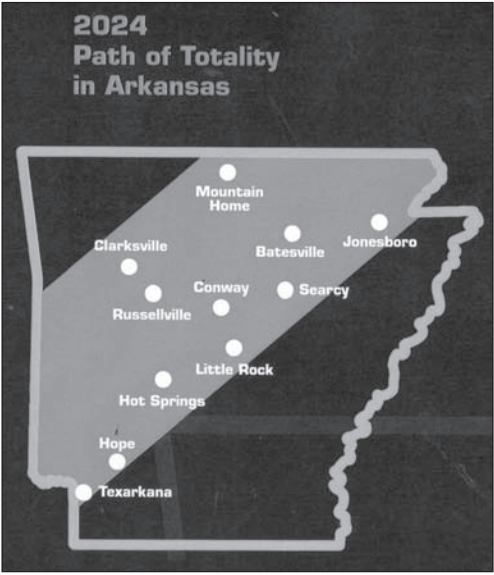
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If you block it, they will come

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

NASHVILLE -- Don’t think they won’t come. That was some of the important advice from a Wyoming tourism official who has been making rounds in Arkansas trying to get people ready for what’s being billed as “The Great American Eclipse.” On April 8, 2024, The Natural State will be one of a few states directly in the eclipse’s “path of totality” -- the shadow zone of an eclipse that makes the entire spectacle visible. The path of totality is about 120 miles wide and will darken the day for more than four minutes. Outside the path, the eclipse will be only partially visible. Brook Kaufman of Visit Casper Wyoming was in Nashville last week to share the “dos and don’ts” of hosting what turned out to be about 500,000 eclipse chasers in 2017 for a full week of activities. The event doubled the population of Casper and tested not only the city’s tourism ability but the overall infrastructure of the area.

The 2024 total solar eclipse is the only one in the 21st century with a path of totality in Mexico and parts of North America. “It’s going to be big deal,” Kaufman said to a small crowd in Nashville last Thursday morning. Kaufman said Wyoming capitalized on the eclipse in 2017, which lasted only 1.42 seconds in the direct path. Arkansas has 30 months to prepare for what could be thousands to millions of visitors that will need a place to view the event, stay, eat, use the restroom, gas up, etc. “They’re coming,” Kaufman said. “So, it’s time to get organized.” Kaufman said rural Arkansas should be prepared to ask and answer the question, “What if 250,000 people show up?” Word is that hotels in Little Rock and Hot Springs are already sold out for that week in April when the eclipse comes around. Kaufman said eclipse chasers in Wyoming spent an average of \$931 and there is certainly money to be made from the event. One thing Kaufman said her city did not expect was the mass exodus when the eclipse cleared and half-million got in their vehicles and headed out of town. The situation caused one of the largest traffic jams in Wyoming history and even the governor had to be picked up by a helicopter so he could get back to work. The eclipse will take place on a school day and with such a large volume of traffic expected Kaufman said schools should question whether to hold class that day. There will be plenty of “fear and unknowns”



involved in the planning with the weather forecast topping that list. Kaufman said a NASA weather report shows there will be an 80 percent chance of clear skies on April 8, 2024. Sevier County is already getting ahead of the game after finding out that the rural town of Gilliam, located near the Polk-Sevier county line, will be the best spot (the center line) in Arkansas to view the eclipse. A community website has been created (eclipse2024.org) and Create Bridges is helping spread the work and offer advice for preparation. Murfreesboro City Council members Jack Bonds and Jane Fugitt attended Kaufman’s presentation in Little Rock last week. Bonds said that it was told in that presentation that NASA will be designing and selling the special glassed need to safely view the eclipse. The cost per pair will somewhere about 13 cents each. Bonds said Monday, “Her suggestion was the state of Arkansas buy a million pairs of the glasses.” Eclipse chasers are already scoping out the places they want to be in 2024 and Kaufman said in Wyoming that open spaces were rented from ranchers and some landowners offered their land for temporary campsites. Kaufman added that - believe it or not - that some people will not know what is happening on April 8, 2024 and will be surprised when the day turns into night for more than four minutes and the state’s two-lane roads are clogged in every direction. She said now is the time to start educating the public, involving the communities and businesses and getting county and city officials on the same page about what could potentially happened that week. “This will be a very unique opportunity for the state of Arkansas,” Kaufman said.



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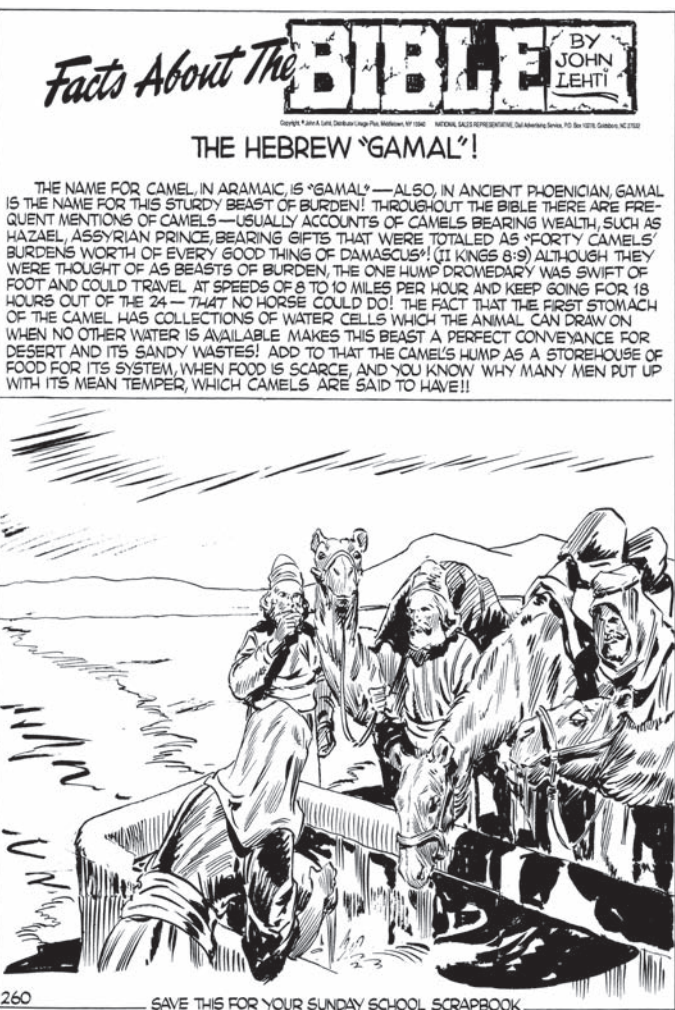
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ON AN OLD MAP
* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS
- 1. *Core of Persia today
 - 5. *Belgian village where Roman soldiers enjoyed warm mineral springs
 - 8. Pitch symbol
 - 12. More luminous star
 - 13. Abbott and Costello or Rocky and Bullwinkle
 - 14. Eurasian goat-like antelope
 - 15. Team's ranking
 - 16. Make someone angry
 - 17. Mix in
 - 18. *Formerly Ceylon (2 words)
 - 20. What tide does half the time
 - 21. Reggae subgenre
 - 22. Back then
 - 23. ____ profundo
 - 25. Depleted (2 words)
 - 28. Wet firecracker
 - 29. Catch in a net
 - 32. Hip bones
 - 34. Dormer without D
 - 36. Schiller's poem
 - 37. "It is silent" in sheet music
 - 38. Discharge
 - 39. Admirer
 - 41. Earlier in time than, archaic
 - 42. Not out (2 words)
 - 44. Pinocchio and his kind
 - 46. Evergreen creeper
 - 47. "A League of Their Own" member, e.g.
 - 49. Command to a fly
 - 51. *Formerly Siam
 - 54. Rain forest ruminant
 - 55. Irish for Ireland
 - 56. It's under a fig leaf?
 - 58. Shockingly graphic
 - 59. Impersonator
 - 60. Manlike man-eater of fairy tales
 - 61. Crunchable information
 - 62. Popular '60s drug

63. A ____ ____ move
- DOWN
- 1. Opposite of outs
 - 2. Fish eggs, pl.
 - 3. Affirm solemnly
 - 4. Lowest points
 - 5. Seeking damages
 - 6. Kenosha Kickers' music
 - 7. On the sea
 - 8. *Once named Kampuchea
 - 9. Trunk appendage
 - 10. Shining armor
 - 11. Facsimile machine
 - 13. Fire-starter in fairy tales
 - 14. Trojan War military action
 - 19. Red-dot pointer, e.g.
 - 22. Cigar residue
 - 23. *Myanmar, formerly
 - 24. " ____ One" on a ticket
 - 25. Consumer
 - 26. Stomach sore
 - 27. Boat stops
 - 28. John's and Jane's last name?
 - 30. Pie a la ____
 - 31. *Tokyo, formerly
 - 33. Absorbed, as in a cost
 - 35. *Abyssinia, now
 - 37. Jury duty event
 - 39. Comedian Schumer
 - 40. Has more elm trees
 - 43. Roundish
 - 45. Not digital
 - 47. Ox prod, pl.
 - 48. Propelled like Argo
 - 49. Arctic jaeger
 - 50. '80 TV series " ____ to ____" (1 word)
 - 51. Bluish green
 - 52. Canceled
 - 53. "American ____" Jeanine Cummins' bestseller
 - 54. Like one of the Testaments
 - 57. Modern, prefix

CROSSWORD

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Treasure Fest II to occur this weekend

MURFREESBORO -- The third installment of Treasure Fest is set for this weekend, October 23-24, at Kadoha Indian Village. The event will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both days. The epic metal detecting treasure hunt -- co-sponsored by Kadoha Indian Village and Arkansas History Unearthed -- will feature

10 \$1,000 cash prizes and 20 \$100 cash prizes along with thousands of dollars in gold and silver jewelry. There will be a total of \$12,000 in cash prizes and \$30,000 in merchandise to be found at the event. Other items to be discovered at the event includes thousands of coins, civil war bullets,

and other historical relics. There will also be artifacts to be discovered including arrowheads. A children's area will be available for youngsters in attendance with treasures of their own to discover. Admission to the festival will include a tour of Kadoha Indian Village, as well as a lunch held at the event on Saturday. A raffle will also be conducted amongst ticket holders for prizes such as a metal detector. Visitors are welcome, but non-ticket holders in attendance must pay for lunch on Saturday. The event now features a "refer-a-friend" program that allows \$50 discounts off the ticket price, with no limits to the number of referrals. Tickets will be limited to 250 and are \$300 each, which allows entrance both days. Children 12 and under are permitted free atten-

dance. Tickets may be purchased by mailing checks to Caddo Trading Company, Inc., P.O. Box 669, Murfreesboro, AR 71958, or via electronic devices (Paypal) at caddotc@windstream.net. Admission can also be purchased with a credit/debit card via phone by calling (870) 285-3736. Owner Sam Johnson said that tickets were going quickly in what will be their best attended event yet. Attendees will include visitors from nine different states. "Come find your treasure -- it really is fun for the entire family," Johnson said of the festival. Kadoha Indian Village is located at 281 Kadoha Road in Murfreesboro. For more information, please visit Arkansas History Unearthed on Facebook.

Drug take-back day set for Oct. 23 at PC Sheriff's Office

MURFREESBORO -- The Arkansas Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Under the theme of "End The Opidemic ... Drop It In The Box!" the local drop-off point will be at the Pike County Sheriff's Department at the Pike County Jail. There will be 250+ locations across the state participating and other locations can be found at www.artakeback.com. Additionally, a box for drop-off is available inside the jail for use all year long.

"Prescription medicines are toxic waste and pose a danger to people, pets, and the environment, so get rid of your expired and unneeded medications at a drug take back," said program literature. "547 people died from a drug overdose in Arkansas in 2020 and 225 people die, everyday in America, from a drug overdose. Together, we can change these statistics," the website said. As part of the danger, it is stated that two-thirds of teens and young adults that misuse prescription medications get them from the homes of family and friends. Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge is reminds Arkansans about the importance of the upcoming Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The biannual event is an opportunity for Arkansans to clean out their medicine cabinets, taking any unused or expired medications to one of the state's drop-off locations from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At the April 2021 Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Arkansas collected the ninth largest amount of medications in the nation totaling over 28,705 lbs. Since the program began, more than 72 tons of medication have been collected in Arkansas, which is an estimated 201 million individual pills. "Cleaning out medicine cabinets and turning in expired and unused medications to law enforcement during a Drug Take Back event can save lives," said Attorney General Leslie Rutledge. "With overdoses on the rise during the pandemic, now more than ever we must con-

tinue to properly dispose of these prescription drugs." The event comes just after Attorney General Rutledge announced the state of Arkansas as well as cities and counties signed a memorandum of understanding which allocated the use of \$216 million in national settlement funds from opioid manufacturers and distributors. This historic settlement in July 2021 provided needed relief to people across the country who are struggling with opioid addiction. The agreement includes Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen -- the nation's three major pharmaceutical distributors -- and Johnson & Johnson, which manufactured and marketed opioids. The event is put on by the Arkansas Attorney General's office, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Aging, Adult, & Behavioral Health Services, Arkansas National Guard, Arkansas Rotary Clubs, Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, DEA, FBI, Office of the State Drug Director, University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute and over 207 additional law enforcement and government agencies, community organizations and public health providers. "We all have a part to play in getting these medications off the streets and out of the hands of our family, friends and neighbors who might misuse them accidentally or intentionally. I will continue to support policies and programs that offer solutions to help get this crisis under control, save lives, and restore families and communities that have suffered so deeply from the effects of these drugs," said U.S. Senator John Boozman. "There's no doubt our state and the country suffered a setback in drug abuse because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but that does not mean we can't get back on the right track. The first step will be to join together and commit to safely, securely disposing of potentially dangerous medications at the upcoming Arkansas Take Back events. I encourage all Arkansans to take that step."

ARKANSAS
DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

SATURDAY OCT. 23
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

FIND A LOCATION
NEAR YOU AT
WWW.ARTAKEBACK.ORG



DEA NATIONAL
TAKEBACK

2/3 OF TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS
WHO MISUSE PRESCRIPTION MEDS GET
THEM FROM THE HOMES OF
FAMILY & FRIENDS.

MONITOR
SECURE
DISPOSE

AR
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

CADDO TRADING COMPANY AND THE CITY OF
MURFREESBORO WELCOMES ALL VISTORS TO
TREASURE FEST III
THANKS FOR MAKING IT A GREAT SUCCESS!

HAVE FUN
AND COME
BACK TO OUR
SPRING HUNT
COMING IN
EARLY
APRIL 2022!!!

Remember our "refer-a-friend" program that allows \$50 discounts off the ticket price, with no limits to the number of referrals!

Tickets will be limited to 250 and are \$300 each, which allows entrance both festival days. Children 12 and under are permitted free attendance. Tickets may be purchased by mailing checks to Caddo Trading Company, Inc., P.O. Box 669, Murfreesboro, AR 71958, or via electronic devices (Paypal) at caddotc@windstream.net.

For more information, or to purchase tickets with a credit/debit card via phone, please call (870) 285-3736.

