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For more information about the focus groups, call 870-584-1358.

**TOY STORY.** Junior Hayden Gray was the runner-up in the decorating competition with his Toy Story tree. More pictures may be found on page 11 of today's issue.

# Obituaries



**Cora Ruth White**  
Cora Ruth White, age 85, of Dierks, Ark., passed away peacefully at CHI St. Vincents Hospital in Hot Springs, Ark., on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024.

She was born in Dierks on March 4, 1939, to Nal and Mary Jo Terry. She was a Librarian for over 40 years at Dierks City Library and loved to travel.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nal Benton, and Mary Jo Cundiff Terry; her in-laws, Ollie, and Grace White; her son, Jimmy Charles White; her sister and brother-in-law, Evelyn, and Norm Burt; her brother-in-law, Billy Spears.

She is survived by her husband, Charles O. White; her sisters, Irene Spears of Nashville, and Linda Terry of Prescott; sons, Danny and Bette White of Dierks and Phillip and Maria White of Bella Vista, Ark.; grandchildren, Cristy White, Nicholas and wife, Katie White, Priscilla and husband, Kevin Snow, Andrew, Samuel, and Benjamin White; great-grandchildren, Nyssa White, Dylon White, Billy Emfinger and Maddie Emfinger and a number of nieces and nephews.

A memorial graveside service for Mr. and Mrs. White will be held on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, at 11 a.m., at Dierks Cemetery with her son, Danny White officiating, under the direction of Wilkerson Funeral Home in De Queen.

The family will receive friends at the cemetery at 10:00 a.m., one hour before the service on Friday.

The ladies of the Dierks Church of Christ on Main Street will provide the family meal at noon.

Cremation arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home.

You may leave a condolence online at [www.wilkersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.wilkersonfuneralhomes.com).

**Robert Louis Hendrix**  
Robert Louis Hendrix, 65, of Nashville died Dec. 21, 2024.

He was born in De Queen, the son of the late Della Mae Bradley and Willie Lee Hendrix.

He was a member of, Tolle First Church of God, and served on the Usher Board. He was a US Army veteran.

He was preceded in death by three sisters and eight brothers.

Survivors include: his wife, Edna Bradford Hendrix; a stepdaughter, Christy William; two sons, Jemarcus Louis Hendrix and Joe Covello Hendrix; half-sisters, Linda Dickerson, Willie Hendrix, Creda Austin, Earnestine King, and Mozell Hendrix; also grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Friday, January 3, 2025 at 1 pm at Nashville Funeral Home.



**Charles Ollie White**  
Charles Ollie White, age 88, of Dierks, Ark., passed away at Dierks Health and Rehab on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, 3 days after the death of his wife, Ruth.

He was born in Sweethome, Ark., on May 23, 1936, to Ollie and Grace (Martin) White. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He worked as a saw filer at the Weyerhaeuser mill in Dierks for more than 39 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Ruth (Terry) White, his parents, Ollie and Grace White; his son, Jimmy C. White; his brothers, Jack, Joe, RW and Bill White; his brothers-in-law, Norm Burt, Jimmy Dale Blankenship, Billy Spears and Von McCullough.

He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Danny and Bette White of Dierks and Phillip and Maria White of Bella Vista, Arkansas; his siblings, James and LaVaun White, Mary McCullough, Linda and Billy House, Dollie (Dot) Blankenship, Rufus and Marci White, Bobbie and Dale Lovell and Gracie and Morris Harrington; grandchildren, Cristy White, Nicholas and wife, Katie White, Priscilla and husband, Kevin Snow, Andrew, Samuel, and Benjamin White; great-grandchildren, Nyssa White, Dylon White, Billy Emfinger and Maddie Emfinger and a number of nieces and nephews.

A memorial graveside service for Mr. and Mrs.

White will be held on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, at 11 a.m., at Dierks Cemetery with his son, Danny White officiating, under the direction of Wilkerson Funeral Home in De Queen.

The family will receive friends at the cemetery at 10:00 a.m., one hour before the service on Friday

The ladies of the Dierks Church of Christ on Main Street will provide the family meal at noon.

Cremation arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home.

You may leave a condolence online at [www.wilkersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.wilkersonfuneralhomes.com).

**William Estle Harding**  
William Estle Harding, 81, of Daisy, formerly of Nashville, died Dec. 25, 2024.

He was born Feb. 3, 1943 in Center Point, Ark., the son of the late Victor Harding and Mary Ella Tolbert Harding. He retired after 40 years at the 'Briar Plant.' As a young man he was active in the Nashville Jaycees.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Oliver Perry Harding of Malvern, Joe Lee Harding of Nashville, and LV Harding of Nashville; two sisters, Beatrice Hearnberger of Camden and Katherine Story of Bossier City, La.

Survivors include: his wife, Debbie Harding of Daisy, and a sister, Doris Lingo of Nashville; five sons, Victor Harding of Benton, Ill., David Harding of Nashville, Skip Harding of Nashville, Shane Harding of Daisy, and Cody Anderson of Daisy; also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

No funeral service is planned.

**Jeanne L. Egger**  
Jeanne L. Egger, 88, of Prescott, formerly of Nashville, died Dec. 31, 2024.

She was born April 14, 1936, in Sonora, Calif., the daughter of the late Eugene Abbott and Elma French Abbott.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Egger.

She was retired secretary of First United Methodist Church and had served in several offices in the Elberta Chapter #538 Order of Eastern Star.

Survivors include: two sons, David Egger and wife, Brenda, Kenneth Egger; also grandchildren.

Services will be Monday, Jan. 6, 2025 at 11 a.m. at Nashville Funeral Home with Bro. Larry Teague officiating. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until service time at the funeral home. A

graveside service will be at 3 p.m. at Cherry Hill Cemetery near Oden, Ark.



**Mary Ann Kress Allen**  
Mary Ann Kress Allen, age 93, of Nashville, Ark., passed away on Dec. 27, 2024, at her home.

Mary was born Nov. 3, 1931, in Loretto, Tenn., the daughter of Clemens "Clem" Kress and Sophiana "Sophia" Kress.

An avid traveler and bowler, Mary enjoyed the many friends and acquaintances she made. Shortly after high school, Mary met Bennie Allen, of Center Point, Ark. The two married and moved to Florida where she lived until 2019. Mary loved to travel with Bennie to meet with family. She enjoyed cruises, and camping in their RV at the beach. She was active in many bowling leagues throughout the years, and enjoyed playing cards with friends. Mary moved to Nashville, Ark., in 2019 after the passing of her husband, Bennie. She remained active, independent, and healthy, and celebrated her 93rd birthday at the Center Point Store with friends and family.

She was of the Catholic Faith, and attended St. Andrew Catholic Church in Orlando, Fla., and St. Martin Catholic Church in Nashville, Ark.

She is predeceased by her mother and father, brothers Bill, Charles, Joe, and Louis Kress, sister Estelle Henkle, and her husband Bennie Allen. Mary leaves to cherish her memory many nieces and nephews, cousins, and a host of friends.

A memorial celebration dinner will be held at the Center Point Store in Center Point, Ark.

Cremation services are under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville, Ark. Interment will follow at a later date at the Winter Garden Cemetery in Orlando, Fla.

In-lieu of flowers, donations to a charity of your choosing are welcomed and appreciated.



**JUDGE TO JUDGE.** District Judge Jessica Steel-Gunter took the oath of office from Circuit Judge Bryan Chesshir under the courtroom portrait of her grandfather, the late Circuit Judge Bobby Steel.



**OATH OF OFFICE** for Mineral Springs municipal officials was given Jan. 2 at the county courthouse courtroom. Taking the oaths were city council member Frankie Harris, City Recorder Denise Juniel, and council member Earle Haddan.

## Information about Ham Radio to be given at Kirby school

The Pike County Ham Radio Club will conduct a free general licensing class on Friday, Jan. 17.

The class will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Kirby school cafeteria and is open for any person wishing to learn more about Ham radio. Topics of discussion include: future classes, tests and fees, test prep material and FCC license requirements. For more information call 903-701-5954.

## Hempstead closings for MLK are announced

The Hempstead County Courthouse, Road Department and Waste Department, will be closed Monday, Jan. 20, to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The offices will resume regular working hours the following day.

Hempstead County trash route for Monday, Jan. 20 and Tuesday, Jan. 21 will be collected on Tuesday. Residents are asked to have trash out by 7 a.m.



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Pipes

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THE CECIL "BIRDDOG" HARRIS MEMORIAL

EARLY FILES

Tales from Howard County's history reprinted in honor of longtime staff historian and photographer, Cecil Harris.  
September 19, 1938 - December 15, 2012

Compiled by Patsy Young



Dierks High School junior Kristi King was named to the All-Four States Bandmasters Association First Honor Band in January 1994.

**122 years ago: January 1903**  
Christmas was quiet at Centre Point. A great number of our citizens were spending the day in the fields and hunting. There was less drinking than we have ever seen on Christmas.

Christmas was a great day at Ben Lomond and Brown's Town. There was but one accident report. Two young men had a friendly scuffle with a knife. One was stabbed in the hand.

**79 years ago: January 1946**  
Cpl. Ollie Tallant arrived in this city Saturday after having received his discharge from the Army. He had been in the Army three years, two years which were spent on Luzon. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Tallant of Nashville.

Charles E. Ramsay has been asked by President Truman and Henry J. Kaiser to serve as local chairman of the second nation-wide

United National Clothing Collection for overseas relief and has accepted the appointment. The drive will begin Monday and will continue through January 30.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis M. Layer, who have for the last 16 years published the *Dierks Banner*, have announced that the newspaper has been sold and the new owners are now in full charge of the plant at Dierks. The Layers are retiring from the newspaper and plan to continue to make their home in Dierks. They are retiring because of ill health.

**62 years ago: January 1963**  
A bizarre deer story comes to us out of De Queen. Father Thomas Keller, who has charge of the Catholic Church in Nashville also, took some of his altar boys out hunting last week. One had a .22 rifle. The others had BB guns.

Odd sounds attracted the boys, and they followed through to the source and

found a doe flat exhausted from running from the hounds. They hemmed the deer in, caught it and brought it back to a home in De Queen where other deer are kept.

Mineral Springs, with a limited student body, relies on the same athletes to carry the Hornet colors on the football field and the basketball court. A trio were stars in the football season and headed up the basketball season. They are Roy Dale Palmer, Elwood Brooks and Charles Barton.

**42 years ago: January 1983**  
At the police station last week, Olen Hanney brought in an unexploded shell he found alongside a road in the Proving Grounds at Hope. He said he had found other unexploded ammunition in the former testing area.

An Army Ordnance team identified the round as a 90 MM mortar shell and took it away.



**SIGN HERE.** County Clerk Keri Teague shows Nashville City Council member Vivian Wright where to sign her certificate of election. In the background awaiting her turn to sign is JP-elect Juanita Jackson. At right at the table is JP-elect Liz McDaniel.

## Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Dec. 24, 2024-Jan. 1, 2025 (except as noted) include the following: <b>Marriage Licenses</b> (Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office) Jan. 2. Billy Ray Beal, 55, Nashville, and Doris Jean Jones, 42, Nashville. <b>Civil Court</b> CV24-143, Dec. 24. Credit Acceptance Corporation vs. Susanna Parrish. Contract. CV24-144, Dec. 30. LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Michael Friend. Debt. CV24-145, Dec. 31. LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Harold Bean. Debt. <b>Domestic Relations Court</b> DR24-138, Dec. 29. Tera Brooks vs. Mark Brooks. Divorce.	DR24-139, Dec. 30. Tracy Parker vs. David Parker. Order of protection. <b>Criminal Court</b> No new criminal cases filed since CR24-108, Dec. 6. <b>Land/Property Transactions</b> <b>Quitclaim Deeds</b> Dec. 27. Rebecca Watkins and husband Paul Watkins and Gregory Ewart, Sr., and wife Christi Ewart; to Robert E. Ewart and wife Betty Ewart; 2 tracts, aggregate 13.5 ac. in S22 T5S R28W. Dec. 30. Nick Schoolfield, Jr., et all; to Todd Renfrow; part of Lot 8 and all of Lots 9-10, Block 3, Stephenson's Addition, Town of Dierks. Dec. 31. Douglas A. Younger; to Douglas A. Younger as Trustee of the Douglas Alan Younger Revocable Trust; 5.616 ac. in S26 T9S R28W. Dec. 31. Douglas A.	Younger; to Douglas A. Younger as Trustee of the Douglas Alan Younger Revocable Trust; aggregate 14.001 ac. in S26 T9S R28W. <b>Fiduciary's Deed</b> Dec. 26. Gloria J. Nation and Johnna K. Smith, Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Philip G. Waters, deceased; to Gloria J. Nation and Johnna K. Smith, Co-Successor Trustees of the Philip G. Waters Trust; 2 tracts in S123/S14 T9S R29W. <b>Warranty Deeds</b> Dec. 26. Margaret J. Smith; to Larry Wayne Thrash and wife, Chasity Thrash; 4.261 ac. in S11 T9S R27W. \$4,000. Dec. 27. Center Point Renewal, Inc.; to Jamie Lovewell and Alicia Lovewell, a married couple; aggregate 4 ac. in S25/S26 T8S R28W. \$10,000.
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## Low income energy assistance program begins

The 2025 Winter Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program began Monday. The crisis and regular assistance programs are open, providing help with	electric and gas utility bills. Applications are available in 19 counties, including Calhoun, Clark, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Lafayette,	Little River, Lonoke, Miller, Montgomery, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Pulaski, Saline, Sevier and Union. For more information, call 501-326-6229.
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Sunday Morning Worship

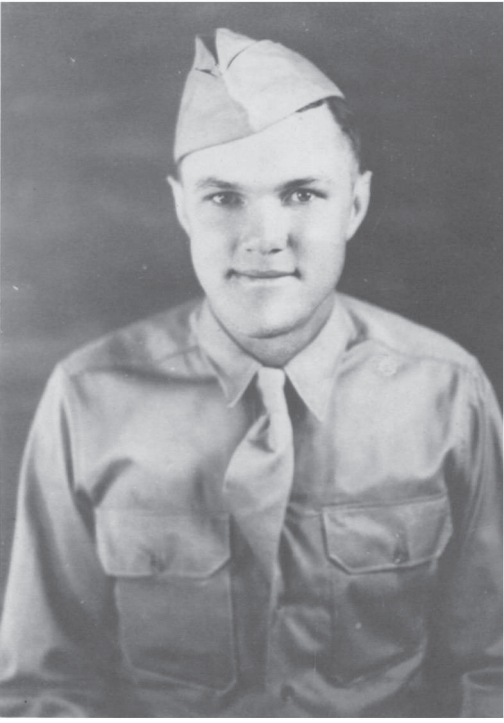
8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Night

6:00 p.m.

Rev. Kevin Sartin

In Memory of M. Z. Chesshir



Dec. 16, 1919 - Jan. 6, 1945

Staff Sergeant U. S. Army

Killed in Action

Bastogne, Belgium

From Your Family

# Point of view

## Trump Cabinet

### Santa offers to help find only the best candidates

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I am still so full of the Christmas spirit that I want to share a GREAT IDEA with you. This concerns a certain upcoming event.

Because of his vast experience checking up on children and young adults worldwide, Santa has been asked by his country to do background checks on the executives whom Comrade President-elect Trump wants for the cabinet.

See, the Biden-Harris government has to pay for the background checks, and they figure they could get out cheaper if Santa -- instead of the FBI -- did the checks because Santa was already keeping tabs on who had been naughty and who had been nice.

And who trusts the FBI, anyway? Well, Santa had never denied a Christmas wish for any sitting U.S. President except for the time he said “No more interns in the Oval Office.”

So he agreed to help the nation in its hour of need. AHA! He had a great insight. He’d get an automated telephone answering and routing system installed at the North Pole.

He finally found a system he could afford. It was made in China, and the vendor -- a Mr. Hoo Hee -- promised and crossed his heart a thousand times that the incoming and outgoing calls would not be monitored by a foreign government or by anyone named Alexa or Siri.

First of all, Santa recorded the message: “Ho, ho, ho. This is Santa Claus and I want to know if you’ve been naughty or nice. Call me.”

Second of all, Santa would have the automated answering service take their return calls.

When the nominated cabinet member returned the call, this is what he-and-or she heard:

**RING RING RING**

“Good day and thank you for returning Santa’s call from the North Pole Business Communications Igloo.

“Press one if you are responding in Espanyol. Press the key with the picture of Putin if you are responding in Rooosian.

“Press two if you are venting about the Razorback defense.

“Press three if you have been, or hope to be, gainfully purchased by the Chinese.

“Press four if you still think Hillary should go to prison.

“Press five if you think Comrade President Trump will never release his tax returns.

“Press six if you would like to purchase a degree from Trump University.

“Press seven if you think the crooked media is still lying about the moon landing.

“Press eight for 24-hour White House room service at Trump Tower.”

“Press nine if you have a criminal record or are hoping for a Presidential Pardon in advance.”

Santa already knew I’ve been naughty so I never got his call.

FIRST CALL. The Texarkana Area Veterans Council will host its 25th annual benefit Chili Cook-Off on Friday, Feb. 14, from 11-1 at the Truman Arnold Center at Texarkana College.

This year the council is adding a Gumbo Cook-off.

Admission is \$8 which gets you all-you-can-eat of chili and gumbo.

The chili is prepared by various Texarkana area fire departments, clubs and other organizations, and you get to vote on your favorite.

All proceeds go to veterans council projects including a van to take veterans to out-of-town medical appointments.

I am old enough so that one bowl is my limit on chili. But, I may have to save some room for the gumbo.

I’m glad they don’t serve an all-you-can-eat dessert competition. I try to attend this thing every year. I don’t know anyone in the organization but I am a Vietnam Veteran.

Often I run into people I know, though. I used to attend these things in the company of the late Larry Yates, our town’s police chief, who was also a Vietnam Veteran.

The veterans council includes: American Legion Post 25-58, Disabled American Veterans #222, Korean War Veterans Association, Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

I support ‘em.

I must add that I remain in hiding from the US Navy Shore Patrol which -- after all these years -- is apparently still determined to find me and take back the Good Conduct Medal which the aforementioned US Navy accidentally gave me.

HE SAID: “The best way to enhance freedom in other lands is to demonstrate here that our democratic system is worthy of emulation.” Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States

SHE SAID: “Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.” Helen Keller, teacher

Sweet Dreams, Baby

Mine Creek  
Revelations

By  
Louie Graves

## Love Thy Neighbor, and GET THE COVID VACCINE!

Call the Howard County Health Unit -- 845-2208 -- to get your FREE shot.



Presented in the public interest  
by the Nashville News-Leader

GET VACCINATED.

Here’s a great New Years resolution: Get vaccinated for the virus now. Don’t put it off.

## Arkansas law has tougher sentences for persons committing violent felonies

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

Anyone who commits a violent felony in 2025 will learn that Arkansas law has become much tougher on serious criminals.

They will serve longer prison sentences, and many serious offenders will not be eligible for early release. If they are eligible, they will have to work harder to earn it. If they satisfy all the conditions for parole and early release, their supervision will be stricter and they will be returned to prison if they continue to flout the law.

The tougher prison sentences are in Act 659, also known as the Protect Arkansas Act. The legislature passed it by an overwhelming margin in 2023, but several provisions for longer sentences and stricter parole conditions took effect on January 1, 2025.

It’s common for significant new laws to be phased in over an extended period, so that officials have time to put new rules in place. That is certainly true of Act 659, which makes dramatic changes in prisons and the criminal justice system.

One goal is to provide juries with more accurate information

about the length of the actual prison sentences time that convicted criminals are truly going to serve.

Criminals convicted of rape and capital murder will serve 100 percent of their sentences. This tougher new standard also applies to offenders convicted of aggravated robbery, human trafficking, stalking of a child on the Internet and the more serious categories of aggravated residential burglary. It also includes a list of sexual offenses against children.

The act creates another category of serious offenders who will have to serve a minimum of 85 percent of their sentence behind bars. This category includes violent felonies such as second degree murder and first degree sexual assault.

Also in the 85 percent category are inmates found guilty of manslaughter, encouraging someone to commit suicide, first degree sexual assault, video voyeurism, patronizing a victim of human trafficking, grooming a minor for sex trafficking, first degree domestic battering, exposing a child to meth, manufacture and delivery of fentanyl and a list of offenses involving explosives.

The longer sentences brings Arkansas sentencing guidelines more in line with those used by federal prisons, where inmates convicted of federal crimes serve almost all of their sentence.

Act 659 restores a measure of credibility to the criminal justice system.

When juries and judges sentence a serious offender, they will know that offender will not be released after serving a relatively small fraction of the sentence.

Act 659 requires inmates to work for the opportunity of being considered for early release, either by completing rehabilitation, anger management or skills training. The goal is to improve their chances of being productive in society.

They no longer automatically earn “good time” just for being in prison. In order to accumulate credits for early release they must complete rehabilitation programs.

If an inmate is convicted of committing a crime will in prison, for example, for assaulting an officer, the new sentence will be served consecutively and not concurrently.

## Meeting needs of Arkansans among the jobs of congressional delegation

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

When people think about the job of a U.S. Senator, they often picture what we see on C-SPAN with hearings, votes and eye-catching debates. But that work in the Capitol is only part of the job, because Members of Congress need to know what is happening at home and how federal agencies are working for their constituents before voting on legislation and policies in Washington.

That process is best seen in the calls and emails I get every day from Arkansans who need help with a federal agency. This year alone, my office directly assisted more than 2,700 Arkansans by cutting through bureaucratic red tape and addressing everything from emergency passports to a veteran who was owed 20 years of back-pay. In addition to providing an important constituent service, assisting with these issues helps me, too. When I know what problems people have with various federal agencies, it informs budget decisions and helps identify programs in need of oversight or reform. Receiving that input from Arkansans is a critical part of the job, and I am

grateful for the trust each person puts in me when they reach out to my office in their hour of need.

Looking at the requests for help I received in 2024, 68 percent related to military and veterans’ issues. Every day, my staff and I helped connect former service-members with health care options, discovered the status of VA loans or obtained overdue military records and medals. Among our most solemn and time-sensitive duties is assisting families and funeral homes when a veteran passes away but the proper paperwork for a burial is missing or incomplete. These cases usually come to us 24 to 48 hours before a scheduled service and my office works swiftly to meet this need as a comfort to grieving families and a final act of respect for our nation’s heroes.

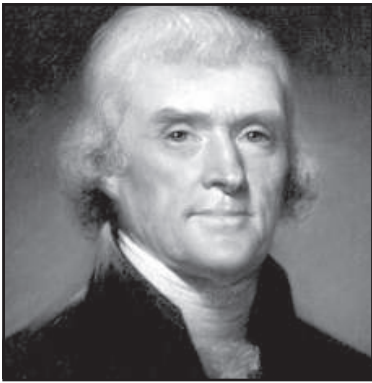
As someone who grew up in a military family, I take special pride in helping these men and women – and their loved ones – access the benefits and services they have earned. Yet they are far from the only Arkansans who require my staff to reach out to federal agencies on their behalf.

It is notable what types of support were needed this year compared to recent history.

For the last four years, the case-work load had been dominated by programs and issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ripple effects of agency closures and backlogs. I am happy to report that the trends in my office this year indicate the end of those complications. In fact, the problems reported and the number of requests we received in 2024 were similar to 2019 with a list dominated by veterans’ issues, Social Security and IRS questions.

As Arkansas’s former Third District Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt so helpfully explained to me years ago, “When the election is over there are no Democrats or Republicans, just the people of Arkansas – and it is your job to take care of them.”

I’m grateful that Arkansans reach out to share their views and seek assistance from my team and me each day. I look forward to continuing this work in 2025 as we search for ways to make our federal government work better for every American.



“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”  
Thomas Jefferson, 1787  
Free press, free people

### Letters policy

The *News-Leader* welcomes letters to the editor. Please include your name, address with ZIP code and a daytime phone number for verification. Letters become the property of the *News-Leader* and will not be printed if they appear in other papers.

Mail: Nashville News-Leader, Box 205, Nashville, AR 71852.

E-mail: jrs@nashvilleleader.com

All letters must be signed and must not be libelous, superfluous or obscene. Letters may be edited to conform to newspaper style and to fit space requirements.

## Nashville News-Leader

Louie Graves and Jane Graves (2007), co-publishers  
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News-Leader photo/LOUIE GRAVES

**OATHS FOR CITY COUNCIL.** Nashville aldermen were given their oaths of office Thursday morning, Jan. 2, in the county courthouse courtroom. The oath was administered by Circuit Judge Bryan Chesshir, extreme left. Affirming their oaths were council members William Turley, Herbert Turley, Charles Pinkston, Donna Harwell, Kay Gathright, Vivian Wright, Kathy Anderson Combs and Freddie Horne.

# Oaths

Continued from page 1

13-minute meeting for the financial report and for adoption of “Roberts Rules of Order.” The court will continue to meet at 11 a.m. on the third Monday of each month, except when Monday is a holiday. In that event

the meeting will be held on the ensuing Tuesday.

The county’s constitutional officers - county judge, sheriff, tax assessor, circuit clerk, county clerk, and treasurer - did not need to be sworn-in since they serve four-year terms.

JPs present for the oath and for the meeting included D’Ann Rogers, Don Marks, Jerry Harwell, Kerry Stras-

ner, Andy Hogg, Liz McDaniel, Janet O’Neal and the only new JP, Juanita Jackson. Constitutional officers present for the post-oath meeting included County Judge Brent Pinkerton who presided, Sheriff Bryan McJunkins, Treasurer Sheri Mixon, Tax Assessor Cindy Butler, and County Clerk Keri Teague; also, administrative assistant Kelly Windham.

# City

Continued from page 1

Mayor Dunaway, County Judge Brent Pinkerton, Developing Howard County, and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission have been doing everything they can since then to find new employers to move here.

Several companies have expressed interest in purchasing parts of the Husqvarna facilities. “I believe there are some good things coming this year,” the mayor said.

A plant the size of Tyson uses a lot of water. With its recent expansion, and with 250 family farms that supply their chickens, there is a growing need for more water.

“We’re on the path,” the

mayor said, “to producing however much water the city and the county need.”

Currently pumping 7 million gallons a day from the Little Missouri River to the water plant in Nashville, that capacity will be doubled to 14 million gallons per day, with construction beginning this spring.

“That should be good for the next 40 years,” Mayor Dunaway said. “We’re building in enough cushion for the future.”

When asked what else needs to be done, the mayor answers, “We have a couple of projects at the waste water plant. We do definitely have some issues that we’re addressing right now.”

And what are your goals for 2025?

“Get someone in the Husqvarna facility and bring some jobs back. For folks who took jobs in other counties, we want to get

them back working and spending their money in Howard County,” he says.

Another huge goal is to protect the 1,500 jobs at the city’s biggest employer. “Taking care of Tyson and making sure that we are in a position long-term to facilitate their operations and keep them in Nashville is essential,” according to Mayor Dunaway.

“There is some talk out of Springdale about more upgrades to this facility,” he added.

The future looked gloomy for the town a year and a half ago when Husqvarna made the closure announcement. But thanks to the work of a lot of people, including Mayor Dunaway, County Judge Pinkerton, and Developing Howard County with their chairperson Paul Britt, the future is looking brighter.

## CORRECTION

# Nashville firemen receive awards

(NEWS-LEADER NOTE: Due to a mixup in emails, the newspaper last week published a year-old honors list from the Nashville Fire Department’s Awards Banquet.)

Derek Brewer received the Firefighter of the Year award for 2024.

The honoree is chosen by firefighters who cast votes for the fireman who has done an exceptional job throughout the year.

Firefighter of the Year is

the department’s highest award.

Members of the department cast one secret ballot to select the winner.

Other awards:

Zachary Miller and Kelly Hostetler -- five year service pins.

Michael Staten -- 10 year service pin.

Jonathan Mixon -- 15 year service pin.

Joe Hoen -- 25 year service pin.

Cliff Petty received a plaque and service pin for 35 years.

Cole Reed and Clint Hostetler -- the Officer’s Choice Award. This award is decided by the chief, assistant chief, and captains.

Kelly Hostetler -- Attendance Award, given to the firefighter who attended the most calls and drills during the year.

List submitted by Fire Marshal Justin Thornton.



**TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS.** The Nashville Scrappers won the Southwest Arkansas Invitational Tournament Saturday night, Jan. 4, at Mineral Springs. Nashville defeated Murfreesboro 79-64 in the tournament finals. The Scrappers opened the tournament with a 63-19 victory over Horatio. They defeated Kirby 80-45 in the semi-finals.



**AT LITTLE ROCK CHRISTIAN.** Two Scrapperettes were recognized at the conclusion of the Little Rock Christian Academy tournament recently. Angel Watson was the Player of the Game in Nashville’s 63-37 win over Rogers. Karstyn Scrivner was named to the All-Tournament team. The group includes Watson, Coach Paul Dean and Scrivner.



**RECOGNITION.** Ava Basiliere (right) was named Player of the Game in the Scrapperettes’ 59-34 victory over Little Rock Parkview at the Little Rock Christian Academy tournament. At left is Coach Paul Dean.

# Nashville teams open 7-4A play

The Nashville Scrappers and Scrapperettes began the District 7-4A portion of their schedule Tuesday night, Jan. 7, at Little Rock Mills. Results were not available at press time.

De Queen will come to Scrapper Arena Friday, Jan. 10, for two games. The Scrapperettes and Lady Leopards will meet at 6 p.m., followed by the Scrappers and Leopards.

Both teams will go on the road next week.

Nashville will visit Hope Tuesday, Jan. 14, with the girls game set for 6 p.m.

The Scrappers and Scrapperettes will travel to Magnolia Friday, Jan. 17, starting at 6 p.m.

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*Card of Thanks*

*The family of Keith Self would like to express our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love and prayers that we have received. The countless florals, cards, texts, phone calls and visits mean so much.*

*Love, Pat, Alan & Ginger*

**Nashville Parks & Recreation**  
**USSSA Baseball Registration**

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**February 3, 2025**  
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8U Coach Pitch • 10U Player Pitch  
12 U Player Pitch, 14U Player Pitch  
\* Some age groups in this league will travel to surrounding towns to play \*  
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## Pike County Ham Radio Club to host free licensing class

The Pike County Ham Radio Club will be conducting a free general licensing class, open to residents of Pike, Howard, Montgomery and Clark counties, and the surrounding areas.

An informational meeting will be held Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Kirby School Cafeteria.

Topics of discussion will include:

- Dates of future classes
- Test date and fees
- Test prep material
- FCC license requirements

For more information, contact:

Mark Reed  
903-701-5954  
mark.reed.ii@gmail.com

Will Henderson  
870-925-0168  
redhenderson@hotmail.com

Pat Chaloner  
870-285-5023



Murfreesboro Diamond photo

**INCREASED RELEASE.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently releasing 2,200 cubes feet of water per second from Narrows Dam due to the recent big rains. The water is coming from a release structure on the dam and is equal to all three of the dam’s regular generators at full load.

## Tentative start date set for dam work

### Repairs could take 7 months; no big drawdown planned

After more than a year since halting hydropower production, work on Narrows Dam is tentatively set to begin at the end of January and will take approximately seven months to complete, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Vicksburg District.

Due to recent heavy rains, USACE has increased current releases through the structure at Narrows Dam/Lake Greeson in Pike County.

The release will be increased to 2,200 cubic feet per second (cfs), which is equivalent to all three units generating at full load.

This release will affect the ability for some visitors to bank and wade fish downstream of Narrows Dam due to water level and increased flow.

More than one year ago, during maintenance activities on the trash racks at Narrows Dam at Lake Greeson, USACE identified a need for repairs to the metal structure supporting the trash racks. Trash racks are metal grates preventing large debris from entering and damaging the turbans used for creating hydropower, and do not affect the integrity or effectiveness of Narrows Dam.

As a precautionary measure, Narrows Dam halted hydropower generation until repairs are completed. These repairs are essential to ensuring the uninterrupted and safe production of hydropower in the future, according to the USACE.

Work is tentatively scheduled to

begin at the end of January and should take approximately seven months to complete.

This cessation has not impacted the ability to carry out flood risk management or other missions of the Narrows Dam/Lake Greeson Project. Water releases like these are executed through the structure to maintain adequate flood control capability.

A significant drawdown of Lake Greeson is not anticipated to perform the repairs.

An USACE press release stated, “All efforts will be made to minimize the disruption of the use of Lake Greeson and the Little Missouri River downstream for our visitors, partners and stakeholders.”

## Fly fishing festival returns to M’boro

MURFREESBORO – The annual Little Missouri River Fly Fishing Festival has been scheduled for Friday, Jan. 31-Sunday, Feb. 2.

The event will be conducted at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building’s community room, located at 204 East Main Street in Murfreesboro.

The ArkLaTexOma (ALTO) Fly Tyers will be hosting the festival that will include a “weekend of tying, fishing, fellowship and fun ... with expert tyers, casting instructors, vendors, and seminars.”

Raffles and door prizes will also be a part of the festivities – interested participants are asked to follow the ArkLaTexOma Fly Tyers Facebook page for more information on the raffles and event proceedings.

Information for the event says the group will accept interest from all levels of expertise, and wants to make beginners feel welcome.

There is no fee to attend the event, but attendees are asked to bring new /slightly used gear to augment the raffle table.

As with all ALTO events, there are no membership dues and events are support-

ed by member donations. All of the donations go toward future events throughout the year or charitable organizations.

On Friday, Jan. 31 the group will open the event at noon, and that evening at 6 p.m. a presentation will be held on the state of the Little Missouri River. Pizza will be available – sold by the slice – as well as drinks.

The morning of Saturday, Feb. 1, fly tying will start at 9 a.m., followed by an update on Patriot Angler news and projects by Johnny Walker.

Saturday’s lunch will be chicken/sausage gumbo with sides, with cost being a donation to the group.

Following lunch at 1:30 p.m., Gordon Shaw will present the joys of fishing with fiberglass. One of the raffle items will be a hand-built fiberglass fly rod by Randy Hanien. At 3 p.m. the group will present a program on raft fishing in Arkansas.

Sunday morning, Feb. 2, a short devotional will be held at the Riverside pavilion, weather permitting, before the event commences.

For further information, contact Mike Hawkins at (903) 353-3357.

## Commodities coming to Pike County Jan. 22

Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 8:30-10:30am or until all boxes have been distributed.

Recipients must come inside the Murfreesboro Municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in.

Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along Second Ave & Owens St. towards First United Methodist Church.

Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the municipal building.

The next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19.

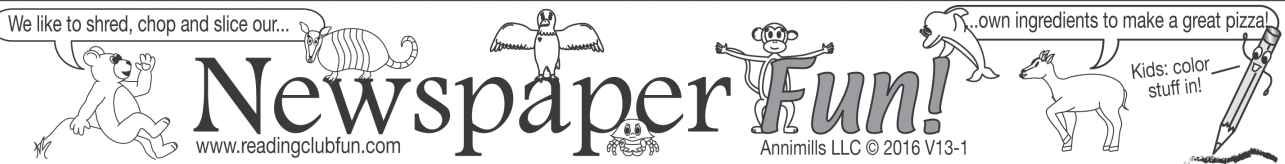
Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle. Vehicles start lining up early, so early arrival is recommended.

**When ice and heavy snow bring down limbs and power lines, safety is a consideration indoors and out. Make sure you know how to weather the storms.**

When outside, stay away from downed power lines:



- A power line need not be sparking or arcing to be energized. Equipment near power lines can also be energized or dangerous.
- Lines that appear to be “dead” can become energized as crews work to restore power or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators. Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed or sagging line, contact your utility.
- If you are in an auto accident involving a downed power line, your vehicle is usually the safest place to be (unless it is on fire.) If it is safe to do so, stay in your car, call 9-1-1, and wait for electric utility personnel to arrive to deenergize the power. If you step out of the car and the ground is energized, you could become the electrical current’s path to ground and you could be electrocuted. If your car is on fire or you see smoke, make a solid, clean jump from your vehicle and hop away with your feet together as far away as you can. If you run or walk away, you could get electrocuted.
- Motorists should never drive over a downed line, as snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.



### Cooking and Baking Fun!

I enjoy cooking and baking. I like putting foods together to make new, hopefully delicious, combinations. One of my favorite hobbies is to take an old recipe that everyone loves, like cheese and macaroni, and “lighten” it to make it a healthier dish that’s just as tasty.

**Can you read the clues to fill in my puzzles about cooking?**

1. bowl-shaped pan used for laying out pieces of dough  
2. comes in many shapes and sizes, usually metal  
3. very deep with handles and lids  
4. flat piece of metal for cooking  
5. bowl heated from below – keeps cheese and chocolate melted for dipping  
6. mixed foods cooked in a large, deep, usually uncovered dish in the oven  
7. round, doughnut-shaped baking pan  
8. shallow, round, glass or metal dish used to bake one of America’s favorite desserts  
9. round, flat, with low sides; may be made of iron, may have a non-stick surface, handle  
10. has several, tiny cups for batter; a cupcake pan or a \_\_\_\_\_  
11. square or rectangular “frying pan,” may be flat or have ridges, drains off extra grease  
12. rectangular pan that is deep, used for breads and a favorite meat dinner  
13. large, round, flat metal pan, sometimes deeper for “deep dish”

**Pots and Pans**

1. pizza pan  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. pie plate  
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
11. \_\_\_\_\_  
12. \_\_\_\_\_  
13. \_\_\_\_\_

saucers, casseroles, bundt pan, wok, griddle, fondue pot, muffin tin, cookie sheet, loaf pan, cake pan

### How We Cook It

1. cook in oven using dry heat  
2. heat liquid until it starts to bubble and steam  
3. cook over an open fire  
4. cook in a pan or griddle, usually in very hot oil  
5. cook food just below its boiling point  
6. heat using water in the form of wisps of \_\_\_\_\_  
7. cook meat in oven, uncovered in a shallow pan without adding liquid  
8. cook at high temperature using direct heat from the top of the oven  
9. turn something into liquid over heat  
10. cook in a pan with a little bit of oil or butter

**Freebies!**

Visit our web site to print out our new fun crossword puzzles: *Kitchen Fun* and *The Cool South Pole*. While there, print out the newest reading log and certificate set: [www.readingclubfun.com](http://www.readingclubfun.com)

### Running the Kitchen Smoothly

I’m helping Chatter in the kitchen today. I am her “sous chef,” which means I am the second in command! I make sure everything is ready and the kitchen is running smoothly, and I help to cook the food.

**Getting food ready and keeping the kitchen running smoothly:**

1. cut into thin strips with a knife  
2. cut food into small square pieces  
3. crush food in blender or other machine  
4. press to remove lumps  
5. cut food into squares smaller than 1/2 inch, using a knife  
6. stir ingredients together with a whisk or spoon  
7. chop into tiny pieces  
8. cut ingredients into pieces using a knife or food processor  
9. cut into long, thin pieces (may use round holes on grater)  
10. pull off or cut off the skin or rind of fruit or vegetable

**Getting It Together**

1. pour liquid or food into a filter that catches any solid bits  
2. blend milk, butter, or sugar until smooth  
3. swirl different types of batter for an interesting look  
4. put ingredients together  
5. make ingredients fluffy by adding air, beating quickly  
6. mix smoothly together  
7. blend food into a liquid until it disappears (like sugar in water)  
8. stir very fast so ingredients mix or fluff up  
9. work on dough by pressing and stretching  
10. mix a salad until everything is coated with dressing

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### Purple Circle Club Class of 2024

The Purple Circle Club inducted 145 students, representing more than 200 awards at a ceremony in Benton. The Purple Circle Club, created in 1952, recognizes youth exhibitors who achieved championship honors with livestock projects at the Arkansas State Fair.

Arkansas Power and Light Company, now known as Entergy Arkansas, sponsored the event for 54 years until Arkansas Farm Bureau took the lead role in 2005 and now coordinates the program. There were 38 inductees in the inaugural Purple Circle Club class of 1952.

“These students represent more than just success in the show ring. They reflect a commitment to excellence, strength of character and the sacrifices that come with raising livestock,” said Dan Wright, ArFB President. “It’s our distinct honor to play a small part in their agriculture journey.”

Students recognized at the ceremony competed in these categories: Breeding Cattle, Commercial Steers/Heifers, Dairy Cattle, Cattle Showmanship, Goats, Lambs, Sheep, Rabbits, Poultry and Swine.



**Pike County: Trace Minton**  
Championship Pee Wee Market Hog Showmanship



**Pike County: Lillie Jo Cook**  
Grand Champion Herford



**Hempstead County: Huck Plyler**  
Grand Champion Charolais Bull & Division Champion

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Wednesday - 6 p.m.  
Thursday - 8 a.m.  
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*Facts About The* **BIBLE** *BY JOHN LEHTI*

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**THE ANCIENT CITY OF TARSUS**

TARSUS, THE CHIEF CITY OF CILICIA, IN THE EASTERN PART OF ASIA MINOR, IS SITUATED ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER CYDNUS, ABOUT 12 MILES FROM THE SEA. AS LONG AGO AS 833 B.C., IT WAS MENTIONED BY THE ANCIENT ASSYRIAN KING SHALMANESER! THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY TARSUS HAS BEEN FAMED FOR ITS SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES AND OTHER ADVANCED SEATS OF LEARNING TO THE EXTENT OF RIVALING ANCIENT ATHENS AND ALEXANDRIA. IT WAS ALSO THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL (ACTS 21:39; 22:3) AND HE REVISITED THE CITY AT LEAST ONCE AFTER HE BECAME A FOLLOWER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! (CHS 9:30; 11:25) WHEN THE CITY CAME UNDER ROMAN DOMINION, ITS ALLEGIANCE TO JULIUS CAESAR WAS SO FIERCE THAT WHEN CAESAR WAS MURDERED, CASSIUS ORDERED THE CITY TO BE PLUNDERED! BUT LATER IN COMPENSATION FOR THIS MARK ANTONY NOT ONLY GRANTED IT MUNICIPAL FREEDOM AND EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION, BUT HE GAVE ALL THE INHABITANTS OF TARSUS THE GIFT OF ROMAN CITIZENSHIP!...



*ST. PAUL'S GATE, TARSUS*

...THAT'S WHY, WHEN A CHIEF CAPTAIN OF A ROMAN LEGION REMARKED THAT IT TOOK A GREAT SUM TO BUY HIS FREEDOM, PAUL WAS ABLE TO SAY, "...BUT I WAS FREE BORN." (ACTS 22:28)

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Pastor: Paul Herndon  
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Worship (KMTB-fm) - 10:55 a.m.  
Worship - 6:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** GROW - 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
Youth - 5:30 p.m.

 **First United Methodist Church**  
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**AFTER 46 YEARS OF SERVICE.** City of Murfreesboro Water Superintendent Randy Miller was recently honored at a reception Murfreesboro City Hall. Miller is retiring from his post after 46 years – all of which have been with the city water department. “I’ve enjoyed it – it’s just gone fast ... faster than what it sounds,” he said. “When I started I didn’t know it would end here, I was just getting a job and going to work. Time flies.” As for now, his only plan for the extra time is “to follow the grandkids playing ball, that’s the biggest plans.” Miller will continue to work for the city under a contractor-as-needed basis, while his replacement earns the necessary credentials with the state. “I’d just like to thank everybody for allowing me serve them,” stated Miller, who is pictured here with Water Commissioners Jack Bennett, Jim Cannon and Stevie Turner.

## YEAREND: Corporate Transparency Act, foreign ownership, Chevron shift mark turbulent 2024

**By Mary Hightower**  
U of Arkansas System  
Division of Agriculture

**LITTLE ROCK** — Upend- ing of a 40-year precedent in rulemaking and a pair of end-of-year plot twists for two laws meant to prevent fraud and improve national security were just some of the events that marked a tur- bulent year in agricultural and environmental laws.

“It seems like just a few days ago we were at the be- ginning of 2024 and wonder- ing what all might develop in the coming year,” said Harrison Pittman, director of the National Agricultural Law Center.

“It turned out that 2024 brought in some of the most consequential developments in ag law and policy in a long time.

“2024 was a blockbuster year of court decisions and other legal developments and it’s hard to imagine how 2025 can top it, but I have a feeling it will,” he said.

**Chevron**  
In June, the United States Supreme Court overturned what was known as the Chevron deference, 40-year- old doctrine which said that courts should generally defer to federal agencies for the rules they make, with the assumption that the agencies are subject matter experts and that the rules are reasonable. Chief Jus- tice John Roberts, in a 35- page decision, called the doctrine “fundamentally misguided.”

“It’s a decision with wide implications that might take years to play out,” said Bri- git Rollins, staff attorney for the National Agricultural Law Center.

**Dicamba**  
On Feb. 6, a federal court in Arizona issued a ruling

to vacate the labels for three dicamba products that had been registered for use over- the-top of dicamba-resistant soybean and cotton crops.

“The decision was the second time a court had ruled to vacate labels for over-the-top dicamba, and officially leaves farmers without an over-the-top dicamba option for the 2025 growing season,” Rollins said.

Throughout 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency continued to roll out portions of its new policy towards addressing endangered species con- cerns related to pesticide exposure.

“A finalized version of last year’s herbicide strategy was released on Aug. 20, and a draft of the correspond- ing insecticide strategy was published in July,” Rollins said. “Both strategies outline pesticide use restrictions that are aimed at reducing pesticide exposure to spe- cies listed as threatened or endangered under the En- dangered Species Act.”

**CEQ upended**  
A court decision issued by the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals in mid-November unsettled a 50-year-old environmental program after the court de- termined that the Council on Environmental Quality, or CEQ, lacks rulemaking authority.

“CEQ is the federal agency responsible for ad- ministering the National Environmental Policy Act, a law passed by Congress in 1969 that requires all fed- eral agencies to consider the environmental impacts of their actions,” Rollins said. “Although implementation of NEPA has been largely unchanged in the decades

since it was first passed, the recent D.C. Circuit Court ruling has made the future of NEPA uncertain.”

**Corporate Transparency Act**  
The Corporate Transpar- ency Act, or CTA, was still a little-known law heading into the months before the deadline for businesses to file beneficial owner infor- mation in order to comply. The act was passed in 2021 with a goal of cracking down on shell companies and preventing money laundering, said Elizabeth Rumley, senior staff attorney at the National Agricultural Law Center. Reporting required by the law began Jan. 1, 2024, and was expected to affect more than 32 million busi- nesses, including more than 230,000 farm operations, according to the American Farm Bureau.

In March, a federal court in Alabama suspended the law’s requirements for plaintiffs in National Small Business United v. Yellen. On Dec. 3, a federal court in Texas issued a nationwide injunction. The ruling by U.S. District Judge Amos Mazzant in the case Texas Top Cop Shop, Inc. v. Gar- land determined that the “CTA is likely unconstitu- tional as outside of Con- gress’s power. Because the Reporting Rule implements the CTA, it is likely un- constitutional for the same reasons.”

In late December, the case took a zig-zag course.

On Dec. 23, a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit agreed with the federal gov- ernment and stayed the injunction, reinstating the reporting requirement. In response, FinCEN extended the deadline for the majority of businesses until mid-Jan-

uary, said Elizabeth Rumley, senior staff attorney for the National Agricultural Law Center.

However, on Dec. 26, another three-judge panels of the same federal appel- late court vacated the Dec. 23 decision, reinstating the stay for filing until after the appeal on the merits has been heard. The foundation of the ruling, according to the court, was “to preserve the constitutional status quo while the merits panel con- sideres the parties weighty substantive arguments”.

Arguments for the appeal have been scheduled for March 25 in New Orleans.

**Foreign ownership**  
Nearly half of the na- tion’s states have laws that put some kind of limits on foreign ownership of real property, particularly agri- cultural land, located within their state. From 2021-22, 12 states proposed such laws, but in 2023, 36 states con- sidered at least one measure that sought to restrict foreign investments, 12 of which enacted such a law.

Last year, Arkansas be- came the first state to take an enforcement action under its law, ordering ChemChina to divest its holdings in Craig- head County.

In July a federal court based in Atlanta halted en- forcement of a Florida law restricting foreign owner- ship of real estate. In Decem- ber, a federal judge in Ar- kansas issued a restraining order on its foreign-owned land law, as well as a second law regulating digital min- ing centers.

“We’ll likely see more proposals in various states, including amendments to existing laws, as well as continuation of the litigation process,” Pittman said.



DIAMOND CITY 4-H

# Blanket Drive



We will be collecting socks, blankets, gloves, & toboggans during the month of January. These items will be distributed to our local blessing boxes!

Drop off at Pike County Extension Office

Contact us @ 870-285-2161 with any questions!

## January programs underway at Cossatot River State Park -Natural Area

Join a park interpreter to kick off the new year with an educational program or guided hike at Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area.

Pack a lunch and make a day of it, allowing time to explore the interactive exhibits of the visitor information center, take a short trail walk, or just be with nature along the river bank.


**Every Sunday Critter Feeding**  
3 p.m. Meet at Visitor Information Center  
Stop by the center to join a park interpreter in feeding our resident critters– snakes, frogs and more!

**Saturday, Jan. 11 Micro Hike**  
2 p.m. Meet at Waterleaf Trailhead  
Have you ever imagined the world from the perspective of a bug? Join a park interpreter as we slow down and observe the smaller elements in the landscape– you never know what you might find! ~0.5 mile round-trip rated moderate.

**Saturday, Jan. 18 Snakes of Cossatot River**  
2 p.m. Meet at Visitor Information Center  
Join a park interpreter to get acquainted with our resident snakes and learn about the many snakes of the area. Paint your very own wooden snake to take home!


**Saturday, Jan. 25 A Home for a Black Bear**  
2 p.m. Meet at Visitor Information Center  
The American Black Bear relies on quality habi- tat in order to thrive and call Arkansas their home. Join a park interpreter to discover the ins & outs of the life of a black bear and investigate the vital components of their habitat.

For More Information about these programs, call Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area: (870) 385-2201. Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area, 1980 Hwy 278 W, Wickes, AR 71973.



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Applications may be picked up at the Howard County Housing Authority office located at **1010 S. Pope Street, Nashville, Arkansas** (off of Hope Hwy).

Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, Monday - Friday, closed on Wednesday afternoons.

**For questions, you may call the Housing Authority Office at (870) 845-1080.**



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### Happy New Year

As I reflect on 2024, I am incredibly proud of the people that choose to work at Dierks Lumber and the accomplishments that have been made. I always say, "Our #1 priority is making sure everyone of us goes home to our people safe every day!" That didn't happen early in the year, we had a couple of injuries that were life altering to our people and their families. I am proud that as a team, we focused and put in the work to improve our safety! We have now gone 120 days injury free.

In addition to safety, Dierks Lumber improved many processes in 2024 that significantly impacted performance such as breaking countless records across the site, a Sawmill rate improvement of 5.6% and a Planer improvement of 3.3% with 11.4% over the last 3 months. A major boost to these improvements was due to the strong innovation culture we have developed. We are a recognized leader in the company, our success is fueled by the engagement of our incredible people with you submitting a business leading 300+ innovative ideas that drove improvement from safety to culture to reliability!

Our #2 priority is "To make Dierks Lumber a great place to work, build a brand our people, our families and our communities can take pride in." Like our other goals we are not yet there but I believe we have made major strides. I am super proud of the work we have done in our communities with us and our team members supporting and partnering with 60+ local community events, charities, organizations, clubs & teams...doing good and demonstrating a servant's heart. We have heard positive comments from the community and our team members driving pride in the brand.

As proud as I am of the successes, work and grind the team put into in 2024 ...there is no doubt we still have hills to climb but as a respected boss once told me "It's no hill for a High Stepper!" I know for a fact that Dierks Lumber is full of High Steppers, and I look forward climbing those hills with you all in 2025!

Thank you and your families for everything you did in 2024, stay safe, have a Happy New Year and let's kick 2025's tail! Be a Pro - Nick



## Dierks Lumber



# Murfreesboro teams on court over holidays

The Murfreesboro Rattlers and Lady Rattlers saw action over the holiday break in a tournament at Mineral Springs.

The Lady Rattlers opened with a loss against Horatio by a 41-30 score, marking their second loss to the Lady Lions this season.

Natalie Perrin scored nine points, while Sydney Braden added eight points. Jenna May and Jamie Howell each tallied five points.

The Lady Rattlers had a 11-7 lead after the first quarter, but Horatio rallied in the second to hold a 22-19 lead at halftime. Horatio was able to hold Murfreesboro to 11 points in the second half to cruise to the victory.

Isabella Baker and Hayden Billings each had seven points to lead Horatio.

Head coach Nicole Martin said that it was a “back and forth battle” the featured no scorer on either team in double digits.

“It was close early and we kinda ran out of gas in the second quarter ... then they just outscored us each quarter. We didn’t put four quarters together.”

Martin said hopefully the next meeting against Horatio would go better, and said it was never favorable to face conference opponents in a non-conference scenario.

“That wasn’t the one we needed to win, but obviously we wanted to win it. The one we have to win [against Horatio] is coming up in about a month.”

She said her and the Horatio head coach noted that the teams could see each other in the conference tournament, which would make four times the pair would face off this season in that hypothetical situation.

“You really don’t want to do that, but, it’s all good,” she surmised.

The team’s first quarter performance was in contrast to the rest of the game that showed the rust and lack of conditioning since the team’s last game action eleven days previous.

“We did well the first quarter, but you could tell we’d be a little bit gassed,” Martin said, adding that several rotation players were out with flu-like symptoms. “We had to piece it together.”

After a game at Hampton was cancelled for January 3.

“You wish that we didn’t sit on our thumbs as much over break – it’s not the kids’ faults,” Martin said.

“Sometimes that happens.” She said that both coaches at Hampton were new and didn’t have the game on schedule.

Martin said perhaps the only upside to the long period of inactivity would have been that the team was largely collectively battling

illness, but she’d “rather be playing.”

The Lady Rattlers would face another conference foe at the Mineral Springs tournament with several players still battling illness.

In a consolation game held last Thursday, the Lady Rattlers doubled up the Foreman Lady Gators by a 40-20 score.

The first half remained close with MHS holding a 9-6 lead after one and 16-13 at halftime. A 17-0 third quarter that was dominated by the Lady Rattlers closed out any possible drama in the second half.

May led the team with 12 points, including a 6/8 effort from the free throw line. Braden and Perrin each added nine points. Faith Teel had seven points in support.

Ashlyn Guthrie led the Lady Gators with eight points.

“We’ll have to play better ... we started the season out 5-0 and are now 2-2 in conference play.”

**SENIOR BOYS**

The senior Rattlers opened the tournament with a 65-55 win over the hosting Mineral Springs Hornets.

Caden Dixon would score 16 for the Rattlers, followed by Kooper Caldwell’s 14. James Silva and Laytan Wilcher each added 11 points to the winning effort. Kale Burns also had nine points in the victory.

The first quarter opened quick, with MHS staked to a 22-19 lead going into the second. They were able to create a little distance before halftime, entering the break with a 39-31 advantage.

The Hornets were able to hold the Rattlers to eight third quarter points to make the score 47-41, but MHS would win the final quarter 17-14 to set the final score.

In the finals of the tournament last Saturday, the Rattlers faced off against the Nashville Scrappers, who defeated Kirby 80-45 in their half of the semifinals.

The Rattlers would take an early lead by a 17-11 score by the end of the first quarter, but the Scrappers would fight back, scoring 27 in the second to take a 38-29 lead into the mid-game break.

MHS would outpoint Nashville 23-19 in the third to bring the score to 57-52 in the Scrappers’ favor, but were ultimately unable to push closer in the fourth quarter.

Dixon scored 27 for the Rattlers, followed by Silva’s 18 and Caldwell’s 17.

Johnnte’ Taylor scored 24 points for the Scrappers, while William “Bo” Bell scored 19.

The loss ended Murfreesboro’s 10-game undefeated streak to open the 2024-2025 season.



News-Leader photos/NIKKIE FIELDS IMAGES & DESIGNS

**NEW YEAR BASH CHAMPS.** The 15-2 Dierks Senior Lady Outlaws were the champions of the New Year Bash basketball tournament held at Rosebud. The team beat Shirley, Nemo Vista and Rose Bud to earn the tournament title. Team members are (from left) Raylie Walston, Addison hill, Gracie Thigpen, Hannah Kirby, Aspen Pugh, Ryleigh Simmons, Lilly Hogg, Milee Harrison and Coach Will Stewart. Below at left, Ryleigh Simmons goes up for two points, and at below right is Milee Harrison sinking a three-pointer.



## Murfreesboro High School Track Fundraiser Chili Supper

*Originally scheduled for Jan. 10*

# Postponed until Tuesday, Jan. 21

*Due to potential winter weather issues*

5-8 p.m. at Rattler Gym during the basketball games

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## Pike County Circuit Court Report

An Amity man has been charged with weapon violations after being arrested by state game wardens investigating possible illegal hunting on private property in Glenwood.

Danny R. Golden, 59, was charged in Pike County Circuit Court on Dec. 30 with possession of firearms by certain persons and possessing a defaced firearm.

Golden was arrested Dec. 10 when state wardens, Lt. Chesley Sigman and Capt. Nate Hellums, were called to property near Herring Loop after a gunshot was heard on the private property.

Golden, who is a convicted felon, was located in the area carrying a rifle and was taken into custody for multiple game and fish violations, along with the charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Additionally, Golden reportedly had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear regarding possession of drug paraphernalia.

When Golden's Remington .22 rifle was being photographed for evidence, it was discovered the weapon's serial number had been removed.

Golden plead innocent to the charges Monday and an April 7 pretrial date was set.

Also on Dec. 30, two separate felony cases were filed against Suzanne Burgess, 65, of Glenwood.

Burgess, who is on parole and has a search waiver on file, is charged with two counts of possession of methamphetamine and two counts drug paraphernalia. She was initially arrested Sept. 5 when agents with the 9th West Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at a trailer on Opal Street in Glenwood where she had a room.

On Sept. 9, another search was conducted and Bugress was again found to be in possession of drugs and paraphernalia.

She made a court appearance Monday and plead innocent to the charges. An April 28 pretrial date was set for the two cases.

During Monday's session of Pike County court, Bobby Wilkerson, 54, of Murfreesboro plead innocent to the charge of internet stalking of a child and a March 3 pretrial date was set.

Wilkerson is currently in the Pike County Jail after being arrested on Dec. 23 after allegedly arriving to meet with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl he had been communicating with online. The girl was actually Investigator McDonald working an undercover account he uses to catch adults preying on underage children.

Also Monday, two men returned to court for their formal sentences to be imposed.

- Joshua Allen Scott, 40, who has a Mineral Springs address on file, charged with probation revocation, failure to comply with registration and reporting requirements of being a sex offender and entering a school zone; sentenced to seven years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with three years suspended. He was also fined \$500 and court costs.

- Gary Eugene Johnson, 73, of Nashville, charged with internet stalking of a child and computer child pornography; sentenced to 15 years in the ADC with 10 years suspended.

pike County Arkansas  
MURFREESBORO

FARMER'S  
market



PLANNING MEETING

FOR THE 2025 SEASON

A local Farmer's market is a great opportunity for extra income and a way to serve our community. If you would like to participate in and plan for a successful summer of fresh vegetables, fruits, and various farmer Market products, please join us at this meeting. This will be a great opportunity to share ideas and make the 2025 season the best ever!

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-10

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2023-10

THE 2024 HOWARD COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE.

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: The 2024 Howard County Budget Ordinance No. 2023-10 should be Amended as follows:

Howard County Sheriff's Budget, Vehicles (1000-0400-4005) should increase by \$18,661.00. This money comes from Trexis Insurance for Property Damage-Vehicle.

SECTION 2: This ordinance is to be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Brent Pinkerton, Howard, County Judge

ATTEST:

Keri Teague, Howard County Clerk

November 18, 2024

(This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$47.20) (HCJ: 29)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING NOTICE

HOWARD COUNTY QUORUM COURT

The Howard County Quorum Court will meet on February 18, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Howard County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Courtroom, to consider the resolution below to declare a vacancy for the Position of Howard County Justice of the Peace, District 7 and to declare a vacancy for an expired term, to-wit

STATE OF ARKANSAS  
COUNTY OF HOWARD  
QUORUM COURT

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-1  
OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

WHEREAS, Howard County, Arkansas, has certain County Officers as defined by Ark. Code Ann. §14-14-1301; and

WHEREAS, one County Position is the Justice of The Peace, District 7 of Howard County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Ark. Code Ann. §14-14-1309, sets forth certain criteria for declaring of a County Position to be vacant; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the subparagraphs in Ark. Code Ann. §14-14-1309, the Quorum Court of Howard County, Arkansas, declares there to be a vacancy in the County Position of the Justice of the Peace, District 7 of Howard County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Ark. Code Ann. §14-14-1309, requires that such determination of the quorum court shall be conducted through the process of resolution; and

WHEREAS, Ark. Code Ann. §14-14-1309, requires that such resolution shall have been published prior to the meeting date; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS, declares that the Position of Howard County, Arkansas, Justice of the Peace, District 7, is vacant pursuant to the criteria under Ark. Code Ann. §14-14-1310; and that it shall be resolved that this vacancy shall be in the time required by law, submitted to the Governor of the State of Arkansas.

APPROVED and ADOPTED on this 18th day of February 2025

Brent Pinkerton, Howard County Judge

ATTEST:

Keri Teague, Howard County Clerk

(This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$128.40) (HCJ: 29)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Howard County is now accepting bids on culvert pipe. Bids are requested on high density corrugated polyethylene (smooth Interior) pipe. Sizes are 12", 15", 18", 24", 36", 48", and 60", 20ft. in length. Prices will be for county yard in Nashville, Arkansas.

Bids will be opened on Thursday, January 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Judges' Office.

Howard County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Brent Pinkerton  
Brent Pinkerton, Howard County Judge

(This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$40.00) (HCJ: 29, 30)



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PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-9

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2023-10

THE 2024 HOWARD COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE.

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: The 2024 Howard County Budget Ordinance No. 2023-10 should be Amended as follows:

Howard County Circuit Court Judge, Training & Education (1000-0402-3101) needs to increase by \$2,500.00, Computer Software, Support (1000-0402-3102) should increase by \$2,500.00. The \$5,000.00 comes from the Administrative Office of the Courts for 2024 (CIP) Court Improvement Program Funding. This money is to be used for court technology in juvenile court and/or court staff training, meetings, or conferences that will develop staff who handle dependency-neglect court and/or dual-status youth matters.

SECTION 2: This ordinance is to be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Brent Pinkerton, Howard, County Judge

ATTEST:

Keri Teague, Howard County Clerk

October 21, 2024

(This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$69.20) (HCJ: 29)

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NHS office workers hold holiday decorating contest

Christmas tradition



Maddie French and Katie East decorated a Candy Tree for the NHS office workers contest.



KV Mays with his Christmas Chaos Tree, which included all themes for Christmas, Grinch, Santa and gingerbread.



Two Nashville dancers performed in the Community Ballet of Texarkana's production of "The Nutcracker" at the historic Perot Theater in Texarkana Dec. 6-8. Dede Robinson (above) was a Spanish dancer. Lucy-Kate Thompson (below) was a toy soldier. Both are students at the Lana LaVoice Grounds School of Dance in Ashdown.



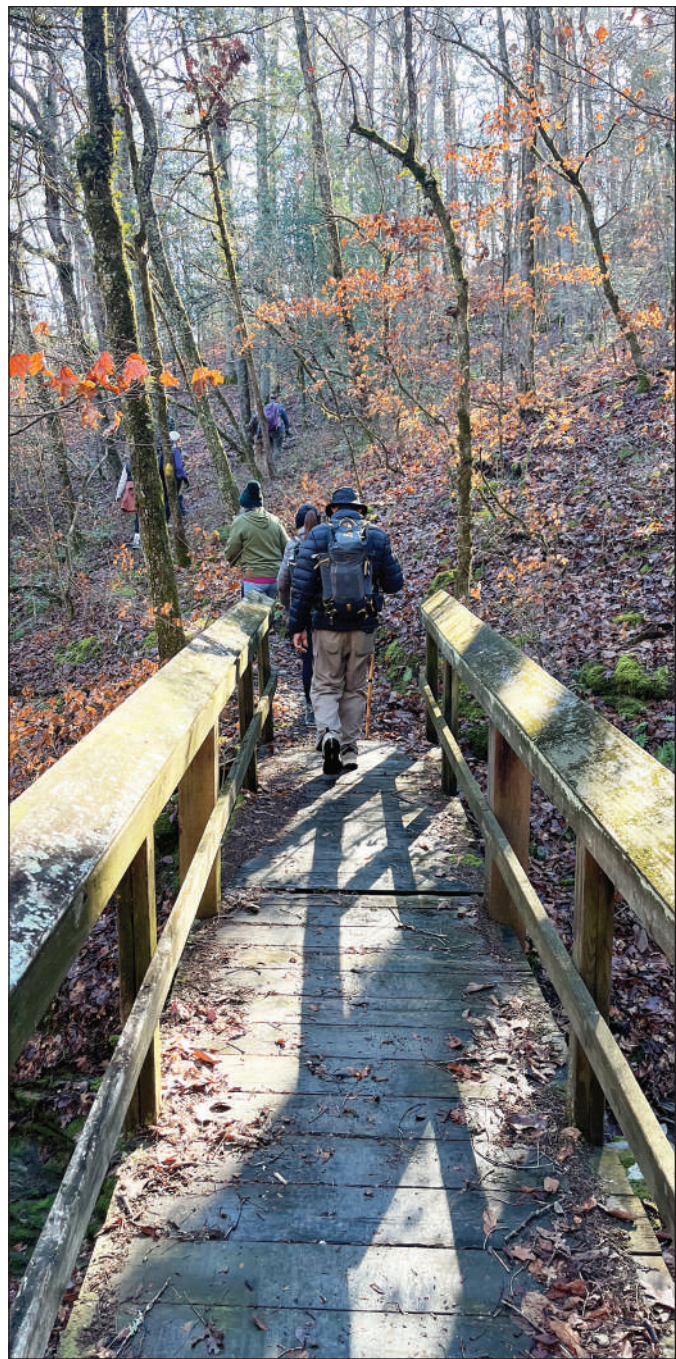
Stacy Padilla, Hannah Myers (above picture) and Ja'Marion Conway (right) decorated a Super Mario tree in the Nashville High School office workers' competition.



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**GMC**

**Jeep**

1. YORK GARY SAVINGS 2. PURCHASE ALLOWANCE 3. GM TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE. ONLY IF CUSTOMER TRADES 09 OR NEWER PASSENGER CAR OR TRUCK INCLUDING 3/4 TON AND ONE TON PICKUP AND VANS. 6. SALE PRICE IS AFTER ALL APPLICABLE INCENTIVES AND DOES NOT INCLUDE TT&L OR OTHER QUALIFYING INCENTIVES, AND REQUIRES CREDIT APPROVAL, WAC (WITH APPROVED CREDIT). \*\*TO QUALIFY FOR BEST PRICING ON SELECT MODELS, CUSTOMERS MUST FINANCE WITH YORK GARY OR OTHER IN-HOUSE ENTITY, AND FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS WAC (WITH APPROVED CREDIT). SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS ABOUT MANUFACTURER DISCOUNTS BECAUSE SOME VEHICLES AND/OR CUSTOMERS MAY QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES SUCH AS MILITARY FIRST RESPONDER, AND EDUCATOR DISCOUNTS. ALL INCENTIVES ARE NOT THE SAME AND THEIR VALIDITY DATES MAY VARY. SEE YOUR FRIENDLY SALES TEAM FOR DETAILS. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS ABOUT MANUFACTURER DISCOUNTS BECAUSE SOME VEHICLES AND/OR CUSTOMERS MAY QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES SUCH AS MILITARY FIRST RESPONDER, AND EDUCATOR DISCOUNTS. ALL INCENTIVES ARE NOT THE SAME AND THEIR VALIDITY DATES MAY VARY. SEE YOUR FRIENDLY SALES TEAM FOR DETAILS.

FIND NEW ROADS