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Inside the News-Leader  
Obituaries, 2  
Early Files, 3  
Opinion, 4  
Classifieds, 10  
Sports, 12



# Economic panel hosts focus groups

"Be creative in what you give us," he told the participants.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

parts of the county are well covered, while others are lacking," Benson said. "You said in your groups that high-speed internet is

In the community branding, pride and entertainment discussions, participants said assets included parks in Nashville, five

Developing Howard County board members were told last year.

See **Focus** • Page 5

# Scrappettes defeat top-ranked De Queen for third district win

Scrappers go 2 for 3 last week

"The girls played hard," he said. They played well enough to win."

"It's fun," Dean said. "A lot of times, players get to know each other," and that was especially true for the meeting with the Lady



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON

### Scrappers

The Scrappers defeated Hope 75-44 and De Queen 70-54 before

Coach Aaron Worthen said the Scrappers were "very resilient" and have shown some maturity" but must "get more consistent" to perform well against teams which have presented challenges to them.

See Hoops • Page 5



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

**PLANNING.** Superintendent Doug Graham (right) leads a discussion Jan. 16 of the Nashville School District's plans for America 250, a national celebration in 2025-26 to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Participants shared a number of ideas about events to be held in the district. Students will be actively involved in the activities.



# Obituaries



**Shirley Marlene (Winn) Bevill**  
Shirley Marlene (Winn) Bevill, 75, of Gillham, Ark., passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, in Hot Springs, Ark., surrounded by her loving family and friends. She was born on Tuesday, May 3, 1949, in Cabot, Ark., to Jerrell Tyrone Winn and Ophelia Beatrice (Carmical) Winn.

Marlene was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bobby Rowland Bevill; her parents; and her brother, Jerrell Stanley Winn.

She is survived by her loving children: Matthew Bevill and wife, Emily and grandson William Bevill of Mena, Ark.; Todd Bevill and wife, Tiffany and grandson Zac Bevill of Fayetteville, Ark.; and Bobbi (Bevill) Aldridge and husband, Anthony and granddaughter Phoebe Aldridge of Hot Springs, Ark. She also leaves behind her cherished brother, Ronnie Winn of Conway, Ark., along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends who loved her deeply.

Marlene dedicated her life to education, teaching for 31 years across all grade levels, from Pre-K to college. She impacted countless students through her work at the University of Arkansas Cossatot Community College formerly known as Cossatot Vocational College, Gillham School District, Dierks School District, Grannis School District, and Henderson State University. She was not only a teacher but also a mentor, guide, and inspiration to many.

Marlene was a devoted Christian whose faith was central to her life. She often shared her favorite saying, "Greatly Blessed and Highly Favored," as a testament to her unwavering belief in God's love. Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren -- Zac, William, and Phoebe -- who brought her endless pride and happiness.

Marlene's legacy of faith, love, and dedication to others will forever live in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Funeral services for Mrs. Bevill will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, in the Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel with Reverends Jerry Hill, Billy Pritchett, and Jared Morphew officiating. Burial will follow at Valley Cemetery in Gillham, Ark., under the direction of Wilkerson Funeral Home in De Queen.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at the funeral home.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to all who have prayed for, supported, and loved them during this difficult time.

In lieu, of flowers, the

family requests for friends, and family to buy a Bible for a graduating senior in the Class of 2025, contribute to Gideon Bible distributions, or support the Grannis First Baptist Church.

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



**Frances Tyndall Clardy**  
Frances Tyndall Clardy, age 96, of Conway Ark., passed from her earthly life on Jan. 15, 2025, after a brief illness. Frances was born on Dec. 2, 1928, in Nashville, Ark. She was the daughter of William Tyndall and Rachel Northum Tyndall. She was the fourth of their five children, William, Carolyn, Robert, and John.

Frances graduated from Nashville High School during World War II and then attended Southern Arkansas University while her sweetheart, Winfred, was away serving his country. Upon his return, they were married on Aug. 17, 1947, in Hot Springs. Together, they continued their education at Henderson State University, living in the GI trailer camp. Later, Frances received her masters degree from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Frances taught school for many years in Mineral Springs, Ark., where she taught home economics in the high school. She later taught junior high science in Nashville, Ark., and North Little Rock. Frances made many good teaching friends through the years.

After retiring from teaching, Frances returned to her artistic talents. She became an accomplished watercolorist and taught watercolor classes at the Shepard Center in North Little Rock. If you were lucky, you would get a hand painted greeting card in the mail for some special occasion. Frances also had a talent when it came to floral arrangements. She loved flowers and arranging them for her church and friends. She grew a variety of beautiful flowers and other plants in her yard and enjoyed being outside among them.

Frances had been a member of the Church of Christ and had, of lately, attended the Windsong Church of Christ in North Little Rock. She had many beloved friends through the years from Mineral Springs Church of Christ, Sunset Church of Christ in Nashville, and Sylvan Hills Church of Christ. She was a faithful member throughout her life and enjoyed teaching bible classes to the children, attending ladies bible classes, hosting church small groups in her home.

Remaining to cherish Frances's memory are her children, James (Ann) Clardy of Little Rock, Sara (Chuck) Shipp of Conway, and Daniel (Barb) Clardy of Conway. Grandchildren: Ben (Morgan) Clardy of Dallas, Texas, Hannah Clardy of

Little Rock, Rachel (Tommy) Drury of Oklahoma City, Zac (Alexa) Shipp of Conway, Maddie (Jordan) Cagle of Conway, Molly (Zak) Himes of Fayetteville, Holden and Will Clardy of Conway. Great-grandchildren: Becket Clardy, Thomas Drury, Stella Shipp, Addie Shipp, Frankie Cagle, Cole Cagle and Emerson Himes. Frances also leaves behind her beloved sister, Carolyn Davis of Austin, Texas.

Preceding Frances in death were her husband of 59 years, Winfred Clardy; her brothers William Tyndall, Robert Tyndall and John Tyndall.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at County Line Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.

You may send an online sympathy message at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com).



**Peggy L. Chambers**  
Peggy L. Chambers, age 76, of Nashville, Ark., passed away on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, in Dierks, Ark. She was born April 30, 1948, in Lansing, Mich., the daughter of the late James Raymond Coleman and Mary Gillespie Coleman.

Peggy was a member of the Biggs Chapel First United Methodist Church in Nathan. During her career she served as Social Director for several years at Colonial Nursing Home in Nashville. Some of her favorite hobbies included sewing, doily crocheting, and Corningware, sharing recipes daily from Pinterest to her daughters, watching The Voice, Dallas Cowboys, and eating Chinese food.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry "Bubba" Chambers, son-in-law Richard Schooley, and a brother-in-law Bud McRoy.

Survivors include: her three daughters, Stacy Schooley of Tollette, Kelly (Robbie) Sanders of Mineral Springs and Dusty Chambers Nuttall of Nashville; grandchildren Brandon (Amanda) Puryear of Nashville, Hailey (Poncho) Needham of Ben Lomand, Kelby (Jeremy) Meshell of Hot Springs, Brylee and Alana Nuttall of Nashville, Kristy (Biff) Lowery of Lockesburg, Nick Sanders of Little Rock, James Schooley of Tollette, Charles Schooley, and Beth (Kenny) Harris of Malvern; great-grandchildren Tucker Bernard, Clee Needham, Charli Needham of Ben Lomand, Hudson Meshell of Hot Springs, Kye Lowrey and Elliott and Kaidem Harris; her sister-in-law Mary Ann McRoy of Saratoga; her brother, Steve (Judy) Coleman of Dierks; her son, Jerome Hill of Nashville; her loving cousins, Barbara McCoy, Kathy Warren, Joan Harring, Amy Hanney, nieces and nephews Ruth

Lively, Carman Malloy, Robert Chambers, Michelle Price, Doc Chambers, Tammy Stone, Delia Hendrix, Holly Barone, Brandy Perches, Jamie Holiday, James Coleman, and Buddy Coleman. Her best friend Lois Evans, as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Graveside services will be 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Bingen-Ozan Cemetery at Bingen, with Larry McKinnon officiating, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Memorials may be made to the Garrett Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund at any First State Bank location.



**John Kenneth Pipkins**  
John Kenneth Pipkins, age 87 of Nashville, Ark., passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, in Nashville. He was born on Sept. 6, 1937, in Billstown to the late John Olin Pipkins and Iva Ruby Lois Pipkins.

Mr. Pipkins was a member of the Sunset Church of Christ. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy. He loved riding horses, roping and, in his younger years, racing dirt track cars. He was a logger by trade. He will be remembered as a man that loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of more than 55 years, Alice Hale Pipkins, and two siblings, Pete Pipkins and Willie Faye Crews.

Survivors include: his two sons, John Pipkins and his wife, Pam, and Michael Pipkins; two sisters, Carolyn Davis and Mayvis Crews; four grandchildren, Laura Pipkins, Skyler Redd and her husband, Kolton, Andrew Scott Pipkins and Brandon Allen; several great-grandchildren, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 17 in the Latimer Funeral Chapel with Terry Turner officiating. Interment will

follow in the Billstown Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home.

You may send an online sympathy message at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com).



**Mildred Kanakis**  
Mildred passed away peacefully on Jan. 16, 2025, in Arlington, Texas, surrounded by her loved ones. Fondly known as "Millie," she was born on July 13, 1920 in Alleene, Ark., the second of Oscar and Nellie Seastrunk's eight children.

Early in life, Millie married Howard Gregory, a talented electronics technician who served in the U.S. Air Force during WWII. Their only child, William "Hub" Gregory, followed his father's footsteps into the military, retiring from the U.S. Army with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4.

With the inspiration of her fourth-grade teacher, Millie decided her life goal was to become a teacher herself. After earning a bachelor's degree with honors from

Little Rock University in 1964, she obtained a Master of Science in Education from the State College of Arkansas in 1971. Millie taught elementary school in Arkansas for more than 30 years, retiring in 1993.

While living in Little Rock, Millie frequented a small local restaurant, Hamburger Heaven, and struck up a friendship with the Greek owner, Theodore Kanakis. They fell in love and were married until his death 25 years later.

Millie's strong Christian belief and a dedication to her family, friends, and community guided her life. She was a longtime Sunday school teacher at both Baptist and Greek Orthodox churches; a volunteer at the Two Rivers Museum in Ashdown, Ark.; and a member of the Little River County Library Board, Daughters of Penelope, and the Arkansas Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Millie is preceded in death by her parents; former husband, Howard Gregory; husband, Theodore Kanakis; sisters, Agnes Thompson and Dixie Tong; and brothers, Earl and Dale Seastrunk. She is survived by her sisters, Verna Roberson and Lucy Welch; brother, Paul "Demp" Seastrunk; cherished son, William "Hub" Gregory and his wife, Lola; granddaughter, Bobbi Gruner and her husband, Kurt; grandson, William Gregory, M.D. and his wife, Karen; 4 great-grandchildren, Madison, Brookelyn, Jake, and Emily; 2 great-grand god children, Nathan and Lucas; and 2 great, great-grandchildren children, McKinnley and Hadley.

As per her wishes, a funeral service will not be held. Instead, family and friends are encouraged to donate in Millie's name to Houston Shaggy Dog Rescue ([www.houstonshaggydogrescue.org](http://www.houstonshaggydogrescue.org)), her great-grand dog Tater's alma mater.

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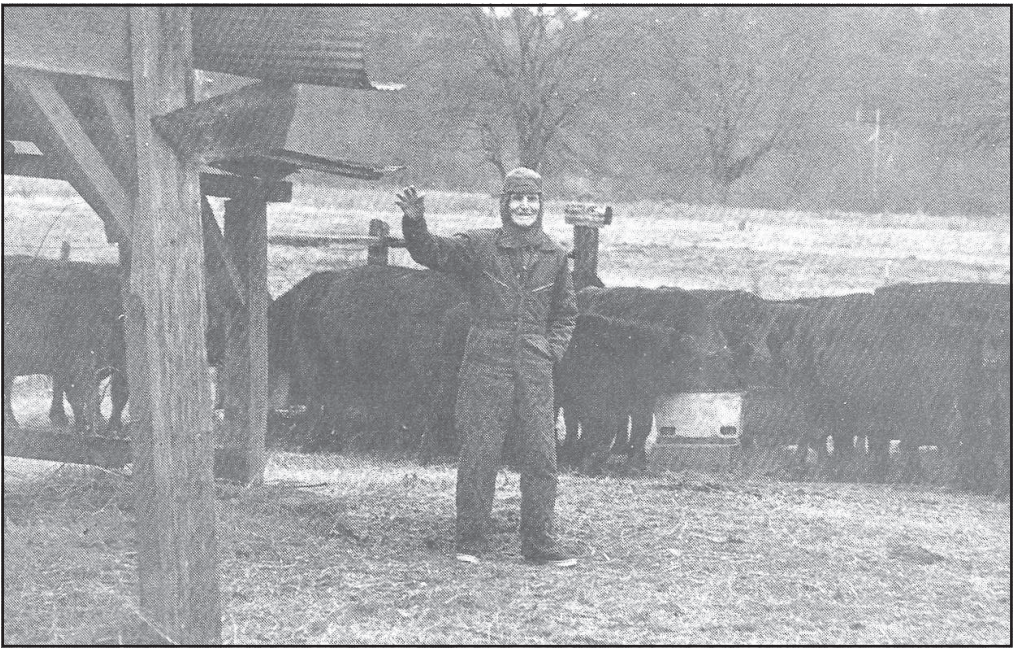


THE CECIL “BIRDDOG” HARRIS MEMORIAL

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






World War I veteran 96-year-old Homer Northum stands with his cows on his farm near Nashville on a cold January day in 1994.

**122 years ago: 1903**  
Strayed: One pale red cow, about seven years old, no marks, no brands, some scars near tail. Left Mineral Springs in November and was supposed to have gone in the direction of Hope. Information leading to her recovery will be rewarded. Rev. M. B. Epperson


**79 years ago: January 1946**  
Pfc. Harvey L. Jamison, age 19, whose father, Harvey A. Jamison lives in Nashville, is currently serving in the 969th Quarter Master’s Service Company in the Tarlac Province, Luzon in the Philippines.  
Pfc. Alger Lee Allen received his discharge from the U.S. Army last Friday, at Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah after 40 months of service. He will arrive in Nashville Wednesday.

**62 years ago: January 1963**  
Before the Christmas holidays, the Nashville FFA chapter met and elected a FFA Sweetheart for the 1963-64 school year. The boys chose Betty Steel for the second time in two years. Betty will compete in the coming confederation contest with FFA Sweethearts from eleven other schools. The boys expect her to win this year.  
Fire Sunday night destroyed over \$30,000 worth of merchandise in Owens Department Store. Fire, smoke and water left its black imprint on merchandise which had icicles clinging to it early Monday morning.  
**42 years ago: January 1983**  
A high school senior at Nashville or Mineral Springs will win a \$1,000 scholarship

from the local Wal-Mart store, according to Mark A. Thomason, store manager. Deadline for applying for the scholarship is Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.  
A shoot-out between two brothers left one dead and one wounded early Saturday morning. The shooting occurred at the residents of the brothers, David E. Hosey, 27, and Otis Hosey, Jr., 33, south of Mineral Springs on the Cotton Shed Road. Dead is David Hosey who suffered a .22 pistol wound to his chest.  
Wounded was Otis Hosey, whose leg was reportedly badly wounded with a shot from a rifle. Otis was taken first to Howard County Memorial Hospital where he was given emergency treatment. He was then transferred to St. Michael’s in Texarkana, where he is listed in satisfactory condition.



Recently, several Dierks Lumber team members traveled to Plymouth, NC, to provide support to their team. As Henry Ford once said, 'Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.' This collaboration presents an opportunity to share ideas, identify gaps and achieve a common goal. We welcome every opportunity to build our relationship across Weyerhaeuser. The phrase 'Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships' resonates with us. Lunch provided by the Plymouth Lead team, accompanied by our VP Southern Lumber, Jerry Nix, and Lumber Manufacturing Director Randy Darracott.

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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.



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Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Jan. 09-15, 2025, except as noted include the following:

**Marriage Licenses**  
(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk’s office)  
Jan. 13. Jamichael Deshun Noble, 21, Nashville, and Miltja Kehra Jefferson, 27, Nashville.

**Civil Court**  
CV25-02, Jan. 12. Capital One NA vs. Aaron Olden. Debt.  
CV25-03, Jan. 15. HS Financial Group, LLC, vs. Stephanie Kelderman. Contract.

**Domestic Relations Court**  
DR25-02, Jan. 13. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Timothy Ross. Support.

**Criminal Court**

(NOTE: POCS = possession of controlled substance; PODP = possession of drug paraphernalia; DOCS = delivery of controlled substance)  
CR25-03, Jan. 13. State of Arkansas vs. Jennifer Dawn Wilson, 45, white female, 517 Washington St., Nashville; POCS, class D felony; furnishing prohibited articles, class B; disorderly conduct, misdemeanor.  
CR25-04, Jan. 13. State of Arkansas vs. Michael C. Watkins, 53, white male, Conway; POCS, class D.  
CR25-05, Jan. 15. State of Arkansas vs. Dalton Ray Jordan, 34, white male, 196 Dildy Road, Nashville; POCS, class D.

**Land/Property Transactions**  
**Quitclaim Deed**  
Jan. 3. Denise McFadden; to Jeronamo McFadden; Lots 1-2-3, Block 8, Wilson & Ferguson Addition to

Nashville, aka 318 S. 6th St., Nashville.

**Fiduciary’s Deeds**  
Jan. 14. Alvin Dwayne Clardy, Administrator of the Estate of Shirley Davis, deceased; to Alvin Dwayne Clardy and Lawrence Hill; Lot 4, Tolton Clardy Estate in S34 T8S R28W.


Jan. 14. Alvin Dwayne Clardy, Administrator of the Estate of Shirley Davis, deceased; to Alvin Dwayne Clardy and Lawrence Hill; aggregate 93.68 ac. in S3/S4 T9S R28W.

**Warranty Deeds**  
Jan. 13. (Special) Weyerhaeuser Company; to Weyerhaeuser Forest Holdings, Inc.; properties in S1 thru S25 in R27/28W.

Jan. 13. (Special) John H. Hendrix Corporation; to Nathan Hill and wife, Nicole Hill; 123.71 ac. in S17 T9S R28W. \$494,848.

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# Point of view

## If I may say so ....

### Other Crossing Guards tell of heroic public service

(SORRY ‘BOUT THIS: Cold weather has froze both of my typing fingers so you get another 2018 repeat.)

HEARD FROM. A couple of our town’s luminous citizens have reacted to last week’s excellent (if I say so, myself) column about the similarity between School Crossing Guards and U.S. Navy Boot Camp Company Road Guards.

Renowned Farmer Dennis Ritchie remembers being a School Crossing Guard, and how it made him feel so superior to the kids who trembled and obeyed his commands for when they could or couldn’t cross the road. “You kids stand back.”

Well, maybe this is Dennis’s memory, or maybe it is just me putting crass words in Dennis’s mouth. I have done that on rare occasion. Not just to Dennis, either.

Like me, Dennis lived about a block and a half from the school. It now occurs to me that the nearness of a student’s residence could have been a factor in his selection as School Crossing Guard.

Let’s hope not. For the sake of Dennis’s ego ..... and mine. We’d rather think that we were chosen because of our sterling leadership qualities, our really good grades for deportment on our report cards, and our spotless juvenile records.

#### Surprise, I wuz wrong

And boys were NOT the only School Crossing Guards, despite my ignorant, sexist statement to the contrary in last week’s excellent (if I say so, myself) column.

Renowned Banker Carol Mitchell says that not only was she an official School Crossing Guard, she was an official School Crossing Guard in Little Rock. The BIG CITY! Just the thought makes me tremble.

I can only imagine the dangers she faced. Our School Crossing Guard service here was a comparative milk run.

Carol doesn’t dispute my own School Crossing Guard memories, but she clings to the belief that she and her fellow Little Rock School Crossing Guards wore some sort of a fashionable vest instead of the swell reflective over-the-shoulder-and-around-the-waist belt that is fixed so firmly in Dennis’s memory ..... and mine.

Also, she thinks the Little Rock School Crossing Guards may have had nothing more than bright warning flags to get the attention of on-coming maniac traffic, not the snazzy and substantial “STOP” signs I wrote that our School Crossing Guards here were issued in last week’s excellent (if I say so, myself) column.

Carol doesn’t recall -- or maybe she is decently hesitant to mention -- whether the BIG CITY School Crossing Guards were armed or not, but -- after all -- we are talking about Little Rock. I’ll let you decide for yourself.

Oh, those were exciting times!

#### If I say so, myself

Exciting, except, of course, for those poor U.S. Navy Boot Camp Company Road Guards marching along in perfect step. Tromp, tromp, tromp ..... about 180 boots in mostly perfect rhythm.

To get to the intersection ahead of the rest of the boot camp company U.S. Navy Boot Camp Company Road Guards had to sprint 50 yards to ‘post,’ and then with just barely enough time to catch their breath, had to run some more just to regain their place in the column.

During all this running they would be carrying a dummy rifle that weighed as much as a real one. It is a sad commentary that there was so little gratitude shown for their efforts.

Also, it was barely mentioned in last week’s excellent (if I say so, myself) column that being an Eraser Duster felt like second place compared to School Crossing Guard. It was like a red ribbon, not blue. The second child. A ‘leaner’ instead of a ‘ringer’ in horseshoes. A low step on the Olympics platform. Watching someone else reach for the last cookie on the platter or for the last donut in a box. You get the idea.

Also, I must mention that experience as an Eraser Duster does not necessarily prepare a young person for a possible sterling public service career as a duly deputized J-Turn Enforcement Czar.

But I’m not through with Eraser Dusters, yet.

Not being chosen School Crossing Guard and, instead, being picked for Eraser Duster was almost the same as getting only an Honorable Mention prize in a newspaper writing contest, or being named Mister or Miss Congeniality in a beauty contest.

It’s nice, but no cigar (being a non-smoker I still do not understand this imagery).

No matter. Being an official Eraser Duster was an important step in the passage from elementary school childhood days to the terrors of junior high school. Once enrolled in junior high, boys weren’t allowed to cry anymore.

But that’s another story and I’m sure you wouldn’t be interested.

● ---- ● --- ●

WORD GAMES. More-than-identical twins: Over and Over. They are repetitive personalities who are often confused by the public because they share the first name. Their last name is Again.

● ---- ● --- ●

HE SAID: “Peace is the beauty of life. It is sunshine. It is the smile of a child, the love of a mother, the joy of a father, the togetherness of a family. It is the advancement of man, the victory of a just cause, the triumph of truth.” Menachem Begin, Israel statesman

● ---- ● --- ●

SHE SAID: “Even if you’re unhappy, just pretend that you’re happy. Eventually, your smile will be contagious to yourself. I had to learn that. I used to think, ‘I’m being fake,’ but you know what? Better to be fake and happy than real and miserable.” Evangeline Lilly, Canadian author

● ---- ● --- ●

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

#### Mine Creek Revelations



By  
Louie Graves

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GET VACCINATED.

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

# Governor outlines legislative agenda at beginning of 2025 regular session

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

The 2025 legislative session got off to a fast start. By the end of the session’s third day more than 200 bills had been introduced.

In November the governor presented a balanced budget plan for the upcoming fiscal year. The legislature’s Joint Budget Committee has already begun working on a detailed review of every spending request by state agencies, and on a comprehensive new pay plan for state employees proposed by the governor.

During opening ceremonies, the governor outlined a list of legislative priorities that are not budget bills.

She proposed improving access to state-supported institutions of higher education, through a plan called Arkansas ACCESS. If adopted, students will fill out one application and pay a single fee. The student will be able to send that application to every four-year university and two-year college in the state.

Another priority of the governor’s will be to make it easier to fired tenured professors who indoctrinate students instead of

educating them. Also, in order to make higher education more affordable, the governor proposes “funding college credits while students are still in high school.” More scholarships will be available for students earning associate’s degrees and certificates that are not designated as a degree.

At the request of the governor, legislators will work on changes to the higher education funding formula.

The governor proposed using revenue from taxes on medical marijuana to pay for a summer program that will help families with children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. Those families typically struggle during summer months because the children are not getting lunch at school.

The governor told legislators that the same source of revenue could be used to make school breakfast completely free.

A related proposal would protect people and businesses from liability if they donate food to hunger relief programs. Restaurants should not have to worry about ending up in court if they donate

excess food to a food pantry, she said. Her proposed legislation will be called the Good Neighbor Act.

The governor mentioned her proposal to seek authority from the federal government to require that food stamps be used only for healthy and nutritious food, rather than junk food. Another proposal would encourage schools to purchase food from local farmers and businesses.

Legislators will consider a proposal to ban cell phones in schools throughout the day. Suicide rates among teenagers have risen dramatically and the culprit is clear, the governor said. It is unrestricted access to phones and social media.

A related bill, titled the Social Media Safety Act, would enable parents to sue social media companies in state court.

The governor proposed legislation allowing property owners to more easily evict squatters from their land, by calling their local sheriff.

Expanding access to Medicaid for pregnant women will be considered this year, as will legislation to pay for an additional prison unit.

# Water resources vital to Arkansas

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

Our nation’s ports, harbors and inland waterways are critical both for transportation and economic growth. They support industries, create jobs and promote commerce.

For Arkansas, they serve as essential resources for agriculture, flood protection efforts and clean drinking water access. It is no wonder Congress has consistently recognized the value in maintaining and maximizing this vital water infrastructure.

The primary tool we use to do so is a biennial package authorizing flood control, navigation and ecosystem restoration projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) called the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). In the closing weeks of the 118th Congress, we cleared the latest version and sent it to the president’s desk to be signed into law.

The legislation, formally known as the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024, will impact every state through the over 200 feasibility studies, 22 new or modified construction projects and other programs it greenlights. They are necessary and, in many cases, overdue.

Many of the dams, levees and other infrastructure tied to our waterways are aging and beginning to deteriorate. While temporary repairs have provided short-term

fixes, long-term investments to upgrade and enhance these structures are not only more cost-effective but essential to keeping our infrastructure reliable.

As a longtime member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I have appreciated the opportunity to work intimately on these issues and am always focused on securing Arkansas priorities.

This time was no different and I’m pleased with the success we achieved.

In Northwest Arkansas, the law will help advance the reallocation study for the Beaver Water District to help serve the water needs of over 400,000 people as well as regional and national business operations in an area experiencing rapid growth and development. Inadequate water supply storage and access could jeopardize that momentum.

On the opposite side of the state, we secured language to allow the Corps to study the feasibility of expanding the Osceola Harbor to better to manage increased barge traffic and support the vibrant steel industry in Mississippi County – now the largest steel-producing county in America – and also delivered a provision establishing a comprehensive approach to managing the Lower Mississippi River.

But WRDA’s reach extends

beyond just our state’s borders on the east and west. It also dedicates funding for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) to mitigate cost overruns. MKARNS has enabled enhanced navigation, flood control, power generation, habitat conservation and economic development across The Natural State. This investment represents an important next step to ensuring its vitality and the ability of individuals and industries in communities statewide to benefit from the commerce this superhighway facilitates.

And the bill also contains measures I advocated to address levee safety guidelines that Arkansans have voiced concerns with, as well as an adapted version of legislation I helped lead to improve popular outdoor recreational facilities by encouraging the Corps to reinvest fees collected at them for on-site maintenance and upgrades.

These projects all help strengthen our water infrastructure, which stimulates economic growth and improves the quality of life for all.

It is an honor to play an integral role in crafting these momentous policies and ensuring we meet the pressing needs of our waterways and communities.

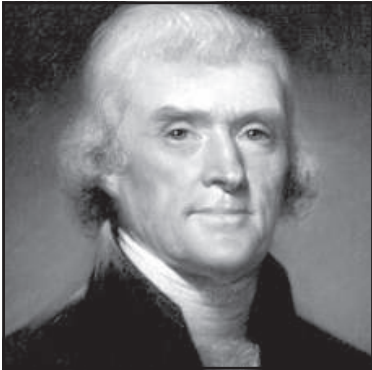
I look forward to continuing those efforts and join all those celebrating the completion of WRDA 2024.

## Nashville News-Leader

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“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.

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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.





News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

**READY TO START.** Focus group participants receive their instructions before discussions began Jan. 14 at UA-Cossatot in Nashville. The meeting was hosted by Developing Howard County.

# Focus

Continued from page 1

**Tax education**  
Participants in the tax education group suggested getting students more involved in learning about taxes and “what they go to,” facilitator Williams said.  
“Bring awareness to the public when tax bills come out. Give programs at civic clubs. Utilize the newspaper, radio, social media.”  
Non-profit organizations are part of the education process, the group said.  
Employers have the opportunity to engage in discussions with their employees.

The public can be educated on the procedure for tax assessments, especially for those who move into the area from another state and may be unfamiliar with requirements in Arkansas.  
Participants suggested that Howard County Judge Brent Pinkerton and Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway record a tax education video.  
Residents are “very fortunate to have a hospital in this community,” Williams said. “This is definitely an asset.”  
**Job creation**  
Howard County has “a strong workforce, strong education with public schools



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



**DISCUSSION.** (Above) Participants offer their comments about taxation and public information during the Developing Howard County focus group meeting Jan. 14 at UA-Cossatot in Nashville. (Left) Logan Benson of the Arkansas Economic Development Institute keeps up with comments on housing at last week’s meeting.

and UA-Cossatot, utilities, an airport, recreation, RV facilities, camping, AirBNB which you should market better,” Lutz said.  
“You need more restaurants and hotels, new large industrial companies, more community involvement with commercial real estate options. Look for grants and business incentives. Partner

with UA-C and industries.”  
The area “needs somebody to be in charge of marketing, maybe a student group to be in charge of marketing for the community,” the group said.  
After the presentations from the groups, Benson said he was “impressed” by the number of people who attended and by the ideas

which they presented.  
“We’ll take this back to Little Rock with us and work on it. We’ll come back and talk to you about making these ideas into reality,” he said.  
Developing Howard County board chairman Paul Britt thanked those who attended and said he appreciated their input.

# Hoops

Continued from page 1

After losses at E-Stem and Little Rock Mills, Worthen said the Scrappers need to “clean up mistakes, rebound better and do what we want to do on shot selection.”

When playing “the good teams, defense and rebounding are what hurt us,” Worthen said.  
Bo Bell led Nashville with 28 points against De Queen.

Kasen Morgan was next with 17, followed by Johnte Taylor with 15.  
Taylor and Morgan had 18 each against Hope, with 14 for Bell.

## Sites announced for Class 4A regional, state events

The Arkansas Activities Association last week announced the sites for regional and state tournaments in basketball, softball, baseball, track and soccer.  
The Class 4A South Regional basketball tourna-

ment will be Feb. 26-28 at Monticello.  
State 4A basketball will be March 4-8 at Magnolia.  
State finals will be the following week at Hot Springs.  
Class 4ASouth Regionals for baseball and softball will

be May 8-10 at De Queen.  
State will be May 15-17 at Monticello.  
The finals will be at Conway.  
In track, the 4A state meet will be at Heber Springs May 4-10.

Class 4A state soccer will be May 15-17 at Joe T. Robinson with other schools hosting early rounds as well.  
Nashville did not bid on regionals and state after hosting regional basketball, softball and baseball in 2024.

# Honors announced at Nashville Primary

The Honor Roll and Merit List for Grades 1-2-3 for the second nine-week grade period have been announced for Nashville Primary School. They include:  
**First Grade**  
All A -- Daniel Davis, Evie Friend, Brandon Holmes, Kenslie Reed, Clay Sullivan, Kade Linhoff, Graham Askew, Ethan Hale, Samuel Hernandez, Veronica Hernandez, Kacen Holliman, Melany Hughes, Chloe Jefferson, Cason Lockhart, Hudson Mote, Teagan Sanders, Anna Troutt, Madani Valente, Andrea Castro, Taiya Hall, Madelyn Teague, Javier Bearden, Ethan Darling, Morgan Gills, Ayden Moore, Aubrey Smith, Lillian Smith, Ava Williams, August Williamson, Mason Willingham.

All A & B -- JaLyric Gulley, Hayes Haskins, Bryson Hill, Lorenzo Hines, Juliette Sullivan, Kambryn Womack, Asher Gray, Madeline Mendez, Alexander Cardona, Evelyn Fuentes, Maxton McCauley, Eli Pham, Ethan Phillips, Aubrie Simmons, Trenton Smith, Isaiah Teresa, Winter Wallace, Irene Hernandez, Leilani Nevarez, Arianna Palacios, Alan Rodriguez, Royce Wade, Grant Boyce, Evan Chandler, Jasper Newton, Aleida Ornelas, Elissa Payton, Malakai Perez, Kutter Clay, Daleyza Fraire, Faithlyn Harris, Ariana Hunter, Jehsey Jones, Naomi Sanchez, Jameson Shaver, Tripp Troutt, Melody Capetillo, Mason Clay, Noemi Escamilla, Matthew Hawkins Jr., Leonida McGhee, Lailah Moore, Enrique Alonso, Baylor Casper, Braven Hunter, Jenna Watson.

**Second Grade**  
All A -- Baylor Brasel, Kennedy Ginda, Jordan Harberson, Kiptin Horn, Kelsyn Scrivner, Eleanor Pierce, Lathen Watts, Isaac Bean, Haven Goodwin, Drake McAdams, Oakeigh Pedron, Adalynn Ackley, Brett Chesshir, Tyree Gulley, Sarai Hernandez, Joshua Land, Braxton Lewis, Bryson Seavers, Amelia McKinnon, Kylie Palmer, Gavin Roberts, Sophia Simmons, Mateo Dukes-Hernandez, Laylah Green, Sophia Harris, Luke Scott, Mia Solorio, Tripp Turner, Brayden Venable, Audrey Gunter, Irisyn Mays, Millie Petty,  
Kora Bagley, Phuong Nhi Dinh, Ryan Jones, Oaklyn Self.  
All A & B --Brody Backus, Sadie Bailey, Maeslyn Berruquin, Sophia Bustamante, Kenan Green, Emma Jacques, Francisco Pizarro, John Schooley, Harley Sharp, Hunter Sunderman, Nathan Topor, Blake Benson, KeShun

Davis, Jostin Garcia, Daleyza Gomez, Adalynn Langston, Alexander Maldonado, Mayson Moore, Avery Myers, Zoe Nunez, Karson Rosenbaum, Zahara Walker, Eric Banks, Eric Billings, Alex Fraga Hernandez, Hugo Hernandez, Olivia Poulton, Jazylyn Sanchez, Aiyden Farris, Rubens Martinez, Mateo M., Joaquin Padilla, Francisco Pineda, Landon Ross, Kayleen Valdez, Quade Dinger, DeAngelo Finley, Ruby Floyd, Jack Griffin, Layla Grissom, Lucas Lingo, Victoria Murillo, Liam Paz, Wyatt Roberts, Mateo Ruiz Cabrera, Rhodey White, Justice Brown, Hope Castle, Miriam Dowdy, Azerion Jefferson, Rayner Johnson, Caeli Zaragoza.

**Third Grade**  
All A -- Gunner Gills, Julianne Mishler, Behr Pinegar, Gracie Singleton, Kolton Springer, Marlee Hanson, Niomi Heard, Anson Howard, Gunner Kinkade, Levi Stout, Dax Troutt, Adamari Bustamante, Winter Finley, Kenadi Harberson, Leah Jefferson, Corbyn Jordan, Isabella Kessler, Reed Kilgore, Karsyn Schroader, Rex Simmons, Rylee Smith, Kora Westfall, Presley Bennett, Ruger Johnson, Jagger King, Marley Robbins, Emerson Askew, Mason Gordon, Kirby Jackson, Ryker Jamison, Sofia Lopez-Mercardo, Montana Richardson, Bin Walston, Jett Watson, Lily Witherspoon, Manuel Garate, Malachi Hickey, McKenna Lacie, Bentley Osborn, Ava Rucker, Eli Erby, Olivia Gregory, Melody Hawkins, Drake Jones, Paisley Morris, Caiden Bethel, Lola Dean, Tuan Kiet Dinh, Mason Hignight, Esynce Hopkins, Jackie Matthews, Adalyn Moore, Ledger Scott, Taylor Spoo, Mylie Winton.

All A & B -- Jayla Atkins, Madeline Britt, Brayson Cupples, Rhylee Hackleman, Easton Adams, Zoey Anderson, Lia Gracia, Charles Myrick, Natalie Paulino, Darcey Reed, Oliver Rios, Victor Mendoza, Isaac Aguilar, Shrone Hawthorne, Elidia Leyv, Liara Marshall, Jonathan Medina, Valeria Ruiz Cabrera, Presley Bennett, Ruger Johnson, Jagger King, Marley Robbins, Raul Damien, Bentley Harville, Major Juarez, Jonah Perkins, Avery Allmon, Kaelyn Chandler, Dewayne Green, Jr., Rem Howard, Andre Newton, Alex Palacios, Nevaeh Pierce, Kaylie Welch, Joni White, Wyatt Young, Jayden Cody, Linnemy Calderon, Colt Thornton, Garrett Welch, Stephania Fraga, Malachi Goff, Jocelyn Rojo, Irving Saucedo, Isabella Wiley.

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For tickets see Mark Kitchens, President; Karter Castleberry, Vice President; Sydney Reed, Secretary; John Raulerson, Treasurer; Board Members: Bill Bean, Scott Hathcoat, Beth Lamb, Kaitlin Miller or Karlie Worley. Or call or text John Raulerson at (870) 557-2405 or Sydney Reed at (870) 200-3118.



# 2024 Power Women

## Dierks grad among those earning list

**By Patrick Massey**  
The De Queen Bee  
A De Queen attorney and deputy prosecutor was recently recognized as one of the 2024 Power Women by *Arkansas Money & Politics* magazine.

Erin Hunter was among several dozen Arkansas women highlighted by the magazine for their contributions, leadership and trail-blazing spirit. Each honoree was nominated by readers of *Arkansas Money & Politics*.

A native of Newhope and graduate of Dierks High School, Hunter currently practices law from her private firm in De Queen. She also serves as the attorney for the City of De Queen and as a deputy prosecutor for Polk County under Debra Buschman. She previously served as chief deputy prosecutor and appointed lead prosecutor for the Ninth West Judicial District (Sevier, Little River, Howard and Pike Counties).

Being named a 2024 Power Woman by AMP came as a bit of a surprise for Hunter. "When they contacted me, I really was honestly worried it was a scam," she said, laughing. "But apparently they did an online poll and I received a lot of votes. It's a nice honor."

Hunter has practiced law since 2010 after earning her juris doctorate from the University of Arkansas. She said her passion for law and the judicial system developed very early in her life.

"You're going to think I'm crazy, but I was in the second grade in Julie McRae's class at Dierks Elementary. We learned about the presidents and most of them were attorneys. I knew at that point I wanted to be an attorney, a waitress or a majorette," she laughed. "None of the other two worked out, so I'm a lawyer."

Growing up in a small town and reading the local newspapers helped define Hunter's interest in the legal system – particularly notorious crimes. She also watched the legal careers of attorneys who are now judges, such as Tom Cooper and Bryan Chesshir.

"I just got more intrigued watching their cases. Then I worked for Bryan Chesshir and, it's kind of bizarre, but it was just the right place, right time, and it all worked out for me," she said.

Hunter said she was particularly impressed with Chesshir's style in the courtroom during his time as a prosecutor.

"I loved to watch him during jury trials. He was a fantastic trial attorney," said Hunter. "I really enjoyed watching how he did things. It's the attorneys who were honest and do a good job, like Bryan, that really impress you."

Being a woman in a field



Erin Hunter

Hunter eventually became the interim prosecutor for the Ninth West Judicial District after Chesshir was elected to the circuit judge position after the retirement of Charles Yeargan. She became the district's chief deputy prosecutor after the election of Jana Bradford to the lead prosecutor position.

After nearly eight years as Sevier County's deputy prosecutor, Hunter took a similar position for the 18th West Judicial District. The district covers Polk and Montgomery Counties under lead prosecutor Debra Buschman.

"I've known Debra for several years and she's a very respected attorney," said Hunter. We've worked together on a number of cases over the last several years because they crossed the Polk and Sevier County lines. I was very interested just for a change of scenery, change of pace and because Debra expressed to me she needed some help with jury trials. I think she had told me she had done 11 jury trials in 10 months, and the majority of those by herself."

Hunter added it's been a great opportunity to learn a new office and how a different district operates. She took over the position Nov. 1, 2024.

Hunter continues to serve as the attorney for the City of De Queen while operating her private practice in downtown De Queen in the building where attorney Randall Wright long operated his firm.

Over the years, Hunter has prosecuted many memorable cases. However, one has always stood out.

"The defining moment of my career so far is winning a big sexual assault trial against a prolific offender who had six victims he abused over many years. This was a "he said, she said" case without any physical evidence. The offender was sentenced to two life sentences plus 102 years in prison," she explained. "That was a very difficult case to prosecute because these sexual offenses had occurred years prior to the reports being made. Law enforcement did a great job on that case. It's hard to bring justice to victims years later but we were able to do it."

Being a woman in a field

traditionally dominated by men has had its challenges.

"I'm not trying to sound like a true feminist, but it was tough coming up as a solo practitioner and not being a multi-generation attorney. Especially when I was younger, I would face male attorneys – and I'm not talking about any of our local attorneys, but the ones from out of town – that would try to bully me and just thought, 'well, she's a young attorney and doesn't know what she's doing, and I'm going to tell her this is how it's going to go.'

"You just kind of get overlooked and passed over sometimes. But I think that's just the nature of the real world, a little behind the eight ball. You've got to work hard and overcome it, not use it as a threat."

As a young attorney, Hunter still has a long career and many options ahead of her.

"I love being a prosecutor. I would love to be the elected prosecutor of our district and at some point in time, I would love to be a judge," she said.

"If the opportunity presented itself, I would be very interested in some type of federal prosecutor role. It's a whole different system. The future's open."

In the meantime, she's enjoying serving her community.

Outside of her practice and role within the judicial system, Hunter said she enjoys her time with family. That includes her husband, Stephen Sprick, who serves as a coach and the athletic director for the Horatio School District, and their two children: Presley, 15, and Levi, 10.

"My daughter is telling me now that she wants to be a judge and I've had to explain to her, you have to be a lawyer for a long time before you get something like that," said Hunter, laughing. "My little boy says he wants to be a farmer like his grandpa."

# ASP launches statewide human trafficking resource webpage to support victims

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Arkansas State Police (ASP) have launched a new webpage dedicated to assisting victims of human trafficking.

The launch coincides with National Human Trafficking Month, emphasizing the state's commitment to supporting victims and educating the public on how to recognize signs of human trafficking.

"I signed an Executive Order in my first few months in office to prevent human trafficking because no Arkansan should face the horror of this terrible crime. The working group that Executive Order brought together played a key role in developing this webpage and I know this resource will help leaders, advocates, and victims across our state combat trafficking in their communities," said Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

The new webpage includes a way for the public to report potential trafficking to the ASP and a county-by-county resource map that enables victims to search for resources closest to them. The page is the result of a collaborative effort with the Arkansas Human Trafficking Council, the Arkansas Attorney General's Office and the Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services.

"Prevention is the first step toward action," said Col. Mike Hagar, Arkansas State Police Director. "Our sincere hope is that this new webpage will help to empower Arkansans to recognize the signs of trafficking and that it will serve as a way for victims to connect with critical resources. The Department of Public Safety and Arkansas State Police are committed to protecting those at risk and holding traffickers accountable."

The Arkansas Human Trafficking Council (AHTC) was established in 2023 with a \$1.5 million, 3-year grant from the Office of Victims of Crime, brings together various stakeholders to develop a victim-centered approach to address human trafficking.

Attorney General Tim Griffin said, "This new webpage is an important tool in our fight to end human trafficking in Arkansas, and it fills a need as there was previously no centralized way to report suspected human trafficking activity or to find resources for victims. I remain committed to doing everything in my power to end this horrific criminal activity in our state, and I am grateful to the Arkansas Department of Public Safety's Human Trafficking Council, the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services, and the wide range of many more partners who are working tirelessly on this issue."

ASP Sgt. Matt Foster, Arkansas Human Trafficking Coordinator, said, "The fight against human trafficking requires a collective effort from law enforcement, nonprofits, state agencies, and the community. This webpage is not just a resource—it's a signal of our commitment to victims and

survivors across Arkansas. Our work will not stop until every trafficker is brought to justice and every victim has a path to recovery."

In 2024, the ASP's Human Trafficking Task Force conducted three human trafficking recovery operations in Northeast Arkansas, Hot Springs, and Little Rock, where they contacted 28 adults and offered services such as medical care, advocacy, and needs assessments. The task force identified an additional 134 victims during the operations.

Learn more about human trafficking operations: Operation Hart, Operation Hope, Operation Bright.

In 2024, the AHTC implemented new identification tools, adopted new law enforcement policies, and provided training to 2,500 individuals. The DPS's ASP administers the council.

"It takes all of us working together to fight human trafficking. These new resources are a valuable tool that will further our efforts to collaborate across the state," said DHS Secretary Kristi Putnam. "We are grateful for the support of the Governor, the Legislature, the Department of Public Safety, the Attorney General, and so many advocates and partners who are committed to supporting victims, protecting Arkansans, and putting an end to this terrible crime."

Currently, there are 108 missing children under the age of 18 in Arkansas, with 11 missing for over two years.

To report trafficking, call (501) 516-5896.

## Farmers Bank & Trust offering HEART Student Collective for professional-minded youth

Farmers Bank & Trust (FB&T) is launching the HEART Student Collective, an exciting opportunity for students aged 16-20 to engage with their communities while gaining insights into banking and leadership. Rooted in the bank's core values of HEART (Honor, Excellence, Adaptability, Respect, and Teamwork), this program is designed to inspire and empower the next generation.

Applications are now open, and close Jan. 31, 2025. They are being accepted online at MyFarmers.Bank/heartcollective in the following communities: Texarkana, Texas; Texarkana, Ark.; Ashdown; Magnolia; Camden; Hope; Nashville; De Queen; and Paris, Texas.

Participants can serve a one-year or two-year term (full calendar year) and will be granted opportunities to learn about local banking and be part of a corporate atmosphere, as well as summer job shadowing, and a chance to join the FB&T internship program. In return, the Bank will use this as an opportunity to connect with younger generations and learn more about their preferences for technology, customer service, and marketing.

HEART Student Collective members will also receive volunteer hours credit along with exclusive FB&T gear and other perks. Their involvement will be celebrated with an annual press release, blog posts, and social media features, and they will have the option to participate in the FB&T Social Media Ambassador program to further expand their professional networking and connections.

KEY DATES

- Applications accepted until Jan. 31, 2025
- Selections to be made the week of Feb. 3, 2025
- Announcements on Feb. 10, 2025

Eligibility for the HEART Student Collective program requires students to be between 16-20 years old as of Jan. 1, 2024, and have a 3.0 GPA or higher currently or upon graduation. They must also show community involvement that reflects HEART values, open a MyStart Savings or Checking account with Farmers Bank & Trust, and submit an application via MyFarmers.Bank/heartcollective. Additionally, candidates must submit one letter of recommendation from a local business leader, academic professional, or coach to HeartCollective@MyFarmers.Bank. Eligible members are also required to attend quarterly meetings (with allowance to miss one per year) and participate in one bank community event annually.

For additional questions, email HeartCollective@MyFarmers.Bank.

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*BF=Bond Forfeited*  
**Howard County**  
Downing, Melissa D., 49, Lockesburg, \$240 BF, speeding  
Fields William, Cameron, 20, Mineral Springs, guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$50; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$170 cost only  
Gilbert, Jimmy D., 59, Nashville, \$1,418 BF, overload  
Godwin, Bryon Neal, 56, Shreveport, La., \$260 BF, speeding  
Hernandez, Maria, 24, Mineral Springs, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license  
Hernandez, Saul, 20, Blevins, \$445 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license; \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance  
Honea, Anita Dianne, 48, Nashville, \$230 BF, speeding  
Loe, Jennifer Michelle, 28, Nashville, guilty of third-degree battery, fined \$660  
Lyons, Rose Elle, 51, De Queen, failure to pay registration, under advisement for six months to dismiss  
Mackintosh, Jose L., 55, Leander, Texas, guilty of speeding, fined \$215  
Martinez-Hernandez, Jesus, 43, De Queen, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license  
Mason, Doyle R. Jr., 43, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$345; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of non-payment of fines  
Murphy, Bobby J., 46, Hope, guilty of fictitious vehicle tags/license, fined \$245; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of no motorcycle endorsement, fined \$185  
Poindexter, Brandon D., 43, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$5,448 owed, committed to jail for 30 days  
Rosas, Elideth S., 29, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445  
Sitzes, Stephen D., 37, Nashville, \$250 BF, speeding  
Smith, Mary, 40, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,210 owed  
Thomas, Antonio, 48, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$2,565 owed  
Thomas, Derrin, 22, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$285 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
Walston, Phillip Shane, 57, Dierks, \$220 BF, drinking in public  
Zhan, Jian Hui, 62, Richmond, British Columbia, \$195 BF, running stop sign or light  
**City of Nashville**  
Alfaro Ayala, Gladys, 43, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license  
Almanza Hernandez, Juan, 25, Horatio, \$220 BF, drinking in public  
Arroyo, Deigo, 19, Nashville, guilty of tinted windows, fined \$195  
Benson, Tanika Darshae, 29, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license; \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Boone, Alec M., 26, Denver, Colo., \$240 BF, speeding  
Brown, Dekarrein Travez,

26, Texarkana, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months  
Centeno Cruz, Henry J., 31, Hope, \$230 BF, speeding  
Christie, Brittany D., 40, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$165 owed  
Dane, John L., 58, Colorado Springs, Colo., speeding, deferred adjudication for six months to dismiss, fined \$250  
Elmore, Todd T., 47, McCaskill, violation of ignition/interlock device, under advisement for six months to dismiss, fined \$345  
Fatherree, Brennan Paul, 17, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Flenory, Angela M., 51, Nashville, \$345 BF, leaving scene of accident  
Green, Stefan Arkell, 28, Nashville, possession of marijuana, under advisement for six months to dismiss, fined \$1,075  
Harwell, Taylor, 29, Nashville, guilty of no child restraint, fined \$195; guilty of no child restraint, fined \$195; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
Hill, Madison M., 23, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$365 owed  
Jefferson, Jacob M., 22, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$195  
Johnson, Ariana J., 25, Mineral Springs, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Knox, Rashonda Nicole, 42, Nashville, \$220 BF, drinking in public  
Lewis, Myechia Danielle, 22, Jacksonville, guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$195; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345  
Munn, Ira, 61, Ozan, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$800 owed  
Pastor, Daniel, 55, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license  
Perez, Andres, 47, Nashville, guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45  
Reeder, William S., 74, Nashville, \$195 BF, expired vehicle tags/no tags; \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Rosas, Elideth S., 29, Nashville, guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of non-payment of fines, \$860 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$195  
Scott, Morgan Lee, 26, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Scott, Shaundell Keiron Jr., 26, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$860 owed  
Smith, Ladaesha 25, Texarkana, guilty of speeding, fined \$240; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
Spradling, Seth, 36, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,720 owed  
Stanley, Sara E., 37, Nashville, \$240 BF, speeding  
Stewart, Jkhyia Ronyell, 20, Nashville, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$195; guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$195; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months  
Triplett, Justin, 23, Hope,

\$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance  
Varela Hernandez, Manuel, 22, Horatio, \$220 BF, drinking on highway  
Walker, Wakesha, 47, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Wallace, Marcus E., 32, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Westbrook, Bridget D., 22, Siloam Springs, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445  
Whitmore, Ray L., 65, Ozan, guilty of failure to pay registration, fined \$210  
Wiley, Cassandra R., 53, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$600 owed  
Zambrano, Saira Janet, 22, Hope, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license  
**City of Dierks**  
Aguilar, Sixto, 23, Wickes, \$230 BF, speeding  
Anderson, Roy Thomas, 22, League City, Texas, \$240 BF, speeding; \$195 BF, failure to yield  
Mason, Doyle R. Jr., 43, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay registration, fined \$210; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
Morgan, Robert, 25, Star City, \$240 BF, speeding; \$245 BF, failure to appear  
Weklar, Ryan A., 21, Corinth, Texas, \$240 BF, speeding  
**City of Mineral Springs**  
Collins, Denise, 40, Mineral Springs, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$195; guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$195  
Cowan, Isaiah, 17, Alexander, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license  
Murphy, Bobby J., 46, Hope, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of fictitious vehicle tags/license, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
**Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**  
Barbre, Vernon, 21, Gillham, guilty of big game checking requirements, fined \$370; guilty of hunter orange clothing requirements, fined \$220; guilty of aiding, accomplice or abetting a violation, fined \$370  
Lindsay, Brandon H., 22, Dierks, guilty of hunter orange clothing requirements, fined \$220; guilty of hunting without a license, fined \$220; guilty of aiding, accomplice or abetting a violation, fined \$270  
**Bench Trials**  
**City of Dierks**  
Bhatter, Pranneeth, 33, Northlake, Texas, guilty of speeding, fined \$240  
Gray, Richard, 28, Dierks, guilty of second-degree criminal mischief, fined \$410  
Keaton, Derek T., 30, Fort Worth, Texas, possession of marijuana, under advisement for one year to dismiss, fined \$1,075  
Shelton, Larry Don, 73, Nashville, guilty of careless or prohibited driving, fined \$345  
White, Faith, no age listed, Hot Springs, guilty of speeding, fined \$230

Howard and Pike Counties Present:



February 15, 2025  
9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Registration starts at 8:00 AM

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RSVP by February 10, 2025 for guaranteed meal choice. \$10 youth add-on meal

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Former Pike County deputy under investigation after allegedly hawking two county-issued service weapons

By John Balch  
News-Leader staff

Pike County Sheriff Travis Hill has confirmed a former county deputy is under investigation by the state police for allegedly hawking two of his county-issued weapons. Hill declined to name the former deputy, citing the ongoing Arkansas State Police investigation.

Hill said he called for the state investigation into former deputy after one of his long guns was found for sale at a Glenwood pawn shop and another long gun was recovered from an individual who was reporting holding the weapon for the deputy as collateral for a loan.

Hill said the deputy was terminated from the county force a few weeks before after failing to show up for two scheduled dates to attend the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy. When the deputy was ordered to turn in his county equipment, the two long guns were not in the inventory.

The Arkansas State Police confirmed the investigation last week and described it as “open/active.”

Pike County Health Coalition’s roundtable  
March 10 at Municipal Bldg.

The Pike County Health Coalition invites county residents to an upcoming community roundtable discussion and asks interested participants to save the date.

The event will be held on March 10 at the community room of the Murfreesboro Municipal Building located at 204 East Main Street.

Topics of conversation will be improving healthcare access, addressing community concerns and fostering collaboration across local organizations.

“Help us make a difference,” said the flyer for the event. Lunch will be provided for attendees.

For more information contact Shannon Ballard at (870)285-2161 or Chantell Jones at (870) 703-1158.

THANK YOU

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# SPCSD extends super’s contract, update given on baseball/softball complex

**By John Balch**  
**News-Leader staff**

The South Pike County School Board unanimously voted Monday night to extend the contract of Superintendent Tanya Wilcher through the 2027-2028 school year.

The vote was taken after an eight-minute closed executive session. All board members were in attendance Monday, including Andrea McRae, Cory Ballard, Robert Silva, Scott Maroon, Barbie Baxter, Alyssa Duggan and Wes Campbell.

Wilcher, who took over as superintendent in 2022, has a long career in education and has worked in the South Pike County School District, as well as the former Delight School District. She is a 1990 graduate of Murfreesboro High School.

Wilcher became director of programs in 2016 at Murfreesboro and also served as elementary principal from 2009-2016.

From 2007-2009, Wilcher was high school counselor and from 2005-2007 was principal at the former Delight district where she also served as interim superintendent in 2004.

In other school business Monday, Wilcher gave a progress report on the district’s new \$1.750 million baseball/softball facility. The complex is located on the 27-acre tract purchased by the district in 2007 for \$48,000.

The land adjoins the campus and is north of the visitor side of Rattler Stadium.

In December 2023, SPCSD board members approved a resolution authorizing the district to issue second-lien bonds “in an estimated amount of \$1,830,000 for the purposes of constructing athletic facilities” with any remaining funds to be used for other construction, renovation and equipment purchases.

Wilcher said Monday the project is progressing, despite weather setbacks, and the fields are ready for sod. She expects the complex to be ready for league play in March, weather permitting. In the meantime, the Rattler baseball and Lady Rattler softball teams will practice at the city park fields.

Wilcher also gave a preview of the education-related issues expected to be addressed during the legislative session. She said “the big ones” will include: use of cell phones in school, salary schedule adjustments, school calendars and School Choice.

Board member Alyssa Duggan is serving as the board’s liaison again this legislative session.

The board also heard a video presentation from Elementary Principal James Riley, which included information about the elementary’s use of AI technology in the classrooms.



Murfreesboro Diamond photo

**ALL’S QUIET ON MONDAY MORNING.** Crews working on the baseball/softball complex in Murfreesboro took off Monday for the holiday but are back this week and working towards a March deadline for the complex to be completed.

## Bank of Delight plans Loan Production Office in Arkadelphia

Bank of Delight, a community-focused financial institution, has announced the planned opening of a new Loan Production Office (LPO) in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. This strategic expansion underscores the Bank’s commitment to providing personalized banking services and financial solutions to customers in the greater Southwest Arkansas region.

Located at 2901 Pine Street, Arkadelphia, the new LPO will offer a wide range of lending services, including personal loans, home mortgages, small business financing, and commercial loans. The office will serve as a resource for individuals and businesses in the Arkadelphia area, helping them to achieve their financial goals with the support of experienced loan officers. Bank of Delight plans to announce a ribbon cutting and grand opening of the loan production office within a few weeks, after the current office renovation project is completed.

“Our mission has always been to serve the local communities with a high level of service and a commitment to building long-lasting relationships,” said Darwin Hendrix, Chairman and CEO of Bank of Delight.

“With the opening of this Loan Production Office, we are excited to offer our customers more convenient access to the loan products and services they need to grow, invest, and thrive.”

For more information about the services offered at the new Loan Production Office in Arkadelphia, or to schedule a consultation with a loan officer, contact Trey Clark at 870-315-0103 or Terry Bird at 870-577-2853 or visit [www.bankofdelight.com](http://www.bankofdelight.com).

## Malvern man sentenced for internet stalking of child

A Malvern man is the latest individual to be sentenced to prison after falling for an undercover social media account that appears to be a 14-year-old girl, but is actually a Pike County investigator looking for sexual predators.

Trevor Tyrone Lowe, 33, was scheduled for a jury trial Thursday, Jan. 16 in Pike County, but instead took a plea deal on charges of internet stalking of a child and possession of drugs and paraphernalia. As part of the deal, the state will not pursue the drug charges.

Lowe was sentenced to 20 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with four years suspended. Lowe must also pay all related court fees and will be required to register as a sex offender upon his release from prison.

An investigation into Lowe began in August 2023 up until his January arrest.

According to case information, Lowe sent messages to the account operated by Pike County Investigator Jason McDonald and he claimed to be 22 years old. Even after being informed

the person he was messaging was 14, Lowe continued and his messages eventually turned sexual in nature.

In January, a meeting was arranged for the two to meet and have sex and smoke marijuana, according to case information.

When Lowe arrived at the predetermined meeting spot, he texted “I’m Here” and was quickly surrounded by Murfreesboro and Pike County law enforcement and taken into custody with marijuana and a pipe in his pocket.

Also on Jan. 16 in Pike County, William Griffith Medcalf, 63, of Murfreesboro, avoided a jury trial on charges of theft by receiving and misdemeanor drug and driving offenses.

He instead plead guilty to the theft by receiving charge and was sentenced to six years in the ADC with two years suspended. As part his plea deal, the state will not pursue the drug or driving charges.

Medcalf was arrested in July behind the wheel of a Jeep Wrangler that was stolen in Murfreesboro on July 3.

We’re going ice skating now...

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www.readingclubfun.com

...and bowling or roller skating tonight.

Kids: color stuff in!

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## Cool Winter Action!

So, what is your excuse for just sitting there like a lumpy pillow? *Whaaaat?*

“It’s cold outside”? Yes, of course it is. It is *wintertime*. In areas of the country where it snows a lot or ponds freeze over, kids can get exercise outdoors skiing or ice skating. In areas where it’s colder, but there’s no snow, kids can still hike, walk, and play a bit of basketball! During the winter we can find many things to do inside to keep physically active. Bowling and dancing are two of my favorite indoor pastimes. I hope my puzzles help you to think of things that will get you up and keep you moving all winter long.

Move it! Move it!

Read the clues below to fill in the crossword:

- gliding on ice using metal blades
- coasting down a snowy hill on a long, flat-bottomed, wooden sled that’s curved up in the front
- cheering and watching trained sled dogs
- warmly lined child’s winter wear
- pressing snow together to form
- twirling down a snowy hill on a round
- putting on special footgear and walking across deep snow without sinking
- sliding down snowy hills on a small, steerable wooden and metal “coaster”
- sliding downhill, with a long, narrow board on each foot
- building and dressing
- riding a motorized vehicle on snow
- riding in a horse-drawn

## No Snow? Keep on the Go!

If it’s cooler where you live, but there is no snow, there are lots of activities to keep you on the go! My friend in North Carolina rides his bike when the roads are dry. My cousin in Texas plays basketball.

If the weather is lousy, think about places that have indoor rinks, gyms or rooms for playing sports and exercising. Your local recreation department might have a list of fun activities in which you can take part.

The activities below have 2 of the same letter missing. Can you study the words to fill in the missing letters?

- basketba \_ \_
- ex \_ \_ rse vid \_ \_ os
- inli \_ \_ e skati \_ \_ g
- vid \_ \_ o game danc \_ \_ mats
- dance le \_ \_ ons
- vo \_ \_ eyball
- swi \_ \_ ing
- dru \_ \_ ing
- te \_ \_ is
- k \_ \_ r \_ \_ te
- so \_ \_ \_ er
- bowli \_ \_ g ten pi \_ \_

## Master of Disguise!

I’m always dropping in! I’m a master of disguise... with a little help from the temperature. Can you fill in the blanks?

- When the air cools and I become a “cloud on the ground,” I am  
O \_ \_ \_ F \_ \_ \_  
I can’t see!  
S \_ \_ \_ O \_ \_ \_  
W \_ \_ \_ N \_ \_ \_
- When I pass through very cold air and fall gently to the earth, I am  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The air warms and I disappear or  
E \_ \_ \_ A \_ \_ \_ O \_ \_ \_ A \_ \_ \_ E \_ \_ \_  
T \_ \_ \_ P \_ \_ \_ R \_ \_ \_ V \_ \_ \_

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# Crater of Diamonds State Park to represent at famous Tucson Gem & Mineral Show

**By P.J. Tracy**  
Murfreesboro Diamond  
The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission was told by board member Caleb Howell that the Crater of Diamonds would be sending a local contingent to the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show this Feb. 13-16.

The Crater employees will host a booth with information about the park, and will have on hand the Strawn-Wagner diamond along with a replica of the Esperanza diamond.

Howell said it was hoped that the park and Murfreesboro would see results from their efforts, but noted the difficulty of measuring those results directly. To that end, the group is planning some sort of giveaway with the Esperanza replica to those that like and follow the Crater’s Facebook page.

He added that the group would be happy to share Murfreesboro-centric information and take along local brochures, and suggested that the commission purchase a diamond from a local vendor to be given away at the event under the same guidelines as the park to help draw viewership of the Chamber’s Facebook



page and digmurfreesboro.com website.

He said the contest would be open to only residents of the 48 contiguous states, because shipping a diamond internationally was simply too time consuming.

The winners would be drawn after the contingent returns to Murfreesboro, and the commission approved the purchase of a yet-to-be-identified diamond for the venture with an up to \$2,000 budget. Howell suggested something in the range of a quarter-carat diamond, perhaps yellow

in color.

In other Commission business, the group was told by Howell that he is now seeing an increase in electric cars (two to three per week) that make the trek to the state park, and noted that there was a chance that the state would find a way to place chargers at the park.

However, the tourism commission has noted perceived value in having a small number of chargers at the former City Service station, essentially forcing users to enter local shops while they wait for the charging to

complete.

Commission treasurer Jane Fugitt told the board she would apply for the 2025 round of grants via the Arkansas Transportation and Highway Department to help accomplish such a venture.

The group will also have the electrical meter at the former hospital turned off, presuming there would be no reconnection fee. The electricity was turned on to help provide power for the Haunted House efforts by the Chamber of Commerce last October.

Howell also discussed the Arkansas State Parks, Recreation and Travel Commission meeting that will be held at the locally this Sept. 17-18. It was noted that it could include to up to a 40-member contingent, and that the Park really didn’t have a proper facility for that many attendees. Therefore the community room of the Murfreesboro Municipal Building could be utilized, and further updates will be given as the year progresses.

December was slower for local tourism, and the commission showed deposits of \$5,460.23 for the month, now allotting them a balance of \$94,962.24 at the end of 2024.

**Tucson Gem and Mineral Show** is billed as “the largest, oldest and most prestigious gem and mineral show in the world.” The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show has enjoyed international stature since the 1970s, and was the first gem and mineral show to bring the hobby enthusiast, the public, and the curator/professionals together for discovery and discussion. This year will be the 70th anniversary of the show.



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*Facts About The* **BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

**SOME KINGS WERE TYRANTS!**

WHEN NEWS REACHED THE CITY OF TIRZAH THAT SHALLUM HAD MURDERED KING ZECHARIAH OF ISRAEL AND REIGNED IN HIS STEAD (2 KINGS 15:10), MENAHEM AND HIS FOLLOWERS FOUGHT THEIR WAY TO SAMARIA AND ONE MONTH AFTER SHALLUM TOOK THE THRONE, MENAHEM SLEW HIM AND THEN HE PROCLAIMED HIMSELF KING! THE PEOPLE GOT NO BARGAIN FOR MENAHEM WAS A VENGEFUL MAN — TIPHSAH, WHICH WAS A TOWN THAT HAD REFUSED TO ADMIT HIM WITHIN ITS GATES DURING HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST SHALLUM, HE NOW CAPTURED AND IMMEDIATELY PERPETRATED UNSPEAKABLE CRUELITIES ON ITS PEOPLE, SUCH AS KILLING ALL WOMEN WITH UNBORN BABIES IN A MANNER SO ATROCIOUS THAT NORMAL MINDS REFUSE TO ADMIT ITS REALITY! (2 K. 16). WHEN THE KINGDOM WAS INVADED BY KING TIGLATH-PILESER AND HIS ASSYRIAN ARMIES, DID THIS BULLY ROUSE HIS TROOPS TO THE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL? HE DID NOT!! Faced with a REAL FIGHT, HE DID WHAT BULLIES SO OFTEN DO — WITH HAT IN HAND SO TO SPEAK, HE AGREED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE KING OF ASSYRIA TO THE TUNE OF 1,000 TALENTS OF SILVER — AT LEAST HE HAD TO PAY THE PRICE FOR PEACE, RIGHT? WRONG!! IT DIDN'T COST MENAHEM ANYTHING AT ALL! WHAT THIS TYRANT DID WAS TO ROUND UP ALL THE WEALTHIEST MEN IN ISRAEL, COMPEL THEM TO PAY 50 SHEKELS EACH, AND HE WAS HOME FREE! HIS REIGN LASTED TEN YEARS AND THE PEOPLE WERE WELL RID OF HIM WHEN HE DIED IN 735 B.C.!!

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# Umpire Junior High Tournament Champions: Dierks Lady Outlaws & Outlaws



**DIERKS JUNIOR HIGH LADY OUTLAWS.** Coach Will Stewart, Delannie Hawthorne, Dallie Graham, Taigen McCauley, Izzy Semmler, Kaylan Coulter, Presley Pugh, Savannah Tedford, Scarlett Nuttall, Brielle Kirby, Ally Shelton, Kaytlyn Moore and Coach Jacob Chisum. The team posted a win over Horatio (44-23) to advance to the tournament finals where they beat Acorn 49-26.



**DIERKS JUNIOR OUTLAWS.** Coach Will Stewart, Harry Harrison, Brayden Palmer, Parker Gadbury, Henry Semmler, Jacoby Faulkner, Maxton Greene, Maclane Smith, Griffin Shankles, Konnor Jones, Eligah Hawthorne, Klay Helms, Bentlee Glasgow, Madden Hill, Seth Bearden and Coach Jacob Chism. The team beat Cossatot River 52-17 before defeating Idabel 41-37 and Foreman 58-48 in the championship game.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2024-14

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF HOWARD, STATE OF ARKANSAS:

AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025”

**SECTION 1. ANNUAL BUDGET ADOPTED BY REFERENCE.** The annual budget for calendar year 2025 identified as “2025 Annual Budget”, Howard County, Arkansas, is hereby adopted. A copy of said budget shall be filed in the office of the County Clerk and shall be available for inspection and copying by any person during the normal office hours.

**SECTION 2. NON RESTRICTED EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES.** Expenditures of funds appropriated by the ordinance shall not be restricted in the line item expenditure code comprising the four major categories of expenditures except for funds appropriated for personnel salaries and wages and related employee benefits. Personnel expenditures shall not exceed the dollar amounts, number of employees, and salary or wages specified in the annual budget or an amendment thereto.

**SECTION 3. EXPENDITURES RESTRICTED TO SPECIFIED FUNDS.** No Expenditure of appropriated funds shall be made from any fund other than the fund specified in the ordinance, or an amendment thereto.

**SECTION 4. TRANSFERS.** Any transfer of moneys between the various funds of the County or between the four major categories of expenditures-Personal Services, Supplies, Other Services and Capital Outlays-shall be made only with prior approval of the Howard County Quorum Court. Provided, however, all transfers budget for in the annual budget shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

**SECTION 5.** If any provisions of the ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

**SECTION 6.** This ordinance shall be in force and shall take effect upon passage and publication.

APPROVED:  
Brent Pinkerson, Howard County Judge

ATTEST:  
Keri Teague, County Clerk

December 16, 2024

This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$143.20 (HC): 31)



Brick home in heart of Nashville offers approx. 2896 Sq. Ft. of living space. Nice kitchen with lots of cabinets. 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Home features formal living and dining space. Home has 2 informal living areas with wood burning fireplaces. 2 car attached open garage. Both AC/Heating units replaced in 2018. roof replaced in 2015. Property is located at 919 Park St., Nashville  
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ON THE MOVE. Junior Lady Outlaw Kaylan Coulter.



ON THE TIP. Senior Outlaw Peyton Boeckman



ON THE FLOOR. Senior Lady Outlaw Ryleigh Simmons

# Dierks takes 2 of 3 from Murfreesboro

The Dierks basketball teams hosted Murfreesboro on Jan. 14 with the junior high and senior high Lady Outlaws coming away with wins while the Outlaws fell 55-44 to the Rattlers.

The junior high Lady Outlaws opened the night with a 57-13 win over the Lady Rattlers followed by a 61-32 win by the senior Lady Outlaws.

In the senior girls' contest, Dierks jumped out to a 26-14 halftime lead, assisted in the second quarter by two three-pointers by Ryleigh Simmons and another by Raylie Walston.

The Lady Outlaws kept their distance in the second half, outscoring Murfreesboro 14-8 in the third and 21-10 in the final quarter.

Dierks was led in scoring by Addison Hill with 17 and Hannah Kirby with 11. Other Dierks scorers included Aspen Pugh 8, Milee Harrison and Simmons 7, Walston 5, and Lilly Hogg and Gracie Thigpen 3.

Jenna May led the scoring for Murfreesboro with 10 points followed by Natalee Perrin 8, Jocce Holt 7 and Sydney Bruden 6.

In the senior boys' game, the Outlaws and Rattlers were about even after the first quarter with Murfreesboro holding a slight 11-10 lead.

That lead increased in the second quarter to 23-15 after the Outlaw offense only managed five points.

Murfreesboro maintained their lead in third quarter despite the Outlaw offense putting in 16 points. The game ended with Dierks outscoring Murfreesboro 13-12 in the final quarter to set the 55-44 final.

Murfreesboro was led win scoring by Caden Dixon with 23 points, including three three-pointers. Laytan Wilcher added 10 points followed by Cooper Caldwell with 10 and James Silva with 9.

Dierks was led by Jordan Hill with 14, Heath Gadbury and Dylan Moore 12, Bryar Janes 4 and Peyton Boeckman 2.

The Dierks junior and senior boys and the senior Lady Outlaws also played games on Jan. 17 against Mountain Pine where all three teams picked up wins.

The junior high Outlaws won 51-41 while the senior boys won 48-43.

The senior Lady Outlaws also won their game against MP 69-61.



ON THE LINE. Senior Outlaw Ben Ernest works the ball around Rattlers Kooper Caldwell during play on Jan. 14 at Dierks.



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# Nashville wins 2 over De Queen



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON  
Johnte Taylor (4) puts up a shot for the Scrappers in their District 7-4A win over De Queen Jan. 15.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER  
Nashville's student section and cheerleaders celebrate as the Scrapperettes leave the court following their 68-53 home win over previously unbeaten De Queen Jan. 15. The Scrapperettes won 3 of 3 district games last week.



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON  
Bo Bell (12) shoots a free throw against De Queen in a make-up game Jan. 15. Bell led the Scrappers with 28 points in the 70-54 Nashville win.



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON  
Caroline Dean (33) controls the ball for the Scrapperettes in their conference victory over De Queen.



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON  
Nieko Sheets hits a 3-point shot in the JV game.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER  
Angel Watson (4) takes a 3-point shot against De Queen in last week's Scrapperette victory at Scrapper Arena.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER  
Ava Basiliere scores 2 of her 14 points.



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON  
Karstyn Scrivner (24) keeps the ball away from the Lady Leopard defenders Jan. 15.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER  
Kasen Morgan goes in for a score against De Queen.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER  
Fans cheer on the Scrapperettes in the fourth quarter of their 68-53 home victory over De Queen Jan. 15.

## SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Caroline Dean, Nashville

Caroline, a Scrapperette senior, scored 30 points in Nashville's 68-53 home win over previously unbeaten De Queen Jan. 15. The Lady Leopards were ranked first or second in Class 4A going into the game.



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