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Chamber
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available

The event's menu will include smoked boneless chicken thighs, twice-baked potato casserole, green beans, rolls, and a choice of banana pudding or a brownie with ice cream for dessert.

Barbecue Bowl set for Feb. 8

One dozen wings \$15
Orders may be placed by calling the Howard County Extension Office in Nashville at 870-845-7517 or clicking the QR code below.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Superintendent's contract extended; board reviews district's 10-year plan

Districts must submit 10-year plans to the Arkansas Department of Education in order for future projects to be considered for state

All Nashville board members

Kristell Hernandez was named number two secretary at Nashville Primary.

Water leaks discussed by mayor

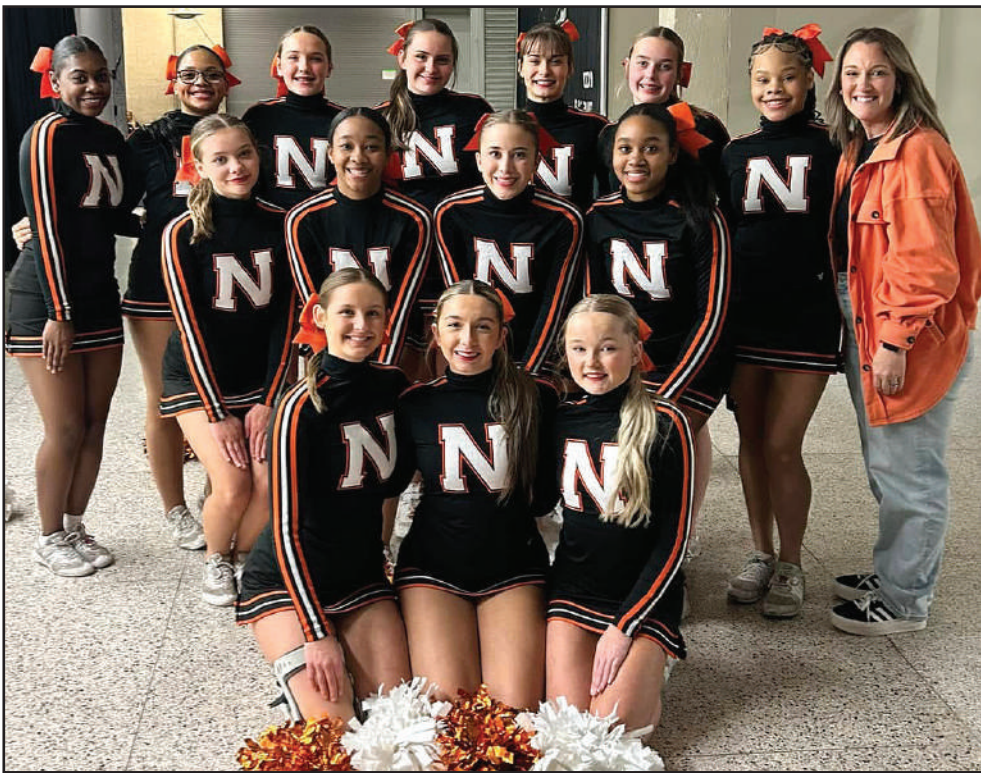
See City • Page 5A

DHC hosts industrial site visits

Husqvarna closed the Nash-

NHS cheerleaders finish 7th nationally

The cheerleaders include Maddie Rodgers, Leigh Thompson, Taylor Watts, Baylee Scoggin, Taviley Hughes, Kinley Martin, Kailyn Scott, Caylen Ellis, Jayla Hendrix, Parker Tate, Hannah Myers, Madi Brinkman, Landree Green and Sanaa Hooks.



NHS Cheer photo

TOP SEVEN NATIONALLY. The Scrapper cheerleaders finished seventh during national competition Jan. 24-25 in Dallas. They include (front) Maddie Rodgers, Leigha Thompson and Taylor Watts; (second row) Baylee Scoggin, Taviley Hughes, Kinley Martin and Kailyn Scott; (back row) Caylen Ellis, Jayla Hendrix, Parker Tate, Hannah Myers, Madi Brinkman, Landree Green, Sanaa Hooks and Coach Erin Askew.

*"These ladies are true Scrappers - they never gave up the fight."
NHS Cheer Coach Erin Askew*



Submitted photo

JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO. Natalie Talley of McCaskill was one of 1,300 participants in the Vegas Tuffest Jr. World Championship Rodeo at Las Vegas. She and her horse Faith posted top 10 finishes in each round.

NHS junior competes in national rodeo event

Talley was one of 1,300 entries from 31 different states including three provinces in Canada to compete Dec. 4-10 at the Mike and Sherrylynn Johnson Vegas Tuffest Jr. World Championship which is held

Johnson and her husband Mike Johnson, an ironman of rodeo who has qualified for the National Finals Rodeo 23 times, said the event offers barrel racing, double mugging, goat tying, breakaway roping, tie-down roping and team roping.

See Rodeo • Page 5A

Obituaries



William ‘Bubba’ Byers
William “Bubba” Byers was born Nov. 5, 1955, in Nashville Ark., to Bill and Glinda Byers.

Even from a young age he had a love of sports and spent childhood years playing little league baseball where he formed lifelong friendships. He graduated from Nashville High School in 1973 and continued his college education at Quachita Baptist University where he graduated with his Bachelor’s degree. He then moved back to Nashville to work alongside his father at Nashville Electric where in 1978 he welcomed his first daughter, Shea, and eventually took over the company after his father’s passing in 1982. Soon after, in 1983, his second daughter, Staci, was welcomed.

In 1993 he moved his family to Colorado where he worked various jobs, made new lifelong friendships and welcome his first four grandchildren. He then made the move to Texas and once again made new friendships. His fifth grandchild was born, and he started up a couple of Electrical Companies. He had a very strong work ethic, even tried to retire a few times but would get bored and start a new project. He loved his family. He took great joy in making the drive back to Colorado any chance he got we see his kids and grandkids. And eventually the great grandkids. He was finally forced to retire after becoming ill and moving back to Colorado so he was close to family and would have that support system. Being a fighter was something he was known for and will be missed by many. He lost his battles on Jan. 15, 2025, in Grand Junction, Colo., with family by his side. He was preceded on death by both of his parents, Bill and Glinda Byers.

He is survived by his daughters, Shea (Justin) Pankey of Craig, Staci Byers (Jordan) of Craig, grandchildren Dakota Ahlstrom (Justin) of Craig, Kaitlyn (Chris) Hill of Craig, Sean Byers (Karli) of Grand Junction, Colo., McKenzie Fritts (Rielely) of Grand Junction, Colo., Isaac Fritts of Craig, Adyson Pankey of Craig, great grandchildren Kysen Rasmussen and Raelynn Hill both of Craig; and his sister, Mary Jane (Jerry)

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Jones of Nashville, Ark.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Alzheimer’s Association or Cancer Center research.



Geraldine Folsom
Geraldine (Jerry) Folsom, 97, of Fulshear, Texas, left us peacefully on Jan. 19 at an assisted living facility in Katy, Texas. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville, Ark. Burial will follow at Bingen-Ozan Cemetery.

Born to N.P. (Napolean) and Dovie (Lamb) Clements on Nov. 13, 1927, in the community of Walnut Springs, near Horatio, Ark., she grew up with three sisters and two brothers. Her mother, Granny, would talk about how Jerry was her favorite helper around the house and especially the kitchen. She was also close to The Lord, which filled in much of her life until the day she passed.

As a young woman, Jerry married Paul Rigler, and to this union three children were born. They lived in Dierks, then Nashville, Ark. Jerry worked at home as homemaker, then later in years tending to their chicken houses. They moved to Texas in the late 1970s. Jerry moved back to Nashville just a few short years later. She worked at Tyson Foods, and with her work ethic and friendliness, became a favorite with all the workers and supervisors there. In the early 1990s, she met JT Folsom, and they married. They were a perfect match, both dedicated to The Lord, and both willing to help others. They spent several of their years together checking on relatives and other loved ones, running them for doctor and hospital visits. It was their calling.

Jerry was preceded in death by her parents, three sisters: Maurine, Corine, and Ora Lee, two brothers: Jack and Sam, and another brother that died as an infant; two sons: Tommy Rigler and Francis Rigler, late husband JT Folsom, and granddaughter Brandy Rigler.

She is survived by son Rick Rigler and wife Terri, of Fulshear, Texas; grandchildren Shawn Rigler of Nashville, Ark., Jason Rigler of Nashville, Ark., Melissa Rigler of Franklin, Ohio, Allison Peña and husband Raul of San Antonio, Texas, Brittany Gilley and husband

Matthew of Pasadena, Texas; lots of great-grandchildren: Cameron Rigler, Noah and Avery Pena, Oliver and Brenna Gilley, Taliyah, Tristian, Julie, Isaiah, Robert, Lilian, Jordan (JT) and Max.

Visitation will be held Friday, Jan. 31 from 6-8 p.m. at Latimer Funeral Home.

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

Jackie Carolyn Coleman Harwell

Jackie Carolyn Coleman Harwell, 86, of Nashville, died Monday, Jan. 21, 2025, in Murfreesboro. She was born Nov. 13, 1938, at Mud-dy Fork, Ark., the daughter of the late John Coleman and Merle White Coleman.

She was a member of Ridgeway Baptist Church, a Past Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star of Arkansas.

She was a retired teacher and was a Certified Reading Specialist. She taught at the Cossatot Learning Center at Tyson Foods. She was a longtime member of the Nashville City Council.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James W. Harwell; a sister, Annie Dale Powell, half-brother, Carlton Coleman, two half-sisters, Elizabeth Hodge and Doris Cowling.

Survivors include: her son, Jerry Harwell and wife, Donna of Nashville; a brother, Roy Coleman and a sister, Henriellen Lawrence, both of Dierks; also grandchildren.

The family received friends from 1-2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27, at Latimer Funeral Home, Nashville. Funeral services followed. Burial was at Restland Memorial Park, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home.



Margaret Ann Vandever

Margaret Ann Vandever, age 86, of Springdale, Ark., passed away on Jan. 24, 2025, at her home. She was born on July 8, 1938, in Mineral Springs, Ark., to the late Joe and Leola (Nutt) Clements.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Felton Vandever, and one great-grandchild, Remington Ray.

She is survived by two sons, David Dodson and his wife Della of Gentry, Ark., and Danny Dodson of Malvern, Ark.; one daughter, Debbi Hicks and her husband Jim of Glenwood, Ark.; one brother, Charlie Clements and his wife Toni of Carthage, Texas; one sister, Joey Finley of Benton, Ark.;

seven grandchildren: Tarsy, Tina, Caleb, Shelby, Hunter, Destiney, and Kaylee; 19 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a host of extended family.

Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, at Heritage Funeral Home of Springdale, Ark. Flowers are welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. www.heritageofnwa.com.

Brian Keith Puckett

Bryan Keith Puckett, 75, of Nashville died Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2025 in Nashville.

He was born Jan. 8, 1950, in Wichita, Kan., the son of the late Burgess Madison Puckett and Marjorie Elaine Reed Puckett Jacques.

He was a United States Navy veteran.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, David and Madison Puckett.

Survivors include: his brother Herbert Puckett and Thomas Jacques.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

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



Amanda Earline Jester

Amanda Earline Jester, age 78 of McCaskill, Ark., passed away in the early morning hours of Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, in Nashville. She was born in McCaskill on Sept. 25, 1946. to the late Earl Tom Jester and Clara Hile Jester.

Ms. Jester was a member of the Balls Chapel church of Christ. After attending Harding College, she moved to Long Island in New York where she taught school for 11 years. Following this, she returned to McCaskill and taught at Blevins Schools for an additional 28 years. She spent countless hours with her nieces and nephews, as they were the light of her life. She enjoyed reading, cross stitching and doing crossword puzzles. She also loved to play games with those she was around.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Gene Earl Jester, and a sister, Brenda Ross.

Survivors include her sister, Deborah Fox and husband, Larry; a brother-in-law, John Allen Ross; a sister-in-law, Lucretia Jester; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-

nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

A graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, at Harris Cemetery with Mark Ross and Jerry Nance officiating. Services are under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.

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



John ‘Quinton’ Bagley

John “Quinton” Bagley, 46, passed away Saturday, Jan. 25 at his home in Ash-down, Ark., surrounded by his loving wife and daughter.

He was born on Aug. 14, 197, in Nashville, Ark., to

Geneva Rhae Duckett Bagley and Luther Coy Bagley.

He was a graduate of Nashville high School in 1996, and was a member of County Line Baptist Church, Nashville. He was an avid Scrapper fan and loved being on the sidelines while he was in high school and even into his adult life as a sportswriter.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Geneva Rhae Bagley.

Survivors include: his wife, Jamie Bagle, and his daughter, KaitLynn Bagley, both of Ashdown, Ark.; his father, Luther Coy Bagley (Charlotte), of Nashville, Ark.; his sister, Sarah Marie (Duckett)Rodgers;nephews, Charles Schooley of Mineral Springs, James Schooley of Mineral Springs, Leslie, Elizabeth (Schooley) Harris (Kenny), and Kevin Rodgers (Destiny) of Nashville.

One of Quinton’s greatest pleasures was spending time with his family. He loved his family more than life itself. His family was his world..

He enjoyed fishing and camping when he was able.

Memorial services are pending.



PROGRAM ON 4-H. Howard County 4-H members Sarah Lamb, left, Guy Cooper and Anna Kate McKinnon talked to the Nashville Rotary Club, last Wednesday, to promote their upcoming BBQ Bowl which prepares meals on Feb. 8, the Saturday before Super Bowl Sunday. The annual fund-raiser helps pay for a variety of events for local 4-H members. A guest Wednesday was Vanessa Weeks, executive director of Developing Howard County.



HIGHWAYS IN WINTER. Jeremy Thomas, District Construction Engineer for the Arkansas Department of Transportation, talked to the Nashville Rotary Club, recently, about the department's efforts to prepare in advance for, work during and recovery from ice and snow storms. He addressed current and future road and bridge projects in the district which includes Howard, Pike, Hempstead, Little River, Sevier Nevada, Miller and Lafayette counties. He was introduced by Jim Bob Lamb of Nashville, Area Maintenance Superintendent for the DOT. The men were accompanied by Joe Daniels, District Maintenance Superintendent.

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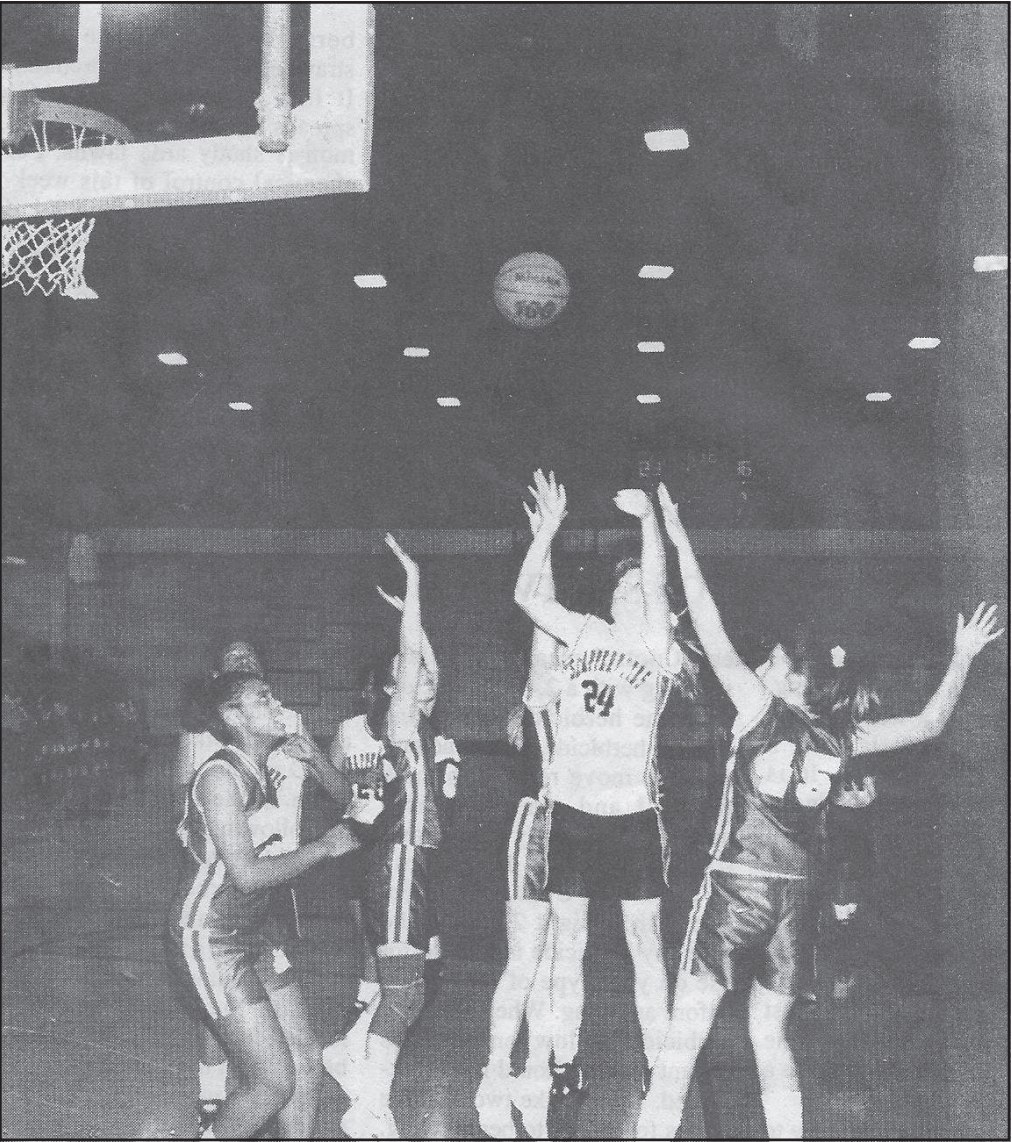


THE CECIL "BIRDDOG" HARRIS MEMORIAL

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



Nikki Ray puts up a shot against Delight in January 1995. The Scrapperettes beat the Lady Bulldogs 41-34.

95 years ago: January 1930

One of the county’s small schools and communities is at Fellowship, which is located midway between Center Point and Dierks, but there is nothing small in their accomplishments. They have a live community club, which they plan to carry on during the entire year. A weekly newsletter to the local papers is also sent regularly.

79 years ago: January 1946

Pfc A. G. Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen H. Lewis of Nashville, returned to the states after receiving his discharge at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. He was in the army for 32 months, 24 months of which were spent in the European Theatre of Operations. He wears the Presidential Citation, four

Bronze Stars, Arrowhead, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. He reenlisted in the Army Reserves for a period of three years.

62 years ago: January 1963

Contract Broiler production has been good for the broiler industry in this area and was instigated at the request of growers in 1955, Neeley Cassady told the Nashville Lions Club members Tuesday night.

Army Warrant Officer Jr. Grade, Charles D. Holbrook, son of Mr. and Mrs. D.L. Holbrook of Nashville, recently completed a sixteen-week Warrant Officer Rotary-wing aviation course at the Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, Alabama. The 24-year-old officer is a 1957 graduate of Nashville High School.

42 years ago: January 1983

On Tuesday Charles Deloney, owner of Jiffy Burger in Mineral Springs, reported a break-in and theft of coin boxes from video games, pinball games and jukebox. The burglary happened sometime between January 16 and 18.

NHS junior Earma Anderson Jr. will be honored at a youth program here Saturday at the Victory Way Free Church of God. Anderson is church organist and pianist.

Nashville was among 40 to 50 towns in the state to send photos to the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission in an effort to be the site for the filming of a TV miniseries. William Buck of the AIDC in a letter stated that twelve other states were vying to be the site for the series about police chiefs in a small Georgia town.

Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Jan. 16-22, 2025, except as noted, include:

Marriage Licenses
(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office)
Jan. 17. Andrae Cleveland Jones, 39, Nashville, and Tiera Marshay Jones, 38, Nashville.

Jan. 21. Miller Colton Goff, 20, Nashville, and Braven Rebecca Warren, 22, Mineral Springs.

Civil Court
CV25-04, Jan. 16. LVNV Funding, LLLC, vs. Renetta Chrisp. Debt.

CV25-05, Jan. 20. Tony Chesshir vs. Nathan Hill, Nicole Hill. Contract.

CV25-06, Jan. 20. Arvio Acceptance, LLC, vs Fredrick Trotter. Contract.

CV25-07, Jan. 22. K2 & Afeld Holdings, LLC vs. McFadden Timber. Contract.

Domestic Relations Court
No new Domestic Relations cases filed since DR25-02, Jan. 13.

Criminal Court
(NOTE: POCS = possession of controlled substance; PODP = possession of drug paraphernalia; DOCS = delivery of controlled substance)

CR25-06, Jan. 17. State of Arkansas vs. Brandon

Joseph Williams, 38, white male, 121 Frost Lane, Nashville; POCS, class D felony.

CR25-07, Jan. 17. State of Arkansas vs. Bobby J. Murphy, 46, white male, 1217 Hempstead 5, Hope; POCS, class D.

CR25-08, Jan. 20. State of Arkansas vs. Jabin Ray Specks, 22, black male, 201 Toland Dr., Nashville; POCS, class D; POCS, misdemeanor.

CR25-09, Jan. 20. State of Arkansas vs. Gerald Glen Burson, 54, white male, 806 W. Grumbles, Nashville; POCS, class B; POCS, misdemeanor; PODP, class D; resisting arrest, misdemeanor.

Land/Property Transactions
Quitclaim Deed

Jan. 16. Carla Reid and husband, Donnie Reid; to Cheyne Manning Revocable Trust; 44.36 ac. in S23/S26/T5S R28W.

Jan. 16. Peggy Manning, surviving spouse of Donald Manning, deceased; to Charles Manning and wife, Tina Manning; 26.34 ac. in S26 T5S R28W.

Jan. 16. Peggy Manning, surviving spouse of Donald Manning, deceased; to Carla Reid and husband, Donnie Reid; 13.33 ac. in S27 T5S R28W.

Jan. 16. Carla A. Reid and husband, Donnie Reid; to

Charles Manning and wife, Tina Manning; aggregate 17.46 ac. in S26/S27 T5S R28W.

Jan. 17. Sherry A. Raines; to Sherry Raines and Manuel Gomez; Lot 1, Blue Bayou Estates Subdivision, Howard County.

Redemption Deeds
Jan. 17. State of Arkansas; to Judy and Brittany Gillespie, c/o Brittany Nugent, Texarkana, Texas; 3.4 ac. in S31 T8S R27W; delinquent taxes and penalties of \$73.78.

Jan. 17. State of Arkansas; to Judy and Brittany Gillespie, c/o Brittany Nugent, Texarkana, Texas; 3.01 ac. in S32 T8S R27W; delinquent taxes and penalties of \$71.86.

Warranty Deeds
Jan. 16. Laura Reynolds Banks, Trustee of the Yancey and Jeannie Reynolds Revocable Trust; to Kash William King; property in S24 T9S R27W. \$191,956.50.

Jan. 16. (Correcting spelling of Grantee name on earlier deed) Peggy Manning, surviving spouse of Donald Manning, deceased; to Charles Alden Manning and wife, Tina Louise Manning; 1.2 ac. in S36 T5S R29W.

Jan. 16. Gordon Pendergrass and wife, Jessie Pendergrass; to Tommy Ray Blount and wife, Kahne Irene Blount; 52.9 ac. in S34 T5S R28W. \$150,000.

Criminal court dates set

A flurry of not guilty or not true pleas were given last Wednesday, Jan. 22, during the regular day for criminal court in Howard County.

Dates were set for pretrial motions and jury trials, and for probation revocation trials for 12 defendants by Judge Tom Cooper.

Only one guilty plea was received. Samuel Avalos, 23, white male, Nashville, pleaded guilty weeks ago to charges of felony and misdemeanor drug possession. He was sentenced to a \$3,000 fine and six months of probation.

The probation revocation trials were set for two who are charged with failure to meet the terms of their probation on previous convictions.

Joseph Prince, 64, white male, Nashville, was on probation for failure to register as a sex offender, a class C felony offense. His trial will be Feb. 12.

Latre Richard, 45, black male, Mineral Springs, was on probation for a 2021 conviction for a pair of class D drug charges. His trial will be Feb. 12.

Bobby Murphy, 46, white male, Hope, is charged with class D felony drug possession. Motions will be heard April 30.

Dalton Jordan, 34, white male, Nashville, is charged with class D felony drug possession. Motions were set for April 9 although he is to return Feb. 26.

A pretrial motions date of

April 9 was set for Jennifer Wilson, 45, white female, Nashville, charged with controlled substance possession, furnishing prohibited articles and disorderly conduct.

Jabin Specks, 27, black male, Nashville, is charged with felony and misdemeanor or drug possession. Motions will be heard April 9.

Gerald Burson, 54, white male, Nashville, has an April 30 date for pretrial motions. He is charged with felony and misdemeanor drug possession, possession of drug paraphernalia, and resisting arrest.

Several other defendants gave not guilty pleas to felony charges, but details have not been posted by Arkansas Courts.

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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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Point of view

A friendly rant

A house divided cannot stand

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I was confused when I realized this week that one of my friends and I have identical television sets that show the same event entirely differently.

For instance, four years ago I watched in despair as the ‘January 6’ pro-Trump rioters broke windows and doors to force their way into the US Capitol where they beat police officers, pooped on lawmakers’ desks and tried to find and kill Vice-President Mike Pence.

My friend’s tv -- on the other hand -- showed a liberal-inspired insurgency. It was an evil trap which snared some good citizens who were merely expressing their own unhappiness with the recently stolen election. The darned liberal media wouldn’t show the true event, friend says.

Silly me. I didn’t notice the ‘Hillary’ and ‘Obama’ flags that the good citizens were waving.

You can tell that I’m steaming that the President gave a mass pardon to about 1,500 of those good citizens. Why should anyone fear lawful penalties anymore?

I am also in deep despair that some of my friends don’t believe what their own eyes saw.

I’m not through ranting.
Thank you, Mr. President, for tightening our borders. I’m all for immigration if it is done the right way.

But the name changes? Gulf of America? Mt. McKinley? The people that lived around North America’s tallest peak had called it ‘Denali’ for hundreds of years. Why rename it for a President who never laid eyes on it’s snowy peak?

Stoopid.
I am despondent that some of the new President’s followers are making death threats at that Episcopal Bishop who asked the President to be merciful in dealing with the immigrants.

As a matter of fact, anyone who publicly differs with the President seems to be in danger from some of his rabid followers.

I am glad he’s sending some immigrants back to their country of origin, but we may need to recruit some immigrants to keep our economy moving.

What I’m praying for are some moderate Republicans who don’t go along with everything this President does.

As long as I’m chastizing the arch-conservatives, let me tell you that the wild left swing of liberal Democrats certainly had a hand in the defeat of their last Presidential candidate.

This whole Presidential Pardon thing -- past Presidents and present -- has given me indigestion.

Now, I am through ranting.

● ---- ● --- ●
THE GOOD EARTH. A weather bulletin from the future.
August, 2025. The piles of snow that were graded off the Diamond Bank parking lot after the January snowstorm have finally melted. Scientists estimate that each pile originally weighed several tons.

● ---- ● --- ●
MY BUGGY. Frankly I miss my ‘old’ pickup truck. It only had about 120,000 miles. But, it had gotten too hard for a certain fat elderly driver to climb up to get behind the wheel.

My new rig is swell but I’ll never figure out all the bells and whistles. It took me a month-and-a-half to learn how to use the cruise control. “Use the app to get the driver’s manual,” the salesman said during my fourth or fifth visit with questions.

“I don’t do apps,” was my reply.
I’m sorry I don’t do apps. If I did I could get 50c corndogs.

It’s easy for me to get behind the wheel of my new buggy. I quickly learned that it won’t let me leave the driveway unless I’m belted in.

I will confess that I do love the heated steering wheel -- something I never would have imagined I’d use.

I have to be careful handling that heated steering wheel because on the back side of the wheel there are buttons that jumble all of the settings I’d finally gotten used to.

Somehow I changed the radio to country music.
Maybe I’ll get to like it after awhile.

Whoever got my old buggy really got a bargain.

● ---- ● --- ●
WARNING. More arrests last week of persons burglarizing unlocked vehicles parked overnight at residences.
For goodness sake, lock your vehicle.
For goodness sake, don’t leave firearms in the vehicle.

● ---- ● --- ●
THINGS I LEARNED from opening e-mail: “I woke up this morning determined to drink less, eat right, and exercise daily. But that was five hours ago when I was younger and full of hope.”

● ---- ● --- ●
WORD GAMES. “Ladies and Gentlemen.” How many speeches begin this way? Also, the introduction of participants at a professional wrestling match.

● ---- ● --- ●
HE SAID: “In our age there is no such thing as ‘keeping out of politics.’ All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia.” George Orwell, novelist

● ---- ● --- ●
SHE SAID: “Just smiling at someone walking down the street can make the person’s day. It’s all about paying it forward.” Mariska Hargitay, ‘Law and Order’ tv actress

● ---- ● --- ●
SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Nashville News-Leader

◆
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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.

Senate passes bills to protect rights of child sex abuse victims in Arkansas

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

The Arkansas Senate quickly approved legislation to protect the rights of more than 500 victims of child sex abuse who have already won civil cases and are waiting for their settlements to become official.

Senators unanimously approved Senate Bill 13 on the same day that attorneys for a former pediatrician, and convicted child sex offender, argued before the state Court of Appeals that existing Arkansas law was unconstitutional.

The sex offenders lawsuit challenges a law enacted in 2021 known as the Justice for Vulnerable Victims of Sexual Abuse Act. It greatly extended the statute of limitations for child abuse victims, and also extended the time period in which they can file lawsuits against the offenders who abused them.

Legislators became aware that the 2021 act was being challenged in court, so the same Senate and House sponsors of the 2021 act joined forces again to file SB 13.

Passage of SB 13 by the legislature will protect monetary awards that victims in Arkansas have already won, no matter the

outcome of the case currently at the Court of Appeals. If the convicted sex offender wins, and SB 13 is not passed, money that already has been allocated to victims in Arkansas would instead be distributed to victims from other states.

Two other Senate bills that were approved early in the session are meant to make veterinary services more available in parts of Arkansas that are under-served.

Senate Bill 68 passed by a vote of 34-to-1. It would allow veterinary technicians, technologists and technician specialists to help animals during an emergency when the supervising veterinarian is not present.

By a vote of 33-to-2 the Senate passed SB 61, which would allow a veterinarian licensed in Arkansas to provide telemedicine services, using audio-visual technology or the telephone.

The bill would also allow a veterinarian to provide emergency services via telemedicine for someone even though they have not yet established a relationship. In those instances, the veterinarian must establish a relationship with the client within seven days if a small

animal was treated, and within 21 days if a large animal was treated.

The two bills will next be considered by the House of Representatives.

Also during the second week of the session, the Senate passed SB 15 to repeal a law concerning the negligent shooting of a firearm while deer hunting.

It is the first in a package of bills the legislature will consider this session to clarify the many statutes on firearms. Throughout 2024 a legislative committee studied firearms laws, while getting input from the attorney general, law enforcement and concealed carry safety instructors.

SB 15 repeals language about negligent shooting that is covered in other criminal and civil statutes. The repealed language is discriminatory against deer hunters, the sponsor said, because it doesn’t apply to other hunters.

The Senate approved a handful of budget bills, including the appropriation that authorizes state turnback for cities and counties. HB 1102 appropriates \$29.37 million for cities and \$21.4 million to counties.

AG program fights human trafficking

Attorney General Tim Griffin last week issued the following statement announcing the execution of search warrants at 12 locations across the state as part of Operation Obscured Vision to combat human trafficking, resulting in aid provided to 16 victims, the arrest of four individuals, and the seizure of nearly \$70,000 and a luxury vehicle:

“January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and the best way to prevent human trafficking and rescue its victims is to combat it on one of its key fronts: illicit massage parlors.

“Operation Obscured Vision was coordinated by my office’s Special Investigations Division and executed by local law enforcement and victim advocates groups to expose the pervasive issue of illicit massage parlors in Arkansas, rescue the victims of human trafficking, and permanently end the presence of illicit massage parlors in our state.

“Many of the women working in these illicit massage parlors are coerced to do so. One victim we interviewed stated that she is forced to work seven days a week, 13 hours per day.

“I am proud to announce that local law enforcement, with coordination by my office, executed 12 search warrants at illicit massage parlors in Jonesboro, Russellville, Hot Springs, Rogers, Harrison, and

a Little Rock hotel. I congratulate the local police officers, sheriff’s deputies, the Arkansas State Police, and Special Agents in my office for successfully executing this operation.

“I appreciate the efforts of victim’s advocates and the Arkansas Department of Health, who provided language interpreters, nursing services, and other support to help victims receive comprehensive and coordinated assistance to ensure their safety and support their journey toward independence and recovery. Seventeen victims ranging in age from 29-65 were identified in the operation, sixteen accepted services from medical staff and victim’s advocates.

“I am grateful to members of the Arkansas General Assembly and Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders for their support of adding a full-time human trafficking investigator to my office. That Special Agent worked tirelessly to coordinate this operation, and it wouldn’t have happened without the agent’s efforts.

“This operation is just a first step. The intelligence and evidence obtained through Operation Obscured Vision will be used in ongoing investigations and will aid in targeting similar massage parlors elsewhere in the state. The criminals who run these establishments and the men who patronize

them are on notice. We are coming for you, and we will put an end to this horrific practice of exploiting women through human trafficking.”

Four women were arrested as part of Operation Obscured Vision.

Haiyan Lu, 54, of Harrison, one count of Promoting Prostitution in the Second Degree

Qing Chen, 53, of Jonesboro, one count of Promoting Prostitution in the Second Degree

Hongliang Cai, 55, of Jonesboro, one count of Promoting Prostitution in the Second Degree

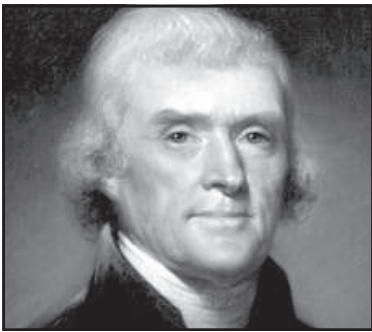
Chunli Wang, 50, of Rogers, one count of Sexual Assault in the Second Degree

Law enforcement seized nearly \$70,000 during the operation. Additionally, ¥1,870 in Chinese currency was seized in Russellville. A Mercedes-Benz vehicle was seized in Rogers.

Participating law enforcement agencies in Operation Obscured Vision included:

Arkansas Attorney General’s Office Special Investigations Division

Arkansas State Police
Arkansas State Fusion Center
Jonesboro Police Department
Harrison Police Department
Rogers Police Department
Benton County Sheriff’s Office
Russellville Police Department
Little Rock Police Department
Hot Springs Police Department



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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

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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.



PRESENTATION. Superintendent Doug Graham presents a Master Board Member plaque to Nick Britt at the Jan. 21 school board meeting. Britt completing the state's required number of training hours for Master Board Member status.

DHC

Continued
from page 1A

ville operation in late 2024 after company officials announced the planned shut-down a year earlier.

Phoenix Investors of Milwaukee, Wisc., bought the Husqvarna plant and warehouse in Nashville and the facility on the Old Airport Road in 2024. The company is looking for buyers.

The property is included in the portfolio on the Phoenix website.

During last week's board

meeting, members discussed recent improvements at the Howard County Airport and talked about the facility's role in recruiting business and industry to the area.

County Judge Brent Pinkerton said the county will receive a grant for runway painting at the airport.

Future needs include additional fuel storage and a pilot lounge.

The board reviewed the Jan. 14 focus groups meeting attended by about 30 people.

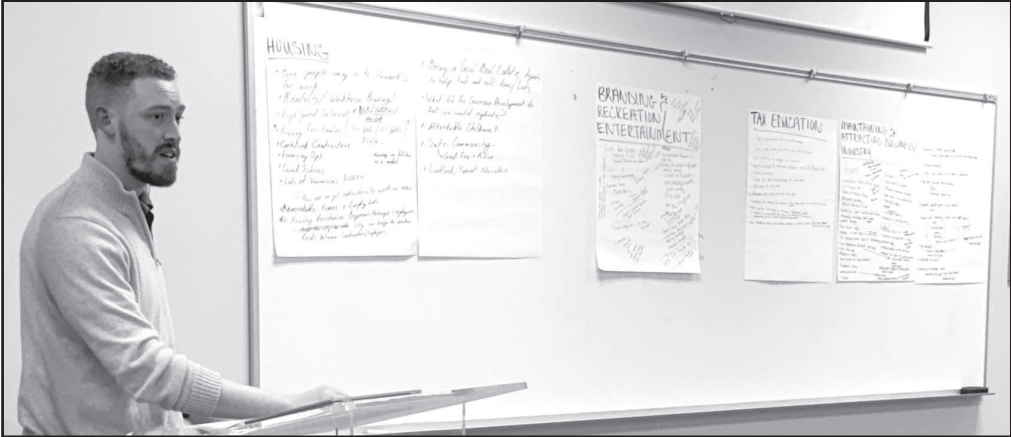
Vice chairperson Charles Smith of Mineral Springs said the meetings had "nice attendance, and people showed a lot of interest. We

had the chance to highlight what our assets are in Howard County."

Smith said the four areas considered by the focus groups will need volunteers to staff them and gather additional input.

The groups include housing; branding, entertainment and recreation; tax education; and attracting and retaining business and industry.

Board members heard an update on programs available from the Arkansas Department of Transportation. They offer assistance for projects in smaller areas of the state.



FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION. Logan Benson of the Arkansas Economic Development Institute reviews the comments at a recent focus group meeting hosted by Developing Howard County. The groups discussed Howard County's strengths and areas which need improvement. Benson will present the groups' findings to the Developing Howard County Board later this year.



CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE COUNTY. Focus group participants share their opinions Jan. 21 in a meeting held at UA-Cossatot in Nashville.



AT VEGAS COMPETITION. Natalie Talley of McCaskill and her horse Faith.

Rodeo

Continued
from page 1A

Talley qualified to compete in 19 and under Barrel Racing at the event held at The Expo at World Market Center in Las Vegas.

The event allowed each qualifying contestant to make two barrel runs.

Then, the top 15 contestants with best average times

from rounds 1 and 2 were allowed to compete in the short go.

Talley finished 5th out of 142 barrel racers in round 1 running a time of 13.974 seconds.

In the second round she stayed in the top ten fastest times placing 9th with a 13.981 run.

This qualified her to make it to the short go where she ran a 13.928 and finished 7th in the average out of the 142

barrel racers from across the country.

One additional barrel run was allowed in what was called a Hot Round with first place paying out \$20,000 in the Hot Round alone.

Talley finished 7th in the Hot Round, running a 13.940.

Overall, Talley, a junior at Nashville High School, said she was "pleased" to represent her community well at this level of competition.

City

Continued
from page 1A

wanted all needed repair equipment on hand when work started. The repair will necessitate closure of at least one lane of Main.

Two parties interested in the empty Husqvarna sites made tours last week. Mayor Dunaway said he thought something good would come of it, and he promised to tell the names

of the parties to the council soon.

The mayor also gave updates on current city projects.

Other department heads also gave reports.

Several council members who did not take the oath of office in the Jan. 2 event in the courtroom were sworn in by the mayor.

Dunaway said he had a successor in mind for the absence created by the departure of Alderman Nick Davis who did not seek reelection. Dunaway invited

council members to suggest names, also.

Council members present included Joe Hoen, Freddie Horne, Phil Jones, William Turley, Kay Gathright, Charles Pinkston, Herbert Turley, Kathy Combs and Lynn Dyer.

Also present were Mayor Dunaway, Fire Marshal Justin Thornton, Police Chief Amy Marion, Code Enforcement Officer David Riggs, Parks and Recreation Director Meghan Floyd and City Financial Officer Kimberly Green.

Solemate Shuffle set Feb. 7 for NES students

The Nashville Elementary School PTO will host "Solemate Shuffle" for NES students only Friday, Feb. 7, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Midtown Social, 117 E. Howard St. in Nashville.

Admission will be \$10. Nashville students grades 4-6 are invited to "lace up your favorite sneakers and join us for a neon-filled night of dancing, fun and friendship," organizers said.

Pizza and a drink will be provided.

There will be a live DJ.

The evening is for Nashville Elementary students only, no parents. Chaperones will be present.

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Howard County District Court

Jan. 23, 2025
BF=Bond Forfeited
Howard County
Armstrong, Morgan D., 28, Lockesburg, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,292 owed
Artega, Jose M., 59, Wheeling, Ill., \$230 BF, speeding
Barnett, Daniel L., 66, Dierks, \$1,410 BF, overload
Benson, Dreshauna L., 27, Nashville, guilty of third-degree battery, fined \$710
Billings, Madison Amber, 29, Nashville, \$230 BF, speeding
Camacho, Samuel Elias, 17, Nashville, \$345 BF, careless or prohibited driving
Castro, Sulmy Melisa, 25, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license
Coburn, Beonka, 27, Nashville, \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Cook, Carolyn F., 49, Umpire, guilty of second-degree criminal mischief, fined \$666.48
Ewing, Tristan Cole, 19, Nashville, \$240 BF, speeding
Fort, Nathaniel George, 31, Rudy, \$250 BF, speeding
Galvan Marquez, Mario, 47, De Queen, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license
Gilliam, Donte R., 20, Nashville, \$370 BF, obstructing government operations
Gonzalez, Refugio R., 64, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license
Goodwin, Austin Cole, 39, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Haywood, Kendreau C., 35, Texarkana, guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$50
Hill, Miles Macory, 21, Mineral Springs, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Howard, Rena Karla, 69, Nashville, \$215 BF, improper or prohibited passing
Jenks, Robert J., 47, Lockesburg, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$2,265 owed
Kimmel, Jeffery Scott, 54, Gilliam, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Kirby, Brandy, 42, Freeport, Fla., \$250 BF, speeding
Langston, Alfonso Latroyce, 47, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$395 owed
Lewis, Arron W., 31, Glenwood, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,097 owed, committed to jail-suspended conditions
Lima, David J., 18, Nashville, \$210 BF, failure to pay registration; \$145 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Lopez, Reyna Isabel, 28, De Queen, \$250 BF, speeding
Markcum, Allen Lee, 49, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$6,725 owed, committed to jail-suspended conditions
Millegan, Bennie L., 42, Rosepine, La, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license; \$45 BF, no seat belt
Nimox, Kepatrick D., 42, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$960 owed, committed to jail-suspended conditions
Nutt, Brett M., 31, Lockesburg, \$445 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license
Pacheco Reyes, Lauriano, 29, Dierks, \$195 BF, running stop sign or light
Salazar, Juventino Jr., 43, De Queen, \$240 BF, speeding
Swopes, Tina M., 42, Nashville, \$145 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Taylor, Logan Wayne, 18, Nashville, \$195 BF, running stop sign or light
Weeks, Jeremy, 45, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445
Wesley, Mechell Airrell, 20, Texarkana, Texas, guilty of speeding, fined \$240
Williams, Larry Darnell, 31, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$485 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$44; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of speeding, fined \$230; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
City of Nashville
Aparicio Gonzalez, Bernabe, 49, De Queen, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license
Bustamante, Andrea, 32, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license
Cardona, Hazel Y., 19, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,560 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
Eskeew, Ronald J., 40, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,225 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$170
Fernandez, Robert Edward, 28, Horatio, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Flores-Ayala, Estela, 51, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license
Garate, Miguel, 41, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
Harris, Marc, 49, Ozan, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$145
Hernandez, Florencio, 50, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license
Hernandez, Guillermo, 32, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license; \$195 BF, parking in prohibited area; \$245 BF, failure to appear
Jones, Carmelo Anthony, 18, Nashville, \$485 BF, passing stopped school bus
Linker, Josie M., 36, Midland, Texas, \$195 BF, running stop sign or light
Marlow, Michael B., 38, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$725 owed; guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$195
Martinez, Elijah S., 19, Fresno, Calif., guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months
Matheny, Nickolas, 21, Nashville, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$195; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
McCoy, Tatiana, 34, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,675 owed
Perez, Salaciel, 35, De

Queen, \$240 BF, speeding; \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license
Pioquinto, Johnny, 23, Nashville, guilty of third-degree battery, fined \$710; guilty of fleeing, fined \$710
Smith, Elmer C., 67, Mineral Springs, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Sullivan, Michael S., 56, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Terwilliger, Lacey, 35, Nashville, guilty of allowing unauthorized driver, fined \$245; guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$195; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$170
Williams, Brandon J., 38, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$725 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
Williams, Natasha, 25, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$640 owed; guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$195
City of Dierks
Gower, Ricky, 71, Newhope, guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$125
Walker, Stacia, 33, Nashville, guilty of leaving scene of accident, fined \$345; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345
City of Mineral Springs
Thurman, Donessa Nicole, 37, Ashdown, guilty of no child restraint; guilty of speeding, fined \$230
Wester, Russell, 43, Mineral Springs, guilty of leash law, fined \$100; guilty of leash law, fined \$100
Wester, Russell, 43, Mineral Springs, guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
Williams, Larry Darnell, 31, Mineral Springs, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license fined \$445
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Aikin, Dawson, 26, Fulton, \$220 BF, hunting without a license
Bray, Bradley J., 38, Dierks, \$220 BF, hunting dog license requirements
Hayes, Jean Paul, 24, Greenwell Springs, La., \$220 BF, state duck stamp
Johnson, Colton L., 23, Prescott, \$220 BF, personal flotation device requirement
Martin, Jeffery, 28, Prescott, \$220 BF, personal flotation device requirement
Olalde, Juan A., 34, De Queen, \$270 BF, vehicle on closed road
Soulter, Dylan, 25, Slaughter, La., \$220 BF, state duck stamp
Bench Trials
City of Nashville
Hallmark, Christopher M., 44, Nashville, guilty of violation of city ordinance - dogs running at large, fined \$150; guilty of no rabies tag/vaccination, fined \$25
Jackson, Jerry L., 79, Nashville, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$195
Miller, Latoya, 40, Nashville, guilty of disorderly conduct, fined \$280
Robinson, Freddie L., 34, Murfreesboro, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of DWI, fined \$1,110, credited for time served, license suspended and must compete DWI educational course;

Dierks driver killed in Hwy 278 wreck

A Dierks man was killed in a one-vehicle wreck on Wednesday, Jan. 22 in rural Howard County, according to the Arkansas State Police.
Jason Cody Sherck, 31, was driving north on Highway 278 in a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado when he left the roadway, collided with a tree and overturned in a ditch. The time of the accident was prorated as 9:41 a.m.
ASP Cpl. Kyle Jones reported conditions were clear and dry at the time of the accident.

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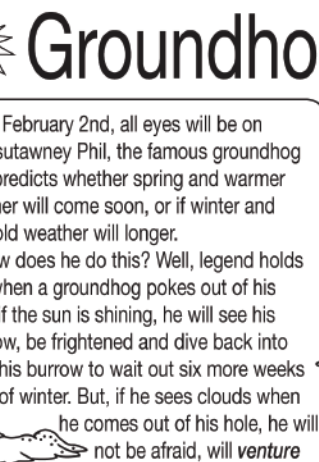




Hmm... is that my shadow?


Hey! What are you doing down there?

I'm searching for my shadow - I think it is escaping the cold weather!



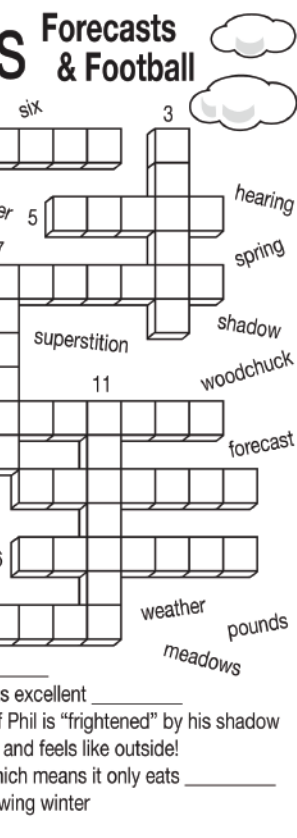
On February 2nd, all eyes will be on Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog who predicts whether spring and warmer weather will come soon, or if winter and the cold weather will longer.

How does he do this? Well, legend holds that when a groundhog pokes out of his hole, if the sun is shining, he will see his shadow, be frightened and dive back into his burrow to wait out six more weeks of winter. But, if he sees clouds when he comes out of his hole, he will not be afraid, will venture out, and we will know that spring is near!



Should I be adventurous and go out to explore?

I'm not sure. What do you think?



Forecasts & Football

1. swimmer
2. six
3. hearing
4. spring
5. shadow
6. superstition
7. woodchuck
8. forecast
9. plants
10. burrow
11. February
12. years
13. weather
14. pounds
15. meadows

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:

- On February 2nd, Phil, the famous groundhog (and other groundhogs in other places) will be watched for his weather _____ - a "prediction" about what kind of weather to expect
- the second month of the year
- a tunnel dug underground
- groundhogs can be found in the woods, fields and _____
- a groundhog usually lives to be 6 to 8 _____ old
- belief in magic, luck and chance
- the dark area formed when light is blocked
- a groundhog usually weighs about 12 _____
- the groundhog is the only animal with its own national _____

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Adventures and Excitement!

Have you had any exciting adventures lately? Many people are adventurous. They like new and unusual experiences. A few people even like to do things that are very bold or full of risks. These people like danger and thrills.

I love new adventures but I think that we should leave the dangerous, bold acts to the characters in movies and books!

Did you know that some of the ideas for adventure stories are based on real people's lives?

Find and circle these words in the sand below!

rescue sailor shipwrecked happening footprint
exciting experiences cannibals marooned
island Robinson Crusoe raft storm new tide waves
captain dog

...V U E R E S C U E Z C
X Q I B T K Q I S L A N D T I D E A L
U B G F D R O B I N S O N C R U S O E B
V I A M O N H F F O O T P R I N T M E R
I V R W G R E B S A D H E N S U R E T Y
B C A P T A I N W R W Y V Q R C U G L E
U N I G O N W E R A D V E N T U R E

The author, Daniel Defoe got the idea for his famous book, **Robinson Crusoe**, from the adventures of a real sailor. The sailor, named Alexander Selkirk, was marooned on an island in the Pacific Ocean in 1704 after an argument with his captain. He lived there alone for more than four years until he was rescued in 1709.

The adventures of Robinson Crusoe are filled with sea voyages, storms, shipwrecks and pirates! One day, after being marooned on the island (with only a dog for a friend), Crusoe saw a large footprint in the sand. Later, he saw about 30 cannibals around a fire ready to kill two men. What do you think he did? Was he ever rescued? **You'll have to read the book to find out!**

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Now’s The Time Pruning Fruit Trees

By Dawson Bailey
Howard County
Extension Agent – Agriculture

Pruning and training fruit trees are two of the most important cultural practices for their management. This should begin at planting time. Pruning is the removal of parts of the tree, training is directing the growth of the tree through pruning, limb spreaders, clothespins, or other practices. There are many reasons to prune a tree including to reduce the tree size, to form a strong framework that will support heavy fruit load, to stop the spread of disease, and to allow light to penetrate throughout the tree.

The best time to prune fruit trees is during late winter or early spring, January to early March, before the beginning of active growth. Later in the spring is better, but if you have a large number of trees to be pruned, time it so you will finish before bud break. This timing is important for many reasons. The wounds will heal quickly when new growth starts, undesirable branches and other wood to be pruned can easily be seen without leaves on the tree, the bark is less likely to tear during that time of year, and trees pruned in early winter may be damaged by low winter temperatures after pruning.

Some general pruning guidelines to follow are: remove dead, diseased, and broken branches, remove water sprouts (excessive growth at the top) and suckers (excessive vegetative growth at the bottom of the tree), remove shoots

emerging from the rootstock, eliminate competition between branches that grow toward one another or toward the center of the tree, eliminate narrow or sharp-angled branches, remove growth that is angled toward the ground, and remove branches that touch the ground. Trees also need to be trained. Methods of training fruit trees may be central leader or open center. Apple, apricot, cherry, pear, and plum trees are generally pruned to the central leader method. Peach and nectarine may be pruned to either a central leader or open center. A central leader system is characterized by one main, upright trunk.

If your central leader tree has been neglected and does not have the true central leader shape, consider your main objectives in pruning and training. In many cases, there are too many lateral branches and upright limbs that need to be removed to allow more light to penetrate the tree. Neglected trees often have overgrown tops that shade the rest of the tree. In this situation, you should cut back or remove the tops to allow better light penetration, but do not remove more than 30% of the tree’s top to avoid shifting the tree into a vegetative state with little fruit development.

For more information on pruning fruit trees, visit our website at www.uaex.uada.com or call the Howard County Extension Office at 870-845-7517. The Cooperative Extension Service is part of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

River Run at Millwood closing for repairs

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will temporarily close access to the River Run East Recreation Area on Millwood Lake from Feb. 3,

2024, until further notice for dam embankment repairs.

For safety reasons, access to the campground, boat launch ramp and embank-

ment will not be allowed during the closure. For more information, contact the Millwood Tri-Lakes Project Office at 870-898-3343.

Pike and Montgomery County
Cooperative Extension Service

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February 11, 2025
6:00 PM
Registration starts at 5:30 PM

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University of Arkansas System

TOPICS

[The Impact of Nutrition on Cattle Production](#)
Dr. Maggie Justice
Assistant Professor - Beef Cattle
Specialist CES | Animal Science

Cool-season Next Steps in your Forage Program
Dr. Jonathan Kubesch
Assistant Professor - Forages
CES | Animal Science

[Importance of Weighing Cattle](#)
Codie McAlister
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[Vaccination Protocol](#)
Gerald Hewitt
Montgomery County CES Agent-Agriculture

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Pike & Montgomery County

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Thursday - 8 a.m.
1st Friday - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday (Esp.) - 6:30 p.m.
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New Life in Jesus Christ Church

913 South Main St. • Nashville, AR
Sunday Morning Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.
Pastors: Lankford & Mary Alice Moore

EBENEZER UMC

318 West Dodson • Nashville
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Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

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Facts About The

BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

SOUNDER OF CYMBALS!

ASAPH, WITH HEMAN AND ETHAN, WERE LEVITES APPOINTED TO SOUND THE CYMBALS, MARCHING BEFORE THE ARK DURING ITS REMOVAL FROM THE HOUSE OF OBED-EDOM TO THE CITY OF DAVID (1 CHRON. 15:16-19). AFTER THAT, ASAPH WAS ASSIGNED THE PERMANENT OFFICE OF SOUNDING CYMBALS AT ALL SERVICES (1 CHRON. 16:4,5,7) AND WHEN THE SERVICE WAS FINALLY AND FULLY ARRANGED, ASAPH’S FAMILY, WITH HIM AT ITS HEAD, WAS ONE OF THE THREE FAMILIES PERMANENTLY GIVEN CHARGE OF THE MUSIC AND SONG AND TO BE INSTRUCTORS OF THIS ART (1 CHRON. 25:1-9). THIS IMPORTANT POST WAS SERVED BY THE FAMILY FOR GENERATION AFTER GENERATION EVEN AFTER THE CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON. A HUNDRED AND TWENTY EIGHT, ALL OF THEM SINGERS, CAME TO JERUSALEM (EZRA 2:41) TO CONDUCT IN THE TEMPLE THE PSALMODY WHEN THE FOUNDATIONS WERE LAID! BUT IN DAVID’S TIME, COUNTING THE FAMILIES OF ASAPH AND HEMAN AND JEDUTHUN (ETHAN) THERE WERE 288 MEN TO PLAY THEIR INSTRUMENTS AND SING THE PSALMS FOR THE SERVICES.



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Rev. Kevin Sartin

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www.myimmanuel.com
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.



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870-845-3030
nashvillefumc.org
Pastor: Pam Estes
Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:50 a.m.
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Rev. Charles Green, Pastor

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Jim Henderson, Pastor

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Sun. Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.
Sun. Evening 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday WOW 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Bro. Brian Finn
Radio Program: 9:45 Sunday Morning • B99.5 FM
Visit us at: www.hollycreekmbc.net

First Christian Church

500 N. Main • Nashville
(Corner of Main & Bishop)
845-3241

Sunday Bible School - 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Minister: Jim Pinson

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Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.

NHS downs Arkadelphia, Lakeside

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Ava Basiliere (44) and Caroline Dean (33) trap the Lady Badger in Nashville's 86-54 District 7-4A victory over Arkadelphia Jan. 24. The Scrapperettes are 4-0 in conference games. They're ranked second in Class 4A by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.



Karstyn Scrivner (24) runs past the Hot Springs Lakeside defender en route to the basket in the Scrapperettes' 75-49 home win Jan. 22. Scrivner scored 40 points in the non-conference victory over the Lady Rams.



Kason Morgan (5) and Demetrus Shelley (2) block an Arkadelphia shot while Bo Bell (12) waits for a possible rebound.



Angel Watson (4) hits a 3-point shot against Arkadelphia last Friday night at Scrapper Arena. Watson scored 21 points in Nashville's win over the Lady Badgers.



Cortez Cooper (23) runs around the Badger Jan. 24 during the Scrappers' 74-69 conference victory over Arkadelphia. Nashville is 3-1 in District 7-4A.



Nashville Junior High cheerleaders perform at the home games against Arkadelphia Jan. 24. The senior high squad was in Dallas for national competition. (See page 1A.)



Olivia Kitchens scores against Arkadelphia.



Youngsters welcome Johnthe Taylor (4) to the court as he is introduced before the Arkadelphia game Jan. 24.

Follow the News-Leader every week.

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SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Scrapper cheerleaders, Nashville

The Scrapper cheerleaders finished in the top seven nationally during competition Jan. 24-25 in Dallas. They were the Judges' Choice winner for Stunts. Erin Askew is the NHS cheer coach.

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FIND NEW ROADS

Tax Time

Tax Deadline is Tuesday, April 15

IRS issues annual inflation adjustments

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service has announced the annual inflation adjustments for tax year 2025.

Revenue Procedure 2024-40 provides detailed information on adjustments and changes to more than 60 tax provisions that will impact taxpayers when they file their returns in 2026.

Notable changes for tax year 2025

The tax year 2025 adjustments described below generally apply to income tax returns to be filed starting tax season 2026.

The tax items for tax year 2025 of greatest interest to many taxpayers include the following dollar amounts:

- **Standard deductions.** For single taxpayers and married individuals filing separately for tax year 2025, the standard deduction rises to \$15,000 for 2025, an increase of \$400 from 2024. For married couples filing jointly, the standard deduction rises to \$30,000, an increase of \$800 from tax year 2024. For heads of households, the standard deduction will be \$22,500 for tax year 2025, an increase of \$600 from the amount for tax year 2024.
- **Marginal rates.** For tax year 2025, the top tax rate remains 37% for individual single taxpayers with incomes greater than \$626,350 (\$751,600 for married couples filing jointly). The other rates are:
 - 35% for incomes over \$250,525 (\$501,050 for married couples filing jointly).
 - 32% for incomes over \$197,300 (\$394,600 for married couples filing jointly).
 - 24% for incomes over \$103,350 (\$206,700 for married couples filing jointly).
 - 22% for incomes over \$48,475 (\$96,950 for married couples filing jointly).
 - 12% for incomes over \$11,925 (\$23,850 for married couples filing jointly).
 - 10% for incomes \$11,925 or less (\$23,850 or less for mar-

ried couples filing jointly).

- **Alternative minimum tax exemption amounts.** For tax year 2025, the exemption amount for unmarried individuals increases to \$88,100 (\$68,650 for married individuals filing separately) and begins to phase out at \$626,350. For married couples filing jointly, the exemption amount increases to \$137,000 and begins to phase out at \$1,252,700.
- **Earned income tax credits.** For qualifying taxpayers

who have three or more qualifying children, the tax year 2025 maximum Earned Income Tax Credit amount is \$8,046, an increase from \$7,830 for tax year 2024. The revenue procedure contains a table providing maximum EITC amount for other categories, income thresholds and phase-outs.

- **Qualified transportation fringe benefit.** For tax year 2025, the monthly limitation for the qualified transportation fringe ben-

efit and the monthly limitation for qualified parking rises to \$325, increasing from \$315 in tax year 2024.

- **Health flexible spending cafeteria plans.** For the taxable years beginning in 2025, the dollar limitation for employee salary reductions for contributions to health flexible spending arrangements rises to \$3,300, increasing from \$3,200 in tax year 2024. For cafeteria plans that permit the carryover of unused amounts, the maximum carryover amount rises to \$660, increasing from \$640 in tax year 2024.
- **Medical savings accounts.** For tax year 2025, participants who have self-only coverage the plan must have an annual deductible that is not less than \$2,850 (a \$50

increase from the previous tax year), but not more than \$4,300 (an increase of \$150 from the previous tax year). The maximum out-of-pocket expense amount rises to \$5,700, increasing from \$5,550 in tax year 2024. For family coverage in tax year 2025, the annual deductible is not less than \$5,700, increasing from \$5,550 in tax year 2024; however, the deductible cannot be more than \$8,550, an increase of \$200 versus the limit for tax year 2024. For family coverage, the out-of-pocket expense limit is \$10,500 for tax year 2025, rising from \$10,200 in tax year 2024.

- **Foreign earned income exclusion.** For tax year 2025, the foreign earned income exclusion increases to \$130,000, from \$126,500 in tax year 2024.
- **Estate tax credits.** Estates of decedents who die during 2025 have a basic exclusion amount of \$13,990,000, increased from \$13,610,000 for estates of decedents who died in 2024.
- **Annual exclusion for gifts** increases to \$19,000 for calendar year 2025, rising from \$18,000 for calendar year 2024.
- **Adoption credits.** For tax year 2025, the maximum credit allowed for an adop-

tion of a child with special needs is the amount of qualified adoption expenses up to \$17,280, increased from \$16,810 for tax year 2024. Unchanged for tax year 2025

By statute, certain items that were indexed for inflation in the past are currently not adjusted.

- **Personal exemptions** for tax year 2025 remain at 0, as in tax year 2024. The elimination of the personal exemption was a provision in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.
- **Itemized deductions.** There is no limitation on itemized deductions for tax year 2025, as in tax year 2024 and preceding, to tax year 2018. The limitation on itemized deductions was eliminated by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.
- **Lifetime learning credits.** The modified adjusted gross income amount used by taxpayers to determine the reduction in the Lifetime Learning Credit provided in Sec. 25A(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code is not adjusted for inflation for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2020. The Lifetime Learning Credit is phased out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income in excess of \$80,000 (\$160,000 for joint returns).



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IRS, partners make changes for war with scams, schemes

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service and partners in the Coalition Against Scam and Scheme Threats (CASST) today released changes for the 2025 filing season designed to help protect taxpayers from becoming victims of a scam or scheme and preventing tax professionals from having their credentials compromised.

The changes to protect taxpayers include a new form involving the Fuel Tax Credit that's designed to make it harder for well-meaning taxpayers to be misled into claiming the credit by promoters.

This specialized credit that's been promoted on social media is designed for off-highway business and farming use. Taxpayers need a business purpose and a qualifying business activity such as running a farm or purchasing aviation gasoline to be eligible for the credit. Most taxpayers don't qualify for this credit.

The IRS is also stepping up review on a variety of "other withholding" claims on Form 1040 that have been targets of scammers and schemers. And the IRS is reaching out to taxpayers who have potentially been using "ghost preparers" to prepare tax returns. These preparers don't identify themselves on the tax return, which is a red flag for taxpayers to be misled into a scam or scheme.

Convened at the request of IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel, the CASST task force of federal and state tax agencies, software and financial companies, as well as key national tax professional associations, agreed to a new public private partnership in August focused on scams and schemes.

"Since its creation, this special group across the tax community has been working to take extra steps to protect taxpayers and the tax professional community,"

Werfel said. "This effort includes expanding outreach and education on emerging scams, developing innovative approaches to identify potentially fraudulent returns at the point of filing and creating infrastructure improvements to protect taxpayers as well as federal, state and industry tax systems. CASST partners have already worked together on important changes to protect taxpayers and tax professionals in the 2025 filing season, but this needs to be an ongoing effort given the continued expansion and threats from scams."

CASST accomplishments that will improve the 2025 tax season

Highlights of the coalition's accomplishments include:

New Fuel Tax Credit Statement - The IRS developed the "Statement Supporting Fuel Tax Credit (FTC) Computation - 1", to educate taxpayers on eligibility requirements for claiming the credit.

Here are key details:

Who should file the new statement? Individuals filing Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, for tax year 2024 who claim nontaxable use of gasoline, aviation gasoline, undyed diesel fuel or undyed kerosene on Form 4136, Credit For Federal Tax Paid On Fuels.

Where is the new statement located? "Statement Supporting Fuel Tax Credit (FTC) Computation - 1" is located in the instructions for Form 4136 for tax year 2024. The statement should be completed and attached to Form 1040 with Form 4136.

What information is the statement asking for? The statement asks for the business information, including name and Employer Identification Number or EIN (if applicable), and make, model and type of machinery or vehicle for which the fuel was purchased. The taxpayer will also be required to

complete a table to show the relationship between the estimated purchase price of the fuel compared to the actual cost and gallons reported as being purchased on Form 4136. The IRS used Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), when determining the average price of fuel for the year.

Should documentation to support the claim be included with the statement? No. Taxpayers should not include any receipts or explanation with their tax return but maintain them with their books and records for their tax return. Taxpayers may be asked at a later time to submit proof, such as receipts, of the actual costs paid for each fuel type.

What happens if the Fuel Tax Credit is claimed erroneously? Claims and filings that are based upon a position identified as frivolous by the IRS or reflect a desire to delay or impede tax administration are subject to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) 6702(a) penalty. This penalty is \$5,000 for each return (or copy of return) claiming an improper credit as defined above. The penalty is assessed against each spouse on a married filing joint return.

Increased Review of "Other Withholding" Claims - To protect taxpayers, the IRS is increasing its review of "Other Withholding" on Line 25C of Form 1040. To reduce potential delays in verifying the "Other Withholding" claimed, taxpayers are encouraged to attach the supporting documentation to their return. Key forms covered by Line 25c, "Other Withholding", include Form

1042-S, Foreign Person's U.S. Source Income Subject to Withholding; Form 8805, Foreign Partner's Information Statement of Section 1446 Withholding Tax; Form 8288-A, Statement of Withholding on Dispositions by Foreign Persons of U.S. Real Property Interests; Form W2G, Certain Gambling Winnings; Form 8959, Additional Medicare Tax; and Schedule K1, Partner's Share of Income, Deductions, Credits, etc.

Increased "Ghost Preparer" Education - During the 2025 filing season, the IRS will send letters to taxpayers whose tax returns appear to have been completed by a paid tax preparer who did not sign or include their preparer tax identification number (PTIN) on the tax return. The letters are meant to educate the taxpayer about "ghost preparers" and to help the IRS identify those who are being paid to prepare returns and are not signing or including their PTIN on the return. The IRS continues to see instances where ghost preparers dupe taxpayers into filing inaccurate tax returns for bigger refunds. The preparers later vanish like a ghost, leaving the taxpayer exposed to inaccurate claims.

Preparer Tax Identification Numbers (PTIN) - During the 2025 filing season, the IRS will be working to add more protections for tax professionals. The protections will be aimed at protecting the tax professional's electronic filing identification number or EFIN and PTIN from unauthorized use; more details on these will be available in the near future.



Income Tax assistance, counseling

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

The VITA program has operated for over 50 years. VITA sites offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including:

People who generally make \$67,000 or less
Persons with disabilities; and
Limited English-speaking taxpayers

In addition to VITA, the TCE program offers free tax help, particularly for those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors.

While the IRS manages the VITA and TCE programs, the VITA/TCE sites are operated by IRS partners and staffed by volunteers who want to make a difference in their communities. The IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

VITA/TCE services are not only free, they are also a reliable and trusted source for preparing tax returns. All VITA/TCE volunteers who prepare returns must take and pass tax law training that meets or exceeds IRS standards. This training includes maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of all taxpayer information. In addition to requiring volunteers to certify their knowledge of the tax laws, the IRS requires a quality review check for every return prepared at a VITA/TCE site prior to filing. Each filing season, tens of thousands of dedicated VITA/TCE volunteers prepare millions of federal and state returns. They also assist taxpayers with the preparation of thousands of Facilitated Self-Assistance returns.

Before your visit

Before going to a VITA or TCE site, see Publication 3676-B PDF for services provided and check out what to bring to ensure you have all the required documents and information our volunteers will need to help you.

Note: Available services can vary at each site due to the availability of volunteers certified with the tax law expertise required for your return.

Some VITA sites offer CAA service to taxpayers along with their VITA program.

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Murfreesboro Diamond photo

BUSTED ENGINE BLOCK. A Pike County trash truck was involved in an accident on Jan. 21 is probably totaled, according to Pike County Judge Eddie Howard, who said one county employee was hurt in the crash.

Trash schedule, crashed trash truck on agenda for Pike County Q-Court

By P.J. Tracy
Murfreesboro Diamond
The Pike County Quorum Court was told of a mailout that will be going to all rural residents in the county outlining the 2025 trash collection schedule.

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard said it was in response to being “bombarded by calls” in 2024 during any change due to holiday scheduling.

“There is so much confusion it’s crazy ... we’ve tried everything else including Facebook,” said Howard in telling the quorum court of the importance of the mailout.

The mailout was produced by Alexander Printing, with printing costs and postage coming to just over \$1,000.

The court was also apprised of the trash truck wreck that occurred on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Howard said the trash truck, which was at fault in the accident, was probably totaled after pulling out in front of a large truck hauling a large piece of equipment.

“It busted the engine block and bent the frame ... I’m hoping we can salvage the back end and put in on a new can and chassis,” said Howard, noting that the truck was purchased several years ago during the Dewight Mack administration.

One county employee was injured when he was thrown out of the truck after having just climbed into the

vehicle when the accident happened. The driver, who was seatbelted, was not injured.

“He landed on his tailbone and bit through his upper lip,” said Howard, adding that the employee was transported by ambulance to be checked out as a precaution. “The trash truck driver was cited by the state police for failure to yield, and it was an act of God that all was as good as it ended. I’m just glad nobody was seriously hurt.”

He assured the quorum court members that they had a spare truck to keep collections going moving forward.

“We have one [spare] for the north end and the south end, and use them more often than you’d expect.”

The court nominated member Johnny Plyler to the state quorum court executive board, where Plyler holds the office of vice president.

It was asked before the vote if Plyler, who was not at the meeting, would be able to assume the duty after recent heart surgery featuring three bypasses.

Howard said it would likely take him around six months to full recovery, but that he would be able to fulfill the commitments of the task.

“He didn’t have a heart attack, but was on the verge of one due to the blockages.”

The court also approved Ordinance No. 2025-1, which set the date, time and place of the monthly Pike County

Quorum Court Meetings in 2025 and 2026.

The court meets at the Pike County Courthouse on the third Monday of each month, with the time starting at 6 p.m. during winter months and at 7 p.m. during daylight savings time months.

The only deviation of the schedule after January will be in February, when President’s Day will move the meeting to Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

In the ordinance it also states that the court will operate by Robert’s Rules of Order the Procedural Guide for Arkansas Quorum Court meetings.

Additionally, it gives the court the ability – with a majority vote --to change a meeting date or location “at its pleasure” during the course of the biennium.

The final account balances for 2024 (opening/closing in December) were announced by County Treasurer Loletia Rather:

County General -- \$1,415,447.45 / \$2,013,802.75
County Road -- \$699,847.43 / \$753,692.44
County Landfill -- \$900,965.38 / \$928,771.12
All County Accounts -- \$7,333,385.85 / \$7,963,809.73



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Mineral Springs Elementary School

Honor Roll

The second nine-week honor roll has been announced for Mineral Springs Elementary School:

1st Grade

All A

A’Jiah Miller, Karson Walker, Kinsley Cheatham, Etta Hawthorne, Zo’lee Snyder, Trinity Washington, Caliyah Webster

All A&B

Joseline Adame, Aiden Delarosa, Madison Greenlee, Decoreyon Griffin, Alex Halsdorf, Dakari Harris, Brooklyn Thornton, Bryson Block, Kaiden Cline, Gracie Pioterek

2nd Grade

All A

Loreanna Hall, Ayanna Turner, Avyana Hopkins, Donovan Kirkham, Cali Newton

All A&B

King Brown, Kayden Carrillo, JaKari Mays, Zamiah Peoples, Laylah Cheatham, Anthony Jackson

3rd Grade

All A

Kirklynn Trotter, Emma Armenta, Baylor Bean, Viviana Hardeman, Barrett Harris, Tate Henderson, Kruze Langston, Odyssey Mallory, Destiny Scott

All A&B

JaQuincy Chipps, Briely Trimble, Caiden Wade, Londynn White, Emma Armenta, Baylor Bean, Viviana Hardeman, Barrett Harris, Tate Henderson, Kruze Langston, Odyssey Mallory, Destiny Scott

4th Grade

All A

Harrison Coleman, Joel Gomez

All A&B

Amora Martin, Alexander Ortiz, Jae-Dun Batton, Seth Shoumaker, Abigail Ortiz

5th Grade

All A&B

Mariah Ellis, Paris Jackson, Leelin Wheat, Nevaeh Washington, Sierra Tiger, Alison Gomez

6th Grade

All A

Emilyn Harris

All A&B

Aubri Dickerson, Georgiana Hawthorne, Jazlyn Rojas, Kinsley Heard, Katy Adame, Landon Conway, Miles Golston, Emma Walker, Christian Keele, Canon Scott, Karra Green, Levi Smith, Klayvonne Hardeman, Key’zhanian Nunally

Pike County judge to hosts series of townhall meeting, starting Feb. 3

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard has announced a series of meeting across the county to better help inform the public about the role that local government plays.

Howard said he has invited the county’s elected officials to attend each town hall meeting. The agenda for each meeting will consist of a rundown of each county

office, budgets, and an organized question and answer period for county residents in attendance. Topics can include any facet of county government, including --but not limited to -- taxes, trash collection and road maintenance.

Each of the four meetings will begin at 7 p.m., and will

be held on the following dates/locations:

Monday, Feb. 3, Murfreesboro Municipal Building

Tuesday, Feb. 4, Kirby School Cafeteria

Thursday, Feb. 6, Centerville School Cafeteria

Monday, Feb. 10, former Delight School Cafeteria

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Hempstead Master Gardeners event Feb. 25

The Hempstead County Master Gardeners will host their annual spring seminar on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at Hempstead Hall on the UAHT Hope campus. Guests may arrive at 5:30 p.m. to shop with vendors and bid on silent auction items.

A light supper will be available, and speakers will begin their presentations at 6:00 p.m.

To pre-register, call the Hempstead County Extension office at 870-777-5771 or

pay online at: https://uada.formstack.com/forms/mg_spring_seminar

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#WY125 (Photos courtesy Forest History Society.)

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DIERKS VS. CUTTER-MORNING STAR. Dierks junior high Outlaw Brayden Palmer (at left) completes a fastbreak basket against CMS; Senior Lady Outlaw Hannah Kirby (center) goes up for one of her 10 rebounds against CMS; and senior Outlaw Landon Young hits two of 22 points against CMS.

Dierks teams sweep Cutter-Morning Star

Dierks hosted Cutter-Morning Star on Friday, Jan. 24 and swept the visiting teams before a packed arena.

The junior Outlaws opened the night with a 44-15 win followed by the senior Lady Outlaws with a 45-37 win. The evening was capped by a 52-44 win for the senior Outlaws.

In the senior girls' game, the Lady Outlaws shot their way to a 16-14 lead after one quarter and then found themselves behind 27-22 at the half.

Dierks regained ground in the third quarter with 14 points while holding CMS to just six points for a 46-33 lead to set up the final quarter. The Lady Outlaws hit nine points and held CMS to just four point to secure the 45-37 final score.

Dierks had three players hit in double-figures - Milee Harrison 13, Ryleigh Walston 11 and Addison Hill 10. Adding to scoring was Ryleigh Simmons with 9 and Lilly Hogg with 2.

CMS was led in scoring by Libby Hood with 16 points.

In the senior boys' game, the Outlaws had to play from behind start the game, trailing 12-9 after the first quarter but Dierks rebounded in the second quarter to even the score at 20-20 at the half.

CMS got the upper hand in the third with a 15-10 showing to leave the Outlaws trailing 35-30 leading to the fourth quarter. The Outlaws secured the win when their offense fired in 22 points in the fourth while the defense held CMS to nine point to set the 52-44 final.

The Outlaws were led by Landon Young with 22 points followed by Peyton Boeckman with 15 and Dylan Moore with 9. Adding to the Dierks score was Jordan Hill with 5 and Ben Ernest with 1.

On Jan. 21, Dierks hosted Caddo Hills with the junior Lady Outlaws picking up a 42-9 win while the senior Lady Outlaws got a 59-15 win. The senior Outlaws were dropped by the Indians 50-47.

On Jan. 23, Dierks traveled to Kirby where the junior Outlaws won 45-23 and the senior girls won 52-20. The senior Outlaws were beaten 54-27 by the Kirby Trojans.

Rattlers pick up 50-34 win over Horatio Lions

The Murfreesboro Rattlers are continuing to rock along this season, still holding an undefeated conference record heading into this week.

On Jan. 21, the Rattlers claimed a 50-34 win over Horatio.

MHS would jump out to a 16-6 lead after the first quarter and 31-10 by halftime to cruise to the victory.

Dixon scored 15 points for the Rattlers, followed by Kooper Caldwell and James Silva with 14 each.

Silva led the team with 12 rebounds, while Caldwell collected five steals.

The team continued their winning ways against Foreman on January 24 with a 60-32 victory.

MHS would lead 20-12 after one and 31-20 at half time, but blew the game open by holding the Gators to a single point in the third quarter to lead 51-21.

Dixon had 24 points for the Rattlers, while Silva and Laytan Wilcher each scored 12 points.

Caldwell would add 10 to place four scorers in double figures for the team.

Silva pulled down 14 rebounds in the contest and had four assists to lead the team in both categories. Caden Dixon, Wilcher and Cash Lowery each had three steals apiece.

Rattler head coach Buster Bonner said he was pleased with the team's progression thus far through the season.

"I believe we are [coming along as we should] ... the shooting is getting better and the defense is consistent.

We are sitting in pretty good shape right now as the only team in conference without a loss [in conference play]. The question is can we keep it going?"

He said it wouldn't get any easier down the line for the Rattlers.

"On any given night there are several teams that could beat someone, but we are really pleased with where we are at right now.

"We just don't need to have a mental lapse of some kind. Physically, we can play with any team in the conference."

He said that if the Rattlers play at their best, it really doesn't matter what the other team does.

"But sometimes it doesn't always work out that way -- we may not play at our very best."

He said the key to the upcoming games were to keep playing "good team ball."

"They really play well together and pass the ball -- last week center James [Silva] led in assists.

"That doesn't always happen, but he does a good job when the defense collapses on him. That's they key to this bunch, they just play well together and compliment each other. The look for each other and it's not a one-man show out there."

Bonner joked that instability may have provided this group their best ability.

"One disadvantage to this group is that they have had a different head coach every year. But it's not hindering them, so I think they learned a little from each one along the way and combined it all. I don't know, but they sure do play well together," he concluded with a laugh.

Lady Rattlers end skid

On Jan. 24, the Murfreesboro High School Lady Rattlers ended the losing streak with a commanding, 57-13 win over Foreman at home.

MHS jumped out to a 19-3 lead after one quarter and held the Lady Gators scoreless in the second quarter while augmenting their lead to 34-3 at half.


Chloe Scoggin scored 16 points, while Jenna May added 14 and Sydney Braden had eight for Murfreesboro.

The Lady Rattlers lived at the free throw line going 23/35, and limited the turnovers to nine.

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



Pike County Circuit Court Report

Two defendants were sentenced during the Jan. 24 session of Pike County Circuit Court, including one from Howard County.

Joseph Viola, 41, who has addresses in Delight and Murfreesboro listed in court information, plead “true” to the charge of probation revocation and plead guilty to possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

He was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) on the revocation charge and 10 years with five years suspended on the drug charges. The sentences will run concurrently and he was credited for his time served.

Judge Tom Cooper also took a plea from Alisha M. Kersey, 44, of Glenwood, in a Howard County criminal case. Kersey was arrested in September 2021 at the Walmart in Nashville in an incident involving a shoplifting and was found to be in possession of meth with purpose to deliver and drug paraphernalia.

She was sentenced to three years in the ADC and ordered to pay related court costs.

Jan. 27 court

Six defendants were sentenced Friday, Jan. 27 in Pike County after entering pleas.

Pamela McKinnon, 61, of Delight, plead guilty to possession of meth and was sentenced to four years in the ADC with two years suspended. As part of her plea deal, the state will not pursue a charge of delivery of hydrocodone filed in February 2021.

William Killip, Jr., 41, of Lavaca, plead guilty to an amended felony charge of possession of meth and was sentenced to six years in the ADC with two years suspended. Killip was also ordered to pay related court costs and was credited for his time served.

Pantera French, 18, who is listed as both homeless and with a Glenwood address, plead guilty to charges of possession of a controlled substance, theft of property and breaking or entering. She was sentenced to a total of five years probation and fined a total of \$1,500 plus court costs. French was also ordered to complete a drug rehabilitation program.

Paula Marie Hill, 70, of Murfreesboro, plead guilty to the charge of possession of a controlled substance. She was sentenced to five years in the ADC with three years suspended. As part of her plea deal, the state will not pursue a drug paraphernalia charge. Hill is expected to return to court on Feb. 10 for formal sentencing.

Christopher Wright, 39, of Murfreesboro, plead guilty to the charges of theft by receiving and firearm possession. He was sentenced to seven years in the ADC with three years suspended and ordered to pay related court costs.

Jennifer Taylor, 41, of Story, plead “no contest” to a theft of property charge. She was sentenced to four years of probation and fined \$1,500 plus related court costs.

Murfreesboro man charged with peddling meth

Jeremy Rankins, 44, was charged Jan. 24. He is currently in county custody and is expected to make his first court appearance on Feb. 10. Rankins was arrested after an undercover buy by the drug task force.



Nashville News-Leader photo/COURTESY OF DIERKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALL-REGION BAND. Dierks High School Band members Isaac Wade (Second Band, 4th Chair-10th Overall, Euphonium) and Shannon Cawvey (Second Band, 5th Chair-13th Overall, Tuba) earned seats with the Region 2 All-Region band for a concert held on Saturday Jan. 25 at Lake Hamilton High School.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES WITH TAX LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026 TO AND INCLUDING JUNE 30, 2027

The Board of Directors of Dierks School District No. 2 Howard County, Arkansas, in compliance with the requirements of Amendments No. 40 and No. 74 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas and of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-622 has prepared, approved and hereby makes public the proposed budget of expenditures, together with the tax rate, as follows:

1.	Salary Fund Expenditures	\$ 2,909,000
2.	Instruction al Expense	\$ 890,000
3.	Maintenance & Operation Expense	\$ 492,000
4.	Dedicated Maintenance & Operation Expense	\$ 0
5.	Pupil Transportation Expense	\$ 401,000
6.	Other Operating Expense	\$ 50,000
7.	Non-Bonded Debt Payment	\$ 0
8.	Bonded Debt Payment	\$ 149,840

To provide for the foregoing proposed budget of expenditures, the Board of Directors proposes a total school tax rate (state and local) of 43.0 mills on the dollar of the assessed value of taxable property located in this School District. The proposed tax includes the uniform rate of tax (the “Statewide Uniform Rate”) to be collected on all taxable property in the State and remitted to the State Treasurer pursuant to Amendment No. 74 to the Arkansas Constitution to be used solely for maintenance and operation of schools in the State. As provided in Amendment No. 74, the Statewide Uniform Rate replaces a portion of the existing rate of tax levied by this School District and available for maintenance and operation of schools in this District. The total proposed school tax levy of 43.0 mills includes 32.0 mills specifically voted for general maintenance and operation and 11.0 mills voted for debt service previously voted as a continuing levy pledged for the retirement of existing bonded indebtedness. The surplus revenues produced each year by debt service millage may be used by the District for other school purposes.

The total proposed school tax levy of 43.0 mills represents the same rate presently being collected.

GIVEN this 20th day of January, 2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF DIERKS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Jaron Tipton
President of Board

Kara Tedford
Secretary of Board (DSD: 32)



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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS CIVIL DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE NORTH FORK OF OZAN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR COMMISSIONERS

Comes now, Eddie Stavely, and Gary Martindale as the sole remaining Commissioners (hereinafter “commissioners” or “board members”) of the Commissioners of the North Fork of Ozan Creek Watershed Improvement District, and for their Petition for Appointment of Successor Commissioners, state:

- That the North Fork of Ozan Creek Watershed District was established in the Chancery Court of Hempstead County, Arkansas on the 18th day of September, 1962 pursuant to Act No. 329 of the General Assembly of Arkansas for the year 1949 as amended by Act. No. 171 of the General Assembly of Arkansas for 1957 and by Act. No. 131 of the General Assembly of Arkansas for the year 1959.
 - That Jurisdiction and Venue are proper in Hempstead County Arkansas Circuit Court.
 - That of the last five board members to serve, there are only two surviving board members: namely, the Petitioners herein, Eddie Stavely, and Gary Martindale.
 - That in this particular district there has been an unusually long period pass since Commissioners have been replaced creating the need to replace the entire board due to the passing of three of the last five board members and the two surviving members requesting to resign.
 - That Eddie Stavely and Gary Martindale petition the court to appoint a completely new board consisting of five new board members.
 - That Petitioners request the Court appoint the following individuals as new Commissioners of the North Fork of Ozan Creek Watershed Improvement District: Kristin Stavely, Pace King, Justin Jones, Noel Davis III, Brent Stanley
 - That the immediately preceding five nominees for the appointment are all land owners owning land within, and therefore having a direct interest in, the North Fork of Ozan Creek Watershed District.
 - That all of the aforementioned nominees have agreed to accept the appointments.
 - That upon approval of this Petition, new board members will meet and vote on the appointment of officers.
- WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioners Eddie Stavely and Gary Martindale pray this Honorable Court grant their Petition for Appointment of Successor Commissioners and for all other just and proper relief to which they are otherwise entitled.

Respectfully submitted,
Eddie Stavely & Gary Martindale, Petitioners
By: /s/ Victor Martin
Victor Martin, Ark Bar# 2018116
Attorney for Petitioners
420 N. Main St. Suite One
Nashville, AR 71852
Phone: (870)-845-5256
ANYONE WANTING TO CONTEST THE ABOVE STATED APPOINTMENTS SHOULD CONTACT THE COURT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION (VM: 32, 33)



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PIKE COUNTY FIRE. The Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department was joined by the Bingen Volunteer Fire Department in fighting a house fire Tuesday, Jan. 21 on Ranch Road. The fire was reported around 11:55 a.m. and by the time firefighters arrived the structure was fully engulfed and was a complete loss.

February activities set at Cossatot River State Park

Join a park interpreter at Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area for an educational program or guided hike! 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. Please note that the Visitor Information Center is continuing winter weekend hours through February, open 1-5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

- Saturday, Feb. 1**
Owl Pellet Dissection
2 p.m. Meet at Visitor Information Center
Join a park interpreter in the classroom as we investigate the life of an owl. Hands on and fascinating for all ages!
- 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, Feb. 8**
Winter Birds of Arkansas
2 p.m. Meet at Visitor Information Center
Arkansas becomes a temporary haven for many migratory birds during winter. Join a park interpreter in the classroom to learn how to ID birds you may see in your backyard and in the park this time of year. Paint and take home a mini wooden birdhouse for our smaller feathered friends, or just for decor!
- Saturday, Feb. 15**
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.
- 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.

Dierks High School Honor Roll

- 7th Grade**
All A - Barrett Alexander, Nash Hill, Henry Semmler
A&B - Audrey Cooper, Braylee Foran, Parker Gadbury, Kadance Hamner, Klay Helms, Berkleigh Hill, Lalynn Jester, Scarlett Nuttall, Kinley Pitchford, Isabella Quintanilla, Zari Renfrow, Zoey Stinson, Hazel Trejo
- 8th Grade**
All A - Seth Bearden, Jacoby Faulkner, Brooklyn Gamble, Maxton Greene, Delannie Hawthorne, Jane Herrington, Madden Hill, Harley Howell, Konner Jones, Bailee Manasco, Brayden Mathis, Brayden Palmer, Savannah Tedford, Tristan Winer
A&B - Bristol Beilstein, Ean Chandler, Stephanie Delgado, Luz Garica, Creed Graham, Jett Jackson, Ellie Lee, Auston Mathis, Katelyn Moore, Griffin Shankles, Ali Shelton, Alexis Stinson, Madalyn Young
- 9th Grade**
All A - Sydney Barbre, Kaylan Coulter, Bentley Glasgow, Minee Harrison, Eligah Hawthorne, Joelle Herrington, Addison Hill, Emma Hoskins, Maclane Smith, Izy Thompson
A&B - Payeton Bagley, Kaylin Capps, Cashlynn Davis, Breezy Faulkner, Tinsley Hill, Colten Hobbs, Lily Kendrick, Shyanne Kight, Avery Koon, Preslet Pugh, Aiden Russell, Cooper Smith, Claire Stapp, Jareth Trejo, EJ Winer, Sophie Younger
- 10th Grade**
All A - Leah Allen, Tristen Godwin, Alanna Sayre, Isaac Turner, Abigail Vaughn, Raylie Walston
A&B - Brayden Ackley, Jancey Glidewell, Keara Hill, Treven Hill, Nicholas Lovell, Danielle Mathis, Laila Mayes, Drake Thatcher, Braxton Ward
- 11th Grade**
All A - Peyton Boeckman, Evelyn Diaz, Page Eason, Ben Ernest, Cecilia Hill, Lily Hogg, Krissyn Icenhower, Carlee Mounts, Kalee Mounts, Aspen Pugh, Ryleigh Simmons, Mason Smith, Amelia Sweeden, Gracie Thigpen
A&B - Connor Bailey, Sayer Baker, Shannon Cawvey, Jaydin Chapman, Kolton Gadbury, Kenny Martinez, Hailey Morris, Thomas Salgado, Scarlett Staggs, Linnea Thompson, Jacee Ward
- 12th Grade**
All A - Sierra Ainsworth, Kalli Alexander, Danny Deer, Sam Ernest, Kristen Hendershott, Bailee Hill, Jordan Hill, Grayson Kersey, Hannah Kirby, Karsyn Marshall, Steve Ortiz, Caleb Woodall
A&B - Chloe Billings, Erin Cowart, Kason Dougan, Stailee Harrison, Jeron Hill, Madison Hoskins, Jaycie Johnson, Kayla Marquez, Dylan Moore, Hailey Smith, Alley Stinson, Denver Tollett

Woman arrested for rape of minor

A Nashville woman has been arrested on suspicion of rape, according to Nashville Police Chief Amy Marion. Marion said Jennifer Gibson, 47, is currently being held in the Howard County Detention Center. On Jan. 21 at approximately 4 a.m., Nashville city officers responded to a call regarding a possible assault on a minor. When officers arrived, the complainant reported that the minor had been raped by Gibson . The juvenile male was taken to Howard Memorial Hospital and then taken to the Child Safety Center in Arkadelphia for a physical examination and a forensic interview. Nashville Criminal Investigator Tim Bowlin interviewed Gibson and was able to obtain a search warrant for Gibson’s DNA. This investigation is ongoing.



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