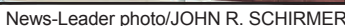


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News-Leader photo/  
DON HALL

See Chamber • Page 5A



**TO BE SOLD.** The former Regions Bank office at 103 N. Main in Nashville has been listed for sale by Scout Property Group of Texarkana, Texas. Scout has also listed the former drive-in location at 1101 S. 4th St. in Nashville. The main branch closed in December following the closure of the drive-in.



## Thefts from vehicles at trucking company results in arrest of Ohio man

A Cincinnati, Ohio man has been charged in Howard County Circuit Court for allegedly breaking into and stealing a vehicle at a local trucking company.

Ju Kyle Barnett, 21, was charged Feb. 7 with breaking or entering, theft of property and possession of a controlled substance.

On Feb. 2, Nashville officers were dispatched to Millwood Trucking in Nashville in reference to someone breaking into a vehicle. The complaintant said he was cleaning out his 18-wheeler when he notice a subject in his Jeep so he ran up and confronted the subject, who apologized for trying to steal the vehicle and headed to the nearby convenience store.

Officers took Barnett into custody and asked why he had committed to crime and he responded, “Sorry, I’m just high.” A small amount of marijuana was recovered from his person.

The Nashville Police Department is also looking for a Taco Bell employee who was allegedly taking pictures of customers’ credit cards and using the information to unauthorized purchases.

Maurica Trammell, 22, of Mineral Springs is wanted for felony theft of priority.

The NPD also arrested a 15-year-old male on Jan. 31 for attempting to steal a car in the parking lot of Scrapper Arena after finding a set of keys.

# Obituaries

**Minnie Pearl White**  
Minnie Pearl White, 65, of Nashville died Feb. 4, 2025, in Texarkana.

She was born in Hope Oct. 6, 1959, the daughter of the late George James, Sr., and Versie Lee Maxwell.

She was a member of Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in Ashdown.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bennie F. White, Sr.; and brothers George James, Jr., and Mitchell Henderson.

Survivors include: two sons, George (Shay) Willis

III and Timothy Griffin; a sister, Aletha Fields; brothers, Henry James and Otis James; also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be Friday, Feb. 14, from 4-6 p.m. at M&H Memorial Chapel, in Hope.

Services will be Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. at Rising Star Baptist Church, Hop.

Burial will follow at Cave Hill Cemetery #2, Hope.

Arrangements by McFadden & Hitchye Funeral Enterprises, Hope.

## Regional Library Board will meet Feb. 18 at De Queen

The Tri-County Regional Library System Board will meet for its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Sevier County Library-De Queen.

The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. and is open to the public.

On the agenda is officer election and financial information.

The director of the system is Marilyn Archer Addington. The system serves 10 public libraries in Howard, Little River and Sevier counties in Southwest Arkansas.

## Lady’s Night to be hosted by Cross Point Cowboy Church

Cross Point Cowboy Church will host a “Lady’s Night Out’ on Friday, Feb. 28.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the church located seven miles west of Nashville on Hwy. 371.

The \$5 entry fee covers a meal and door prizes. The featured speaker will be Tammy Whitehurst.

RSVP is requested by texting 870-845-9022 or 870-451-1246.

The public is invited.

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**BASKETBALL TALK FOR ROTARY.** Nashville basketball seniors Channing Scott, left, and Kason Morgan, along with their coach, Aaron Worthen, talked to the Nashville Rotary Club, last Wednesday. They were introduced by Supt. Doug Graham. Morgan won the Rotary football MVP award presented last Saturday.



**SCRAPPERETTES AT ROTARY.** Nashville senior girls Caroline Dean, left, and Mercy Hagler, talked to the Nashville Rotary Club, last Wednesday. The athletes appeared without their coach, Paul Dean who was with his daughter who was undergoing surgery that day.

## FINANCIAL FOCUS

# Put those long-awaited tax returns to work

By Josh Tice  
Edward Jones Investments

Most of us probably don’t enjoy preparing our taxes, but there’s often a reward at the end — a tax refund. If you get a refund this year, how can you make the best use of it?

Of course, the answer depends somewhat on the size of your refund. Last year, the average tax refund was \$3,050, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Whatever the size of your refund, though, you’ll want to maximize its benefit. Here are a few suggestions:

- *Contribute to your IRA.* If you were to receive about \$3,000, it would go a long way toward funding your IRA for the year — but any amount would help. You still have until April 15, 2025, to contribute to your IRA for the 2024 tax year, but if you’ve already “maxed out” on it, you could use your refund for 2025. The annual contribution limit for a traditional and Roth IRA remains \$7,000, or \$8,000 if you’re age 50 or older. And by getting an early start toward fully funding your IRA, you can reduce the pressure of having to come up with large amounts later in the year.
- *Build an emergency fund.* Your tax refund could help you start or expand an emergency fund. It’s a good idea to keep up to six months’ worth of living expenses in such a fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account, separate from the funds you use for your daily expenses. You might need to draw on this fund for unexpected expenses, such as a major home or car repair or a medical bill that’s not fully covered by your health insurance. Without such an

emergency fund in place, you might be forced to dip into your IRA or other retirement accounts to pay for these types of costs, and such a move could be expensive, resulting in taxes, penalties and lost opportunities for growth.

- *Contribute to a 529 plan.* If you have children or grandchildren and you’d like to help them further their education someday, you might consider investing in a 529 education savings plan. With a 529 plan, earnings and withdrawals are federally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified education expenses. Based on where you live, your 529 plan may provide state tax benefits, too. (It is possible, though, that 529 withdrawals could affect financial aid packages, depending on who owns the account.) A 529 plan can be used to help pay for college, accredited trade school programs, some K-12 expenses and even to help repay some student loans.
- *Pay down debts.* Your tax refund may give you a chance to reduce your debt load. But which debts should you tackle first? You could follow the “snowball” method by paying off the smallest of your loans or debts as quickly as possible. Or you could choose the “avalanche” route by making minimum payments on all debts and using extra funds — such as your tax refund — to pay off the debts that carry the highest interest rates. Either method could help you save money in the long term.

It’s not often that you receive a financial windfall such as a tax refund — so think carefully about how you can maximize its benefits.

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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

122 years ago: February 1903

Melvin Jones, who was shot by John Chandler accidentally while they were out hunting birds last Tuesday, died Wednesday night. Jones was wounded in the leg and the entry was of such a serious nature the attending physician decided an amputation was necessary. The operation was performed Wednesday, but the patient never rallied, and he died Wednesday night.

Minor Huddleston, who lives near Womacks Mill east of this city, had one of his arms badly injured last Tuesday by an explosion from a gun which he was shooting. Huddleston had a recipe for making gun powder and was trying some of the explosive when the accident occurred.

79 years ago: February 1946

Mrs. Ben Edwin Hill and children Sandra and Michael arrived in the city Wednesday night to join their husband and father, Ben Edwin Hill, who returned a few months ago from duty in the European Theatre of War. They came to the states with a large group of English wives and children of service men and were met in New York by Mr. Hill.

62 years ago: February 1963



Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church as it looked in the 1950s. The church is located on Highway 278 north of Center Point. It was organized sometime before 1845.

Airman First Class Jerry W. Metcalf of Dierks, Arkansas has been selected Outstanding Airman of the month in the 2052<sup>nd</sup> Communication Squadron at Keesler AFB, Mississippi. Airman Metcalf, an United States Air Force communications machine repairman, was selected for the honor in recognition of his exemplary conduct and performance of duty. The airman, a graduate of Dierks High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Metcalf of Dierks. Metcalf’s wife, Florence, is the daughter of Mrs. Syble Pettigrew of Horatio.

(Adv.) Don’t forget Fish Night at Joda’s each Friday night. Five BBQ sandwiches for \$1.00.

42 years ago: February 1983

The children’s choirs at First United Methodist Church have found an innovative way of raising funds for new choir robes. The children are selling “Singing Valentines” to area residents. Purchasers may choose the songs, including “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” “You Are My Sunshine” and “I Love You a Bushel and a Peck.”

The children, who are in kindergarten through the sixth grade, will deliver the Valentine songs to the doorsteps throughout the city Saturday, Feb. 12.

Chicken once was a Sunday meal enjoyment, a special treat, but today people eat chicken two or three times a week. Consumption is up, thanks to production changes in the poultry industry.

## Progress in prostrate cancer fight

By Sen. John Boozman

Every two minutes, a man is diagnosed with prostate cancer in our country. This disease is currently the second-leading cancer-related killer of men in the United States.

That reality is too familiar in The Natural State. According to ZERO Prostate Cancer and the American Cancer Society, there were 2,950 new cases in Arkansas last year and 360 deaths, ranking our state 18th in incidences and 32nd in mortality nationally. That means there were 119 diagnoses and 19 deaths for every 100,000 men.

One of the most common types of cancer, its risk factors include age, race and genetic connection.

Men over 50 years old are encouraged to get annual screenings, and those over 65 account for 60 percent of all cases, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

The institution also cites elevated risks for Black men and those of African ancestry, who also develop the disease earlier, as well as those exposed to Agent Orange. Finally, a family history with the illness also increases likelihood by two to three times.

Like so many others, my family has experienced the impact of a prostate cancer diagnosis. It can often be a mixture of emotions including fear and anxiety. The good news is that in the early stage, it is almost 100 percent survivable.

This is evidence enough of the need to promote early detection.

I’m proud to help advance that effort through public policy with the recent introduction of a bipartisan bill to expand insurance coverage for prostate cancer screenings.

The Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) Screening for High-risk Insured Men (HIM) Act, which I’m leading with the help of Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), would require private health insurance plans to cover preventive prostate cancer screenings without imposing any cost-sharing requirements for men who are at high risk of developing prostate cancer.

The Prostate-Specific Antigen blood test is the most

effective tool for detection, and making it more accessible can help save lives.

Our bill has support from leading prostate cancer advocacy organizations including ZERO Prostate Cancer, the American Urological Association, and the American Cancer Society and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

This initiative represents meaningful progress in such a critical fight. Thankfully, we’re also seeing more efforts and advancement at the state level in Arkansas.

Earlier this year, St. Bernard’s Medical Center in Jonesboro announced the successful completion of Arkansas’s first Robotic Focal HIFU (High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound) procedure, a noninvasive robotic surgery that targets diseased portions of the prostate without damaging the surrounding healthy parts, leading to fewer complications and shorter recovery times.

And the Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation,

which was started by six prostate cancer survivors in 2000, is making strides in educating citizens as well as providing services including testing that leads to early detection and intervention. Last September, it launched a campaign that saw high school football players wear prostate cancer ribbon decals on their helmets while their coaches took part in “No Shave November” to help raise awareness.

Our General Assembly took up the cause as well, passing legislation in 2023 requiring health insurance companies in the state of Arkansas to continue to cover prostate cancer screenings for every man over the age of 40.

This is all about saving lives across the nation and helping fewer families endure the challenges and loss that accompany aggressive, late-stage prostate cancer. My colleagues and I are honored to lead a small part of that effort in the Senate and will keep seeking even more support.

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:



- Lines that appear to be “dead” can become energized as crews work to restore power or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators. Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed or sagging line, contact your utility.
- If you are in an auto accident involving a downed power line, your vehicle is usually the safest place to be (unless it is on fire.) If it is safe to do so, stay in your car, call 9-1-1, and wait for electric utility personnel to arrive to deenergize the power. If you step out of the car and the ground is energized, you could become the electrical current’s path to ground and you could be electrocuted. If your car is on fire or you see smoke, make a solid, clean jump from your vehicle and hop away with your feet together as far away as you can. If you run or walk away, you could get electrocuted.
- Motorists should never drive over a downed line, as snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.



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## Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Jan. 30-Feb. 5, 2025, unless noted otherwise, include the following:

**Marriage Licenses**

(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk’s office)

No marriage licenses issued during the period.

**Civil Court**

CV25-11, Jan. 31. Forsythe Finance, LLC, vs. Brian Parker. Contract.

CV25-12, Feb. 03. Arvest Bank vs. Kennon Ragland. Contract.

CV25-13, Feb. 04. State of Arkansas vs. Truman L. Dixon. Property forfeiture.

CV25-14, Feb. 05. Capital One N.A. vs. David Peek. Debt.

**Domestic**

**Relations Court**

DR25-06, Feb. 03. Stephanie Diane Franco vs. Javier Franco. Divorce.

DR25-07, Feb. 3. Laura Deville Gray vs. Matthew Pinegar. Divorce.

DR25-08, Feb. 4. Lindsay Ellsworth vs. Brett Ellsworth. Order of protection.

**Criminal Court**

(NOTE: POCs = possession of controlled substance; PODP = possession of drug paraphernalia; DOCS = delivery of controlled substance)

CR25-14, Feb. 3. State of Arkansas vs. Marlon Montes Benson, 51, black male, 1102 S. Hutchinson, Nashville; maintaining a controlled substance offense premises, class B felony; felon in possession of firearm, class B; PODP, class D.

CR25-15, Feb. 3. State of Arkansas vs. Kody Lynn Box, 32, white male, 11321 Hwy. 278W. Nashville; POCs, class D; PODP, misdemeanor.

CR25-16, Feb. 3. State

of Arkansas vs. Marc Reed Harris, 49., white male, 1494 Hempstead 37, Ozan; furnishing prohibited articles, class B; PODP, class D.

CR25-17 Feb. 3. State of Arkansas vs. Melissa Ashbrook Young, 58, white female, 105 Ellis Road, Dierks; POCs, class D; PODP, misdemeanor.

**Land/Property Transactions**

**Quitclaim Deeds**

Feb. 03. Deborah Lynn Walker; to Wayne and Beverly Kesterson, husband and wife; 40 ac. in S35 T6S R30W. \$12,500.

Feb. 03. Gwendolyn Star Cowley; to Wayne and Beverly Kesterson, husband and wife; 40 ac. in S35 T6S R30W. \$12,500.

Feb. 04. Kara Tedford and husband, Cody Tedford; to Philip Todd Manasco; aggregate 15.048 ac. in S34 T5S R29W.

**Heir’s Deed**

Feb. 03. Richard C. Schwope and Pauline S. Schwope, et al, lawful heirs; to Marie H. Davis Family Limited Partnership; property in S26 T8S R27W. \$514,900.

**Personal Representative’s Deed**

Feb. 03. Diane Reeves, Personal Representative of the Estate of Richard Dane Schwope; to Marie H. Davis Family Limited Partnership; property in S26 T8S R27W. \$514,900.

**Beneficiary’s Deed**

Jan. 30. Melanie Clements; to Hannah Barfield, Kylie Clements, and Trace Clements; aggregate 10.14 ac. in S11 T10S R27W.

**Trustee’s Deeds**

Jan. 31. Donny Woods, Trustee of the Winston Clarence Musgrave Revocable Trust; to Jason Harrison and wife, Stephanie Harrison;

0.378 ac., part of Lots 19 thru 22 and part of an alley in Block 14, McCullough’s Addition, Town of Mineral Springs. \$70,000.

Feb. 03. David H. Laurent and Duane L. Laurent, Co-trustees of the Harold and Josie Laurent Irrevocable Trust; to JMT Acquisitions, LLC; 34.78 ac. in S34 T9S R28W. \$55,000.

**Deed of Trust**

MHP Estates, LLC; to Equity Trust Co.; 2 tracts; 5.79 ac. in S25 T8S R27W and 0.889 ac. in S20 T10S R27W. \$100,000 plus interest.

**Redemption Deed**

Jan. 31. State of Arkansas; to Allene Wynn, c/o Tiffany Rogers, Nashville; Lot 11, Block 39, SWRED Co. Addition, aka 1017 Price St., Nashville; payment of delinquent taxes and penalties of \$892.51.

**Warranty Deeds**

Feb. 03. Chloe Sue Ward; to Wayne and Beverly Kesterson; 40 ac. in S35 T6S R30W. \$28,000.

Feb. 04. Jarrad Alan Shelton and wife, Christy Adams; to Nashville MHP Estates, LLC; 0.889 ac. in S20 T10S R27W. \$60,000.

Feb. 04. Sammy Ray Coleman and wife, Laurie A. Coleman; to Nashville MHP Estates LLC; 5.79 ac. in S25 T9S R27W. \$454,000.

Feb. 05. Brian Smead and wife, Jennifer Smead; to Sam Coleman and wife Laurie Coleman; 5.78 ac. in S31 T7S R28W. \$100,000.

Feb. 05. Alice Marie Hosey Heatherly; to Millwood Corporation; aggregate 19 ac. in S35 T10S R28W. \$25,000.

Feb. 05. Leslie Ann McCrary, surviving spouse of Carl McCrary; to Leslie Ann McCrary, Trustee of the Leslie Ann McCrary Trust; 11 ac. in S12 T9S R28W.

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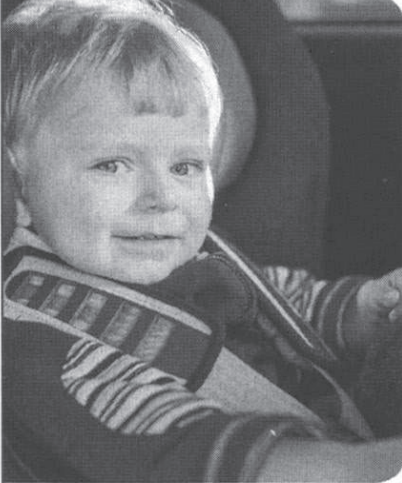
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# Point of view

## Look at my shoes

### Colorful footwear was influenced by the ‘pros’

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I hadn’t paid much attention to basketball players’ shoes until the Scrapper coach answered a question about them during his recent visit to the Rotary Club.

This is really a story about how the influence of pro athletes reaches down all the way to the peewee players.

In the 2018 season the NBA allowed players to wear shoes of a different color than those of the team’s previous design. I didn’t know because I don’t watch NBA games.

Didn’t take long until the pro players started wearing REALLY different shoes. To express their individuality, I guess.

Mine Creek Revelations



By Louie Graves

Then, college players also wanted to wear lime green or polka dot shoes just like the pros even if the team’s color was red.

Then high schoolers wanted them.

The irony of this is that coaches, fans and society encourage a ‘team’ mentality and the same time must deal with this lace-up expression of individualism.

Our coach obviously loves his players. He said that he originally preferred uniform shoes. Then, players were allowed different shoes only if they were black, white, gray or orange (those are colors that best coordinate with Scrapper colors).

Then, coach finally allowed whatever the players wanted to wear. The rest of the uniform is -- well -- uniform. We don’t have lime polkadot jerseys, yet.

The players must buy their own colorful shoes, now, whereas once before -- when colors were restricted -- a loyal business supporter here bought the team’s shoes.

The coach said that as long as the players behave themselves, give great effort, respond to coaching, then if they REALLY want flamboyant shoes it’s okay.

I don’t have a dog in this fight. In high school I was rotund, short, slow and uncoordinated. I couldn’t play basketball, but I was a fabulous team assistant manager, helping the late great Howard Ritchie. We mostly washed uniforms in the ‘home ec’ cottage and we stayed out of trouble.

Mostly.

So did ‘our’ players. Mostly.

They didn’t need any flamboyant shoes to get Coach Jones’s attention since he was already sorta on edge about the way they were playing.

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GOOD EATS. Thanks to the volunteers that made the weekend fund-raisers possible for Howard County 4-H and for the Center Point Volunteer Fire Department.

And Tuesday’s Taco Fund-raiser for the school’s soccer team.

And please notice that the Moonlighters EHC ladies sponsor the bi-monthly blood drive out at Centre Point. They’ve got cookies. These ladies have been doing this for a loooooong time.

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OUR GOOD HEALTH. A bulletin from the Arkansas Department of Health late last week conveyd the following scary news: “The proportion of deaths reported to the National Center for Health Statistics that were attributed to pneumonia, influenza and COVID-19 was above the epidemic threshold.” (Emphasis mine)

The Statistics Center is a part of the National Institutes of Health. Do you think that Robert Kennedy, Jr., the new anti-vax Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services will curtail the work done by NIH? What about the influence of Co-President Elon Musk?

I think BOTH of them are a danger to the health of myself, friends and family, and our nation. I sincerely regret that our Republican senators and congressmen confirmed Kennedy’s nomination and have allowed the Co-President to have so much power.

I hope to live long enough to show that regret at the voting place.

Thank God for medical research and the health professionals who do it. Thank God for researchers like Dr. Jonas Salk who discovered a vaccination that prevents polio. Thank God for vaccinations that prevent smallpox, measles, shingles, mumps, influenza, etc.

One of Co-President Musk’s unqualified buddies has been put into a Treasury Department position overseeing Social Security, Medicare, tax return checks, etc. Does this worry you?

Hope to live long enough to show my Trump burnout at the voting place.

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WARNING. More arrests in our town for persons stealing from parked vehicles.

Do not leave your buggy unlocked at home, while shopping or at your workplace or at a Scrapperette game.

And definitely do not leave cash or firearms in your buggy.

● ---- ● --- ●

THINGS I LEARNED from opening e-mail: “I’m not saying I’m old and worn out, but I make sure I’m nowhere near the curb on trash day.”

● ---- ● --- ●

HE SAID: “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Martin Luther King, Jr., minister and civil rights activist

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SHE SAID: “The only way to learn a language properly, in fact, is to marry a man of that nationality. You get what they call in Europe a ‘sleeping dictionary.’ Of course, I have only been married five times, and I speak seven languages. I’m still trying to remember where I picked up the other two.” Zsa Zsa Gabor, Hungarian comic actress

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SWEET DREAMS, Baby

## Nashville News-Leader

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## Senate approves free school lunches, bans cell phone use in public schools

**By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.**  
The Senate voted to provide all public school children with free lunches, regardless of their income, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

Also, the Senate passed legislation to restrict students’ cell phone use during the school day.

State budget officials estimate that it will cost \$14.7 million a year to ensure that all students get one free breakfast every day. The governor has publicly announced her support of the measure, Senate Bill 59. It is co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of 25 senators.

When children go hungry their long-term health is negatively affected, and their grades suffer. Hunger affects a child’s academic performance and increases their chances of being punished for behavioral problems and missing classes, according to testimony before the Senate Education Committee.

National studies indicate that students who have eaten breakfast perform better on standardized tests.

Students improve academically in general, and some studies show that they specifically do better in

mathematics.

After passing SB 59 the Senate sent it to the House of Representatives, where it has sufficient co-sponsors to guarantee passage.

Currently, students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals depending on their family income. The legislature passed Act 656 in 2023 to prohibit schools from charging students a copayment.

SB 142, to restrict cell phone use by students, also passed overwhelmingly but with a few dissenters who said the measure should also apply to students in private schools.

Supporters countered that most private schools already have policies that restrict cell phone use.

SB 142 requires all school districts to adopt a policy to restrict the use of cell phones “from bell to bell.”

Its sponsor said the bill’s purposes include eliminating distractions in the classroom and improving the mental and emotional health of young people.

Some students have an individualized education program (IEP) because they have special needs. An IEP may include the use of electronic devices or cell phones.

Students with an IEP would be exempt from the restrictions in SB 142.

The state already had been helping school districts with cell phone restrictions. Last year the state provided about \$7 million to 180 school districts pay for magnetic pouches and other devices for storing cell phones during the day.

**Expanded Child Care**  
The state Education Department has added 2,600 children to a program that helps families pay for child care, bringing the program to its greatest capacity of about 18,300 student.

According to the department, Arkansas gets about \$100 million a year in federal grants to help low-income families pay for child care, thus better preparing them for kindergarten.

Last year the department expanded the program to make more families eligible. The Office of Early Childhood anticipates a waiting list, due to higher demand, beginning this month. However, teen parents and those on welfare, homeless families, children with special needs and foster children will be exempt from the waiting list.

## Legislation advances in House

**By State Rep. Dolly Henley**  
As the Arkansas House of Representatives enters the 5th week of the 2025 Regular Session, several key pieces of legislation have moved forward, addressing issues ranging from food freedom to healthcare access and election policy.

One measure that received House approval, HB1149, ensures that counties and municipalities cannot impose regulations on vegetable gardens located on residential properties. This bill upholds the right of homeowners to cultivate their own produce without restrictions. Similarly, the House passed HB1048, which expands opportunities for small farmers by allowing the sale of unpasteurized milk at farmers’ markets or

through direct delivery from the farm where it is produced.

Healthcare policy also saw legislative action this week. HB1181 allows certified nurse midwives to admit and discharge patients from licensed hospitals if granted privileges, improving maternal healthcare access. Additionally, HB1309 clarifies cost-sharing requirements for breast cancer examinations.

The House also passed HB1221 this week, which limits the validity of ballot initiative titles and petition signatures to the election cycle in which they are approved and collected.

In addition, the House also passed SB3, a bill that seeks to eliminate affirmative action programs in state government. The proposed legislation states that the

state shall not discriminate against or grant preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in matters related to state employment, public education, or state procurement.

The House also took up legislation impacting seasonal commerce, approving HB1324 to adjust the permissible sales period for fireworks. This bill moves the start date for summer fireworks sales from June 20 to June 13 while keeping the existing winter sales period unchanged.

In the week ahead, the House expects to address cell phone restrictions in schools and free breakfast for students. You can watch all House committee meetings and House floor proceedings at arkansashouse.org.

## Sound forest management practices needed

**By U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman**  
To many, forestry is simply viewed as the trees planted in someone’s backyard, shade during an outdoor activity, or nature’s greatest indicator of the changing of the seasons. But for Arkansans, forestry is a way of life. As the heart of America’s woodbasket, Arkansas is covered by 19 million acres of forestland that provides not only scenic beauty, clean air and water, wildlife habitats, and opportunities for outdoor recreation, but is also a major economic driver. Tens of thousands of hard-working Arkansans depend on a thriving forestry industry, and in turn good forestry management, to provide for their families.

Over the course of recent weeks, the nation has been heartbroken to see the devastation in the wake of the California wildfires. My thoughts have been with those who have lost homes and even

loved ones due to the horrific fires across southern California. This catastrophic natural disaster can only bring us to reflect on our own state’s response to forest management practices. Healthy forests have direct impacts not only on wildfire prevention, but air quality, carbon emission reduction, water quality, and even wildlife management. In many ways Arkansas leads the nation for forest management of our federal lands – and while the Natural State could always improve our forest management practices, it is exciting that our great state leads the charge on efforts to become better stewards of our land.

None of us are immune to the dangers of wildfires – most notably due to the imbalance of forest growth and removal ratios. With all the unmanaged forests on our federal lands, dense, overgrown forest stands are the perfect kin-

dling needed to stoke dangerous fires that can threaten communities near wildland urban interfaces.

As a licensed forester serving in Congress, spreading the good news about forests to colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop sound forest management practices across the country is a passion. Many of these practices were learned firsthand in the great state of Arkansas. This is one reason it is exciting to reintroduce the bipartisan Fix Our Forests Act, as Congress looks for ways to prevent further loss and devastation due to wildfires. As we bring this legislation to the House Floor, my prayers are most certainly with the folks of southern California as they face tremendous loss and damage to the beloved land they call home. My hope is that policy in the Fix Our Forests Act will prevent other Americans from having to endure such a tragedy in the future.

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

### Letters policy

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

Mail: Nashville News-Leader, Box 205, Nashville, AR 71852.  
E-mail: [jrs@nashvilleleader.com](mailto: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.





Nick Britt and Tate Gordon check on smoked chicken prepared for a benefit dinner Feb. 6 at Nashville High School. Fellowship of Christian Athletes hosted the meal.



Volunteers put together chicken dinners Feb. 6 at NHS. The event was a benefit for Assistant Principal Eric Perez and his family following the death of his nephew.

Principal Ashley Riggs (right) carries dinners to Judy Cassidy's vehicle.



Chamber

Continued from page 1A

1966 David Pile

1967 Edgar McCrary

1968 Pat Honeycutt

1969 Al Backus

1970 Ralph Wilson

1971 Ronny Blakely

1972 James Chandler

1973 Dale Hamilton

1974 Edwin Dale

1975 Bruce Anthony

1976 Joe Branch

1977 Pete Gathright

1978 David Boden, Roy Reaves

1979 David Pile

1980 Kenneth Wilson

1981 Louie Graves

1982 Price Kreul

1983 Rick Castleberry

1984 Herschell Teague

1985-86 Mike Reese

1987 Larry Teague

1988 Dennis McBride

1989 Wendell Hoover

1990 Jerry Jacobs

1991 Sammie Cox

1992 Don Cooley

1993 Greg Tate

1994 Mike Kinkade

1995 Rob Hainen

1996 Donnie Parrish

1997 Deb Kinkade

1998 Roger Cox

1999 Roger Cox, Deb Kinkade

2000 Price Kreul

2001 Sheila Kreul

2002 Floyd Clark, Jr.

2003 Don White, Sr.

2004 Tina Chism

2005 Ronny Woods

2006 Earl Sanders

2007 Cary Lott

2008 Charlie Peek

2009 John Gray

2010 Rusty Hagler

2011 Dena Tollett

2012 Tim Pinkerton

2013 Wendy Haddan

2014 Mary Woodruff

2015 Ouida Terrell

2016 Noelle Couch

2017 Will Martin

2018 Bill Craig

2019 Tammy Gibson

2020 Loren Hinton

2021 Mark Dale

2022 Carlos Martinez

2023 Michelle Boone

2024 Aaron Tollett

2025 Kristin Stavelly

Sunshine

Continued from page 1A

had any experience or training with agriculture, except for what Susan gained while growing up. "My degree is in history, and I worked in museums for over 10 years," she said. "Robert's a CPA."

"He used to audit the bank I worked at in Texarkana," added Danita.

In 1999 their lives changed. "Mom and Dad retired and were ready to sell the business," said Susan, "and God led us back here."

When asked if he missed working as a CPA, the answer from Robert was an instantaneous NOPE.

"I liked museum work," Susan added, "but he hated being inside all day, sitting at a desk."

Robert is hardly sitting at a desk these days.

"I planted my first big batch of tomatoes yesterday," he said.

How many did you plant?

"Thousands. We'll start having them ready towards the latter half of March," he added. "People don't really need to plant them that early, but they're going to want them, so we'll have tomatoes ready."



Jaree Hall of Nashville looks over the coleus and ferns at Sunshine Acres.

This time of year, Sunshine Acres is open from 9-5 every day but Sunday. There are people milling around, buying fruit trees, shrubs, and berry vines, but the huge crowds will begin showing up around the middle of March, with people coming from Hot Springs, Hope and Texarkana.

"Usually, spring break will kick off the season if the weather's nice," said Susan.

What else would you like people to know about Sunshine Acres?

"A lot of people think that the plants are grown some-

where else and we ship them in," answered Susan. "We want people to know that everything is grown here; everything but the trees and shrubs are grown on-site. We know what's been done to them. They're good, healthy plants, and they're plants that are going to do well in this area. Everything's grown here with love."

And Robert?

"I have the same busy season that I did as a CPA," he said with a grin. "Only now I don't have to tell people how much money they owe the government."



Danita Wall and Susan Nannemann at Sunshine Acres near Nashville.

Bank

Continued from page 1A

Regions was one of several banking companies which utilized the Nashville facility.

Some of the others included First National of

Texarkana, First National Bank of Nashville and Planters Bank.

The former Regions office in Ashdown is also listed with Scout.

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\*This vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4106. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standards by which the horsepower of many cars is measured, and as a result the referenced HP measurement may be higher than if it were measured by an SAE standard.

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## Glenwood teen charged with intimidating witness

A Glenwood teen has been charged in Pike County for allegedly intimidating a witness involving in a shooting in December.

Kaiden Evans, 18, was charged Feb. 7 and he plead innocent to the charge Monday in Pike County Circuit Court. His bond was set at \$10,000 and he was assigned a public defender with a March 3 pretrial date set.

According to case information, agents with the Arkansas State Police responded to a call on South Second Street in Glenwood on Dec. 26, 2024 in reference to a shooting. The agent found 15 bullet holes in the east wall of a home and an occupants, identified as Kierra Stenstrom had been shot in the upper torso.

Stenstrom was treated at a nearby hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

On that same date, a subject named Lindsey Brooks was interviewed in reference to the case and began receiving threats over text message that aggressively accused her of “snitching” to the police.

Also on that same date, Evans was interview with his mother’s consent and denied any involvement in the shooting but did admit to sending the threatening message to Brooks.

In other Pike County proceedings held Monday, Candy Kane Lane, 53, of Delight, plead guilty to possession of a controlled substance and was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with four years suspended. She is to return to court on March 3 for official sentencing.

## ACF scholarships offered

Scholarships are now available for eligible Arkansas students through Arkansas Community Foundation.

The Community Foundation’s scholarships are for Arkansas students pursuing education at two- or four-year colleges or universities, vocational schools or technical training programs. Each scholarship has its own eligibility criteria. Some scholarships are designated for graduates of a particular high school or those who plan to attend a particular college. Others are based on extracurricular activities or intended college majors.

To apply, and for more information about these and other scholarships, visit [www.arcf.org/apply/scholarships/](http://www.arcf.org/apply/scholarships/).

You may also contact Jane Jones at [jjones@arcf.org](mailto:jjones@arcf.org) or call 501-372-1116.



**SIGNED UP WITH THE WONDER BOYS.** Minerals Springs Hornet standout Rahmaij Ware signed up last week to play linebacker with the Arkansas Tech University Wonder Boys. Ware is a two-time All-State player with more than 100 tackles during both seasons at linebacker. As a sophomore, Ware missed half the season with a broken ankle, but still managed to finish third on the team in tackles and even earned All-District status. Ware, who also excelled in the classrooms, was recruited as part of the first class of newly-appointed Wonder Boy Head Coach Roy Thompson, who is the former defensive coordinator from Ouachita Baptist University. Outgoing Hornet head coach, Jason Hathcock, said in his 17 years of coaching that Ware may be the most instinctive linebacker he has coached. “He has a knack for getting to the football and is sideline to sideline.” Hathcock (center) joined Hornet coaches (from left) Quinton Thornton, Keontae Larry, Dre Lawson and Phillip Gentry during the signing ceremony held for Ware.

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...much snow and when there's no snow!



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### Weird, Wintry Weather!

Wow! Every winter we seem to say at some point that we are having "weird weather this year." Sometimes the temperature is above freezing for a period of time and fun, outdoor events may be called off due to lack of cold, ice and snow. Other times we have deep cold with surprisingly low temperatures and we break records. And once in awhile, we have a winter with "too much" snow. In some areas people even have to shovel some of the snow off of their roofs!

If ponds are not frozen enough to skate upon them safely, find an indoor ice rink!

toboggan  
shovel  
mittens  
skis  
woodpile  
skates  
sand

Ice is Safe! Open Today

Don't you just love a snowy day?

Oh, no you don't!

Is that a carrot?

There's No Day Like a Snow Day

Read the clues to fill in this wintry weather puzzle:

1. handy to clean the driveway and sidewalks
2. are sharpened and ready to glide
3. will keep my hands warm while I build a snowman
4. will keep people from slipping on ice
5. is waxed and ready to carry my friends downhill
6. is stacked and ready to fuel warm fires
7. are next to the poles, ready to slide downhill

Follow the dots to see what's coming down. Next, find and circle the snowy day words in the word search puzzle.

Don't you just love a snowy day?

What Do People Do When There's No Snow?

Some people think that we may be in for more bitter, cold weather before spring arrives. Right now, in many areas it is too cold to stay outside for long periods of time, but there is no snow for sledding and the ponds are not safe for skating. People are still getting outside for exercise and a breath of fresh air. Can you fill the correct word in the blanks for outdoor activities that can be done when there's no snow?

Kids are:

1. playing a game of \_\_\_\_\_
2. playing street \_\_\_\_\_
3. scattering \_\_\_\_\_ for birds
4. bouncing \_\_\_\_\_
5. racing radio-controlled \_\_\_\_\_
6. walking their \_\_\_\_\_
7. kicking \_\_\_\_\_ balls

cars tag hockey  
basketballs dogs seeds  
snow tires soccer

Can you find and circle at least 12 words that begin with the letter "w" as in the word "winter"?

Too Much Snow!

Fill in the missing letters to see what people are busy doing when there's just too much snow! Then fill in the names of the storms that bring the snow.

1. s \_ o \_ e \_ i \_ g
2. s \_ o \_ b \_ o \_ i \_ g
3. s \_ o \_ m \_ b \_ l \_ n \_
4. s \_ n \_ i \_ g
5. s \_ l \_ i \_ g

What Brings the Snow?

When a lot of precipitation falls in a short period of time, usually combined with a lot of wind, the meteorologist calls it a storm. A storm may have rain, hail, sleet or snow. What are the names of storms that bring snow?

1. \_ \_ now \_ \_ torm
2. bli \_ \_ ard
3. nor \_ \_ ast \_ \_ r
4. snow squa \_ \_

s z l  
z l e  
e s

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a public hearing at which the users of the City of Nashville, Arkansas Water and Sewer System (the “System”), the citizens of the City of Nashville, Arkansas (the “City”) and all other interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard concerning the confirmation of water and sewer rates and the proposed issuance of a water and sewer revenue bond. The public hearing will be held at a meeting of the City Council to be held at 12:00 o’clock p.m., on the 24th day of February, 2025 at 426 N. Main, Nashville, Arkansas.

The City Council has determined that the City is in need of betterments and improvements to the water facilities of the System (the “Improvements”). The City proposes to issue a water and sewer revenue bond in the maximum principal amount of \$12,079,207 (the “bond”) to finance all or a portion of the costs of the Improvements.

The water and sewer rates to be confirmed are as follows:

Water Rates. The water usage of each customer shall be determined each month by meter measurement, and the amount to be paid by each customer shall be computed on the basis of the following schedule of rates:

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025				
Customer Type	First 2,000 Gal (minimum)	2,001-15,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	15,001-50,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	All over 50,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)
Residential - 3/4”	\$15.00	\$3.75	\$2.75	\$2.25
Sr. Citizen - 3/4”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial -3/4”	25.00	4.25	2.75	2.25
Residential - 1”	25.00	4.50	3.00	2.50
Sr. Citizen - 1”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial - 1”	35.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Industrial - 1”	40.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Commercial - 1.5”	50.00	5.00	3.00	2.50
Industrial - 1.5”	55.00	5.50	3.25	2.75
Residential - 2”	30.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Sr. Citizen - 2”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial - 2”	55.00	5.25	3.50	2.50
Industrial - 2”	60.00	5.75	4.00	2.25
Commercial - 3”	140.00	6.25	3.75	2.50
Industrial - 3”	145.00	6.75	4.25	2.75
Commercial - 4”	170.00	7.00	4.50	3.25
Industrial - 4”	180.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Commercial - 8”	400.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Industrial - 8”	500.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Industrial - 10”	500.00	7.00	4.00	3.00

January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026				
Customer Type	First 2,000 Gal (minimum)	2,001-15,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	15,001-50,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	All over 50,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)
Residential - 3/4”	\$ 15.00	\$3.75	\$2.75	\$2.25
Sr. Citizen - 3/4”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial -3/4”	25.00	4.25	2.75	2.25
Residential - 1”	25.00	4.50	3.00	2.50
Sr. Citizen - 1”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial - 1”	35.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Industrial - 1”	40.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Commercial - 1.5”	50.00	5.00	3.00	2.50
Industrial - 1.5”	55.00	5.50	3.25	2.75
Residential - 2”	30.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Sr. Citizen - 2”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial - 2”	55.00	5.25	3.50	2.50
Industrial - 2”	60.00	5.75	4.00	2.25
Commercial - 3”	140.00	6.25	3.75	2.50
Industrial - 3”	145.00	6.75	4.25	2.75
Commercial - 4”	170.00	7.00	4.50	3.25
Industrial - 4”	190.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Commercial - 8”	400.00	7.00	4.00	3.25
Industrial - 8”	500.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Industrial - 10”	500.00	7.00	4.00	3.25

January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2027				
Customer Type	First 2,000 Gal (minimum)	2,001-15,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	15,001-50,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	All over 50,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)
Residential - 3/4”	\$ 15.00	\$3.75	\$2.75	\$2.25
Sr. Citizen - 3/4”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial -3/4”	25.00	4.25	2.75	2.25
Residential - 1”	25.00	4.50	3.00	2.50
Sr. Citizen - 1”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial - 1”	35.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Industrial - 1”	40.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Commercial - 1.5”	50.00	5.00	3.00	2.50
Industrial - 1.5”	55.00	5.50	3.25	2.75
Residential - 2”	30.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Sr. Citizen - 2”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial - 2”	55.00	5.25	3.50	2.50
Industrial - 2”	60.00	5.75	4.00	2.25
Commercial - 3”	140.00	6.25	3.75	2.50
Industrial - 3”	145.00	6.75	4.25	2.75
Commercial - 4”	170.00	7.00	4.50	3.25
Industrial - 4”	190.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Commercial - 8”	400.00	7.00	4.00	3.25
Industrial - 8”	500.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Industrial - 10”	500.00	7.00	4.00	3.25

January 1, 2028 - December 31, 2028				
Customer Type	First 2,000 Gal (minimum)	2,001-15,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	15,001-50,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	All over 50,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)
Residential - 3/4”	\$ 15.00	\$3.75	\$2.75	\$2.25
Sr. Citizen - 3/4”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial -3/4”	25.00	4.25	2.75	2.25
Residential - 1”	25.00	4.50	3.00	2.50
Sr. Citizen - 1”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial - 1”	35.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Industrial - 1”	40.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Commercial - 1.5”	50.00	5.00	3.00	2.50
Industrial - 1.5”	55.00	5.50	3.25	2.75
Residential - 2”	30.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Sr. Citizen - 2”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial - 2”	55.00	5.25	3.50	2.50
Industrial - 2”	60.00	5.75	4.00	2.25
Commercial - 3”	140.00	6.25	3.75	2.50
Industrial - 3”	145.00	6.75	4.25	2.75
Commercial - 4”	170.00	7.00	4.50	3.25
Industrial - 4”	190.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Commercial - 8”	400.00	7.00	4.00	3.50
Industrial - 8”	500.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Industrial - 10”	500.00	7.00	4.00	3.50

On and After January 1, 2029				
Customer Type	First 2,000 Gal (minimum)	2,001-15,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	15,001-50,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	All over 50,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)
Residential - 3/4”	\$ 15.00	\$3.75	\$2.75	\$2.25
Sr. Citizen - 3/4”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial -3/4”	25.00	4.25	2.75	2.25
Residential - 1”	25.00	4.50	3.00	2.50
Sr. Citizen - 1”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial - 1”	35.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Industrial - 1”	40.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Commercial - 1.5”	50.00	5.00	3.00	2.50
Industrial - 1.5”	55.00	5.50	3.25	2.75
Residential - 2”	30.00	4.75	3.00	2.50
Sr. Citizen - 2”	10.00	3.25	2.75	2.25
Commercial - 2”	55.00	5.25	3.50	2.50
Industrial - 2”	60.00	5.75	4.00	2.25
Commercial - 3”	140.00	6.25	3.75	2.50
Industrial - 3”	145.00	6.75	4.25	2.75
Commercial - 4”	170.00	7.00	4.50	3.25
Industrial - 4”	190.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Commercial - 8”	400.00	7.00	4.00	3.50
Industrial - 8”	500.00	7.00	4.00	3.00
Industrial - 10”	500.00	7.00	4.00	3.50

Sewer Rates. The sewer charges shall be based on water consumption and the amount to be paid by each customer shall be computed on the basis of the following schedule of rates:

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025			January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026			January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2027		
Customer Type	First 2,000 Gal (minimum)	All Over 2,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	Customer Type	First 2,000 Gal (minimum)	All Over 2,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	Customer Type	First 2,000 Gal (minimum)	All Over 2,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)
Residential	\$ 16.50	\$4.00	Residential	\$ 17.00	\$4.00	Residential	\$ 17.00	\$4.00
Sr. Citizen	15.50	3.50	Sr. Citizen	15.50	3.50	Sr. Citizen	15.50	3.50
Commercial	25.00	4.25	Commercial	50.00	4.25	Commercial	55.00	4.25
Commercial - Flat	75.00	--	Commercial - Flat	80.00	--	Commercial - Flat	80.00	--
Industrial	50.00	4.25	Industrial	50.00	4.25	Industrial	55.00	4.50
Industrial (with its own treatment plant)	600.00	--	Industrial (with its own treatment plant)	625.00	--	Industrial (with its own treatment plant)	650.00	--
January 1, 2028 - December 31, 2028			On or After January 1, 2029					
Customer Type	First 2,000 Gal (minimum)	All Over 2,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)	Customer Type	First 2,000 Gal (minimum)	All Over 2,000 Gal (per 1,000 gal)			
Residential	\$ 17.50	\$4.25	Residential	\$ 18.00	\$4.50			
Sr. Citizen	15.50	3.50	Sr. Citizen	15.50	3.50			
Commercial	55.00	4.25	Commercial	55.00	4.50			
Commercial - Flat	80.00	--	Commercial - Flat	85.00	--			
Industrial	55.00	4.50	Industrial	55.00	4.75			
Industrial (with its own treatment plant)	650.00	--	Industrial (with its own treatment plant)	650.00	--			

At the hearing all objections and suggestions as to the rates and the bond will be heard, and the City Council will take such action as is deemed proper in the premises.  
DATED this 12th day of February, 2025.

/s/Larry Dunaway, Mayor

(This publication was paid for by the City of Nashville. The amount paid for this publication is \$510.40)





Scrapper Booster Club Corporate Sponsors were recognized between games Feb. 7 at Scrapper Arena. There are 34 Corporate Sponsors for 2024-25. Johnny Wilson called off the list, including (not in order) Gold Sponsors Nashville Family Pharmacy, 10-Minit Lube, Lawrence Termite and Pest Control, Stavely and Associates Real Estate, York Gary, Hendry Oil Co., Neeley Service Center, BoomBoom Floor Shine, Tyson, Farmers Bank, Rays Realty, Lisa Chandler Insurance, Patacakes, Shelter Insurance, Futrell Marine, Poblanos, Paul Ray Trucking, Immanuel Baptist Church, First State Bank, Millwood Trucking, Print Mania, Southern Belle, R&J Supply, Edward Jones, Pafford, Brasel Law, JW Manufacturing, Howard Memorial Hospital, First Trust Home Loans; Platinum Sponsors Cornerstone Counseling Clinic, Nashville Vision Center, UA-Cossatot, Elixir and Diamond Bank.



Angel Watson puts up a 3-point shot in the Scrapperettes' 56-36 loss Feb. 4 at De Queen.



Roochie Wiley (left) runs past the Hope Bobcat on his way to a score in Nashville's 70-15 win Feb. 7 at Scrapper Arena. The Scrapperettes will travel to Arkadelphia Feb. 18 and Camden Fairview Feb. 21 to wrap up the regular season. Regionals begin Feb. 26.



Olivia Kitchens (1) protects the ball as Mercy Hagler (left) and Angel Watson (right) move in to help during the Scrapperettes' 73-17 District 7-4A win over Hope Feb. 7. Nashville will visit Arkadelphia Feb. 18 and Fairview Feb. 21.



Ava Basiliere (44) and Karstyn Scrivner (24) team up for a steal against Hope in Nashville's 73-17 home win Feb. 7. The Scrapperettes will conclude the regular season at Fairview Feb. 21 before the regional tournament Feb. 26-March 1 at Monticello.



Cortez Cooper keeps the ball away from the Hope Bobcat.

Demetrus Shelley comes away with the rebound in Nashville's 75-60 win at De Queen.

News-Leader photos/  
JOHN R. SCHIRMER

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SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by  
The Leader sports department

Kasen Morgan, Nashville

Kasen (right), a Scrapper senior, was named Most Valuable Player at the Rotary Football Banquet Feb. 1. Superintendent Doug Graham presented the award.

This weekly feature sponsored by  
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FIND NEW ROADS



Local dentist  
has hand  
in new clinic  
at Camp  
Robinson

**By John Balch  
News-Leader staff**  
NORTH LITTLE ROCK - There are only two rooms and two chairs, but those two things will go a long way in getting and keeping Arkansas Army National Guard soldiers ready to do their jobs, said Col. Dr. Glenn Lance of Nashville about the recently opened in-house dental clinic at Camp Joseph T. Robinson.

Lance, who is the Army Guard's highest-ranking dentist, said soldier dental care has "notoriously been the number 1 reason" across the nation that soldiers experience non-deployable status.

"So, dental care is extremely important for us to keep the soldiers out there doing what they're supposed to be doing," said Lance, who has operated a private dental practice in Nashville since 1988.

Arkansas becomes just the fourth state National Guard nationwide to authorize Army Guard dentists to treat guardsmen during drills or annual training. The two-chair clinic is designated to "provide dental care to keep soldiers worldwide qualified and dental ready to deploy" and will have the capacity to treat 15 to 20 soldiers a day.

"This is a game changer for the Arkansas Army National Guard," said Col. Clint Miller, Medical Command Commander during the clinic's opening cer-



**AT WORK IN THE NEW CLINIC.** Arkansas Army National Guard Col. Dr. Glenn Lance of Nashville works on a soldier in the newly-opened dental clinic at Camp Robinson. Photos Courtesy of Arkansas Army National Guard

emony on Dec. 8, 2024. He added that the facility "not only provides us with an additional capability, but it also contains current state-of-the-art equipment that exceeds many current operating civilian clinics."

Murfreesboro native, Maj. Jarrett Stark, Headquarters Commander of the Army Guard's Medical Readiness Detachment, called the new clinic "an awesome opportunity" during the opening and added that the soldiers will be under the skilled care of its civilian trained dentist, including Col. Lance and three others. The dentists, seven in total across the state, are all credentialed with the National Guard Bureau.

Lance, 61, said he will mainly supervise three young dentists, who he said he has consistently encourage to be good stewards of those two chairs with hopes of the operation being expanded.

The clinic has been in the works for about two years and Lance said he is confident the addition at Camp Robinson will save the Army Guard time and money.

"We'll be able to address their dental needs here with our dentists so we won't have to use contract dentists," Lance said. "And, we're going to provide the highest level of care for these soldiers just like we would in our private practices."



**MURFREESBORO NATIVE** Maj. Jarrett Stark heads up the Army Guard's Medical Readiness Detachment.

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- **Laboratory**
  - **Specialty services**
  - **Cancer infusion**
  - **Cardiology**
  - **Dermatology**
  - **Pediatrics**
- **Orthopedics**
  - **Urology**
  - **Wound care**
  - **Primary care**
  - **General surgery**
  - **Robotic surgery**





# Howard County District Court

Feb. 6, 2025  
BF=Bond Forfeited  
Howard County  
Bradshaw, Ashley Michelle, 34, Kirby, guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$75; guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$560  
Buenrostro, Jennifer, 30, De Queen, \$240 BF, speeding  
Coburn, Savion, 25, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345  
Conway, Jasmine R., 35, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$2,460 owed  
Giles, Adrianna Sydney, 23, Prescott, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
Gipson, Allen J., 20, De Queen, \$240 BF, speeding  
Hockaday, Corey B., 33, Nashville, \$195 BF, no child restraint  
Johns, Noah Lane, 26, Amity, \$250 BF, speeding  
Johnson, Jennifer, 44, Hope, guilty of failure to pay registration, fined \$210  
King, Stephanie B., 39, De Queen, guilty of speeding, fined \$230  
Lorenzo, Alexis, 26, Alexander, \$445 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license; \$250 BF, speeding  
Mauldin, Bradyn, 22, Nashville, \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance  
Montes-Covarrubia, Aaron, 28, De Queen, guilty of speeding, fined \$230  
Moon, Gerald D., 68, Maumelle, \$240 BF, speeding  
MOran-Luna, Francisco, 30, De Queen, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345  
Neal, Gotta D., 39, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance fined \$345; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
Rosenbaum, Kollin, 19, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$805 owed; guilty of speeding, fined \$250; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
Santiago, Oscar, 34, Dierks, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license; \$345

BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$195 BF, no child restraint  
Smalley, Nicole B., 38, Texarkana, guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$125; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$125  
Smith, Alexis J., 25, Texarkana, Texas, guilty of speeding, fined \$270; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
Wade, Carlos Deon, 48, Euleess, Texa, guilty of speeding, fined \$230  
Waldrop, Caden S., 28, Conway, \$210 BF, failure to pay registration  
Ware, Christian T., 41, Nashville, guilty of failure to comply with court order, fined \$220; guilty of non-payment of fines, \$805 owed  
White, Garland D., 36, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,110 owed  
Witcher, Reign, 23, Texarkana, Texas, \$240 BF, speeding; \$245 BF, failure to appear  
Worth, Travis M., 20, Prattsville, \$250 BF, speeding; \$245 BF, failure to appear  
City of Nashville  
Andracia-Garcia, Jose R., 48, Mineral Springs, \$230 BF, speeding; \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license  
Brewer, Randy, 48, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license  
Davis, Princeton J., 37, Nashville, \$50 BF, failure to present insurance  
Ewert, James B., 68, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,330 owed  
Finley, Lance Todd, 42, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$260 owed  
Goodloe, Karl D., 41, Mineral Springs, \$260 BF, speeding  
Howard, Niesha Lacole, 22, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended or revoked license, fined \$345; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
Lowery, Amanda Diane, 41, Hot Springs, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Mauldin, Bradyn, 22, Nashville, \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance  
Nation, Gloria Yates, 61, Hughes Springs, Texas, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Neri, Austreberto, 55,

Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$945 owed; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of running stop sign or light, fined \$195; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345  
Ojendiz Carrillo, Elida, 46, Mineral Springs, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license  
Pearce, Thomas C., 24, Doddridge, \$195 BF, no vehicle license  
Reeves, Raymond Anthony, 68, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445  
Ross, James F., 26, Mineral Springs, \$195 BF, no child restraint; \$145 BF, use of wireless phone while driving  
Smith, Jeffrey, 39, Nashville, guilty of attempt to defraud drug/alcohol screen, fined \$710  
Stovall, Caden N., 19, Alexander, \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$245 BF, failure to appear  
Sullins, William R., 47, Prescott, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445  
Ward, Adam L., 44, Dierks, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$370 owed, committed to jail-suspended conditions; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$560; guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months  
White, Garland Deshawn, 36, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended license, fined \$610 and sentenced to 10 days in jail-suspended  
Wiley, Warren M., 45, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445  
Woods, Thomas L., 60, Nashville, guilty of DWI#2, fined \$1,660, sentenced to seven days in jail, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of no child restraint, fined \$195; guilty of no seat belt, fined \$70  
City of Dierks  
Buckingham, Kyah S., 21, Little Rock, \$270 BF, speeding  
Carroway, Mason F., 30, Glenwood, \$425 BF, driving

on suspended or revoked license  
Eudy, Dalton Lane, 25, Dierks, \$425 BF, contributing to delinquency of mine  
Martinez, Miguel, 45, Texarkana, \$240 BF, speeding; \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license  
Parnell, Daniel Ray, 47, Broken Bow, Okla., guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445;

guilty of defective turn signal or brake lamp, fined \$210  
Pires, Gabriel, 44, Maple Shade, N.J., \$230 BF, speeding  
Rogers, Randall O., 54, De Queen, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445  
Santiago, Oscar, 34, Dierks, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license; \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance  
City of Mineral Springs  
Finley, Todd Lance, 42, Mineral Springs, guilty of failure to appear, fined \$2245  
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission  
Choate, James D., 26, Texarkana, \$220 BF, personal flotation device requirements  
Gentry, Samuel C., 21, Slidell, La., \$870 BF, hunter endangerment prohibited

## Public invited to help Nashville First Assembly of God celebrate 75th anniversary

On Sunday, Feb. 16, First Assembly of God church in Nashville will celebrate 75 years.

A special celebration service honoring the church's 75th anniversary will begin at 10:30 a.m., with a barbecue lunch to follow. Rev. Ronnie Morris, district superintendent of the Arkansas Assemblies of God, will be the guest speaker.

The church extends an open invitation for any community members to attend this celebration.

Although the church will be celebrating its 75th anniversary as an Assemblies of God congregation, the founding of the church itself goes back a little further.

In 1946, Rev. R.M. Elswick started holding services in a brush arbor before obtaining a building on the property now occupied by Farmers Bank & Trust.

On Feb. 5, 1950, the growing congregation would file for affiliation with the Assemblies of God as "Glad Tidings Assembly of God," under the leadership of then pastor, Rev. Lonnie Guess.

The church would later relocate to the former Church of Christ building located on the property where the Nashville City Hall complex parking lot is today.

In 1980, a new church was contracted at 1405 West Sunset St., under the leadership of Rev. James Pfifer.

On Friday, Jan. 12, 2018, first responders were notified that smoke was coming from the church's roof. The building was reduced to smoldering ruins a little more than an hour later, despite the firefighters' best efforts.

Everything was lost but the perseverance and dedication of the congregation, and the support and love of the citizens of Nashville.

The church was immediately contacted the City of Nashville, offering use of the Carter Day Training Center, where the congregation met for the first two weeks.

County Line Missionary Baptist Church then offered its fully-equipped multipurpose building to First Assembly for as long as they needed it, and this generous offering sustained the congregation until the new church was built.

The new facilities added 10,000 sq. ft. of space over the former building, all debt free.

In 2024, the church entered into a contract with Grace Christian School to host the school in the First Assembly facilities. God has blessed this partnership as the church and school continues to grow.

The church has been served by 15 pastors since its founding. Current pastors Rev. Terry Goff and wife, Cherie, have served in that role for 16 years, placing them as the longest tenured pastors in the history of the church.



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**20% Tax Refund Discounts**



## Former Pike County deputy vacates Montgomery County constable position

**By Dewayne Holloway**  
Montgomery County News

Mount Ida – A former Pike County Deputy who is currently facing two counts of theft of property, has vacated the Montgomery County Constable position he has held since 2023. Vines had just started his second term as constable.

According to a resolution submitted to the Montgomery County Quorum Court Monday, February 10, 2025, The Constable South District Position has been vacated. The resolution states that Brandon Vines has submitted his resignation from the position of Constable South District for personal reasons.

The Montgomery County Quorum Court approved Resolution 2025-06 officially vacating the position of Constable South District during their February meeting held Monday, February 10, in Mount Ida. County Judge Bart Williams stated that they plan to leave the position vacant until the next election.

Vines was arraigned last Monday, February 3, 2025,

in Pike County Circuit Court for two counts of theft of property, a class D felony. According to an affidavit filed with the Pike County Circuit Clerk’s Office, Special Agent Ernesto Echevarria investigated the alleged theft of two firearms issued to Vines while working for the Pike County Sheriff’s Office.

According to the affidavit, Vines worked for the Pike County Sheriff’s Office from May 21, 2024 to December 30, 2024. No reason was listed as to why he was terminated.

Upon his employment he was assigned a Mossberg Model 590, 12 gauge shotgun and a Colt M-16 AR rifle. After his termination the affidavit alleges Vines returned part of his assigned equipment but did not turn in the firearms.

On January 2, 2025, Glenwood Police Department Chief Greg Harmon noticed a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun for sale. The affidavit alleges Harmon recognized the gun as Pike County property. He notified Chief

Epperly at the Pike County Sheriff’s Office of this and confirmed the weapon was the won allegedly assigned to Vines.

The Colt M16 was allegedly located in the possession of a Glenwood resident who alleges he was given the firearm as collateral for money he loaned Vines. Both guns were returned to the Pike County Sheriff’s Office.

The affidavit alleges that during an interview with ASP Special Agent Echevarria Vines admitted to pawning his county issued shotgun and using the M16 for collateral for a loan.

Vines was arrested and charged with two counts of theft of property, a class D felony. He was arraigned February 3, 2025 on both charges.

A pretrial hearing was set for March 3, 2025. He was released February 4, 2025 on a \$10,000 bond.

All charges listed are simply allegations and all persons listed are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

## Hempstead County department closings for President’s Day

The Hempstead County Courthouse, Road Department and Waste Department will be closed Monday, Feb. 17, for President’s Day.

All activities will resume regular working hours on Tuesday.

Trash routes for Hempstead County residents for

Monday and Tuesday, Feb. will be collected Tuesday. Residents are asked to have trash out by 7 a.m.



4-H

Valentine's Bake Sale

14 FEBRUARY

Diamond Bank  
9:00 a.m. until sold out

Come support the Howard County Teen Leader Club. There will be lots of goodies!!!!

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## Attend Church This Sunday!

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Sunday (Esp.) - 11 a.m.  
Wednesday - 6 p.m.  
Thursday - 8 a.m.  
1st Friday - 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday (Esp.) - 6:30 p.m.  
**Fr. Salvador Vega, Pastor**  
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**LOCKESBURG FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ 11:00 A.M.**  
**& MT. CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 12:15 P.M.**  
**TOMMY HALSELL, PASTOR**  
*Everyone is always welcome!*

*Facts About The***BIBLE**

BY JOHN LEHTI

PROPHETIC ASSOCIATIONS

THE FIRST MENTION OF A COMPANY OF PROPHETS, AS A GROUP IS NOTED IN THE BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL (1 SAM.10:5), THAT WAS IN THE TOWN OF GIBEAH OF GOD, THE HOME OF SAUL, FIRST KING OF ISRAEL. WHETHER THEY WERE A WANDERING BAND OF PROPHETS, GOING FROM TOWN TO TOWN OR A COMMUNITY OF PROPHETS LIVING AT GIBEAH, IS HARD TO SAY NOW. NEVER- THELESS, THIS IS THE BAND THAT KING SAUL PROPHESIED WITH IN NAIOTH, IN RAMAH, WHEN HE WAS SEARCHING FOR DAVID. (1 SAM.19:18-24) THE BIBLE TELLS US HERE THAT SAMUEL STOOD AS ONE APPOINTED OVER THEM AND SAUL PROPHESIED BEFORE SAMUEL -- IT LEAVES THE IMPRESSION THAT SAMUEL DID HAVE SOME LEADERSHIP OVER THEM. HOWEVER, TWO HUNDRED YEARS LATER, IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL, PROPHETIC COMMUNITIES DID MAKE THEIR APPEARANCE FOR A BRIEF SPELL, PROBABLY FOUNDED BY ELIJAH, ON THE MODEL OF THE EARLIER SOCIETY UNDER SAMUEL. THESE MEMBERS WERE CALLED...



“SONS OF THE PROPHETS? THE NAME DENOTES THAT THEY DID BELONG TO A PROPHETIC ORDER; JUST AS A SON OF THE GOLDSMITH FOLLOWED THE GOLDSMITH'S ART, AND THE SON OF AN APOTHECARY, THE TRADE OF A/S FATHER, AND A SON OF A SINGER BELONGED TO A SINGER'S GUILD (NEH.3:8,31) — ALSO (IT KINGS 2:3,7,16).

307 SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

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Bro. David Cassady  
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Prayer Meeting - Wed. 6:30 p.m.  
Jim Henderson, Pastor

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Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.  
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Evening worship 6:00 p.m.  
**Rev. Kevin Sartin**

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**First Church of God**  
*Community Oriented & Christ Centered*  
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Worship 11:00 a.m. • Youth 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday evening service 6:00 p.m.  
**Rev. Charles Green, Pastor**

**HOLLY CREEK Missionary Baptist Church**  
705 Main St. • Dierks • 286-2010  
Sun. School 10:00 a.m.  
Sun. Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.  
Sun. Evening 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday WOW 6:00 p.m.  
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**DIERKS VS. FOREMAN.** Dierks Lady Outlaw Lilly Hogg (at left) goes up for the rebound against the Foreman Lady Gators; Dierks' Milee Harrison (center) drops a three-pointer over Foreman; and Outlaw Peyton Boeckman goes up for two points.

# Dierks sweeps Foreman

As the season wraps up with district tournament play set to start next week, Dierks hosted Foreman on Feb. 4 and collected three wins on their home court.

The undefeated conference champion junior Lady Outlaws put down the Lady Gators 46-11 to open the night while the senior Lady Outlaws posted a bug 87-39 win.

The senior Outlaws also picked up a 61-49 win.

In the senior girls' game, the Lady Outlaws wasted little time putting the game out of range. Dierks hit 22 first-quarter points, including four three-pointers,

while holding the visitors to only 12. The onslaught continued in the second quarter with the Dierks ladies outscoring Foreman 24-15 for a 46-27 lead at the half.

It only got worse for Foreman in the second half. Dierks sank 27 points in the third while Foreman could only manage three points. The Lady Outlaws put the game in the rearview mirror in the fourth with 14 points to round out the 61-49 final.

Five Lady Outlaws hit in double-figures, including Miles Harrison with 18, Addison Hill with 15 and Ryleigh Simmons, Raylie Walston and Gracie Thigpen

adding 12 points each. The Dierks scoring was rounded out by Hannah Kirby and Lilly Hogg with eight points each and two points from Aspen Pugh. The ladies hit 13 three-pointers on the night.

Foreman was led in scoring by Aniyah Bromsey with 15 points worth of three-pointers.

In the senior boys' game, the Outlaws didn't get the chance to coast to a win like their senior counterparts. The Outlaws had to basically stay one step ahead of the Gators for the majority of the game, opening with a 14-11 lead after one quarter

and holding a 31-27 lead at the half.

Dierks got the upper hand in the third quarter with a 15-point effort while the defense allowed only nine Gator points. The Outlaws were able to cap the game in the fourth with a 15-13 showing.

Dierks was led by Dylan Moore with 25 points, including four three-pointers and Landon Young with 20 points. Peyton Boeckman also hit in double-figures with 10 points and Jordan Hill added six points.

Foreman was led in scoring by DJ Anderson with 12 points.



News-Leader photos/NIKKI FIELDS IMAGES & DESIGNS



News-Leader photo/NIKKI FIELDS IMAGES & DESIGNS

**AGAINST FOREMAN.** Dierks junior Lady Outlaw Ali Shelton goes up for two points in the win over Foreman. Both of Dierks' junior high teams are currently in district tournament play.

Girls

Conference Standings

1. Cutter-Morning Star (13-1)

2. Dierks (13-1)

3. Mountain Pine (9-5)

4. Horatio (7-6)

5. Spring Hill (6-8)

6. Murfreesboro (5-9)

7. Caddo Hills (2-11)

8. Foreman (0-14)

Boys

Conference Standings

1. Murfreesboro (11-2)

2. Cutter-Morning Star (10-4)

3. Caddo Hills (9-4)

4. Spring Hill (9-5)

5. Dierks (8-6)

6. Mountain Pine (3-10)

7. Horatio (2-11)

8. Foreman (2-12)

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News-Leader photo/COURTESY OF SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS.** The Murfreesboro senior Rattler basketball team has finished the regular season with a 12-2 record and the top seed in the upcoming district tournament. Team members include Caden Dixon, Jamuri Jones, Rustyn Oliver, Colt Bailey, Cash Lowery, Kooper Caldwell, Kale Burns, James Silva, Laytan Wilcher, Garrett Lamb, Landen Jones, Weston Lamb, Eason Hung, Cayden Ballard, Ross Spradlin, Conley Crane, Ceasar Reyes and DJ Leeper.

## Murfreesboro splits games with Dierks

The Murfreesboro High School senior basketball squads closed out their conference seasons last week with games against Dierks. The Lady Rattlers would fall to the conference champion Lady Outlaws by a 61-32 score. Dierks would hold a 10-8 lead after the first quarter, but would outscore Murfreesboro 16-6 in the second to take a 26-14 lead into halftime. Murfreesboro tried to keep the score close in the third, losing the period 14-8, but the Lady Outlaws

would pour it on in the fourth quarter with a 21-10 advantage to set the final score. Addison Hill would lead Dierks with 17 points, followed by Hannah Kirby with 11 and Aspen Pugh with eight. Jenna May would score 10 to lead MHS, while Natalie Perrin had eight, Joccee Holt seven and Sydney Braden six. Dierks ended the season tied for the top spot with Cutter Morning Star, each with 13-1 record in conference play.

Murfreesboro ended with a 5-9 record, good for sixth place out of the eight team conference. MHS will close out the regular season with a senior night at home on Tuesday and a trip to in-county foe Kirby on Friday. The team will then return home to play host for the postseason conference tournament which begins on Monday, Feb. 17. The Rattlers would be victorious with a 60-41 win over the Outlaws after jumping out to a 15-2 first quarter lead.

The Rattlers held leads of 33-19 at halftime and 44-28 after three quarters. James Silva would lead MHS with 20 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks. Caden Dixon added 18 points, 11 rebounds and two steals, while teammate Kale Burns scored 11 points. The win sends the Rattlers to the postseason conference tournament as the number one seed with a 12-2 record. The Outlaws finish the conference season with a 8-6 record, good for fifth place in the upcoming tournament next week.



News-Leader photos/NIKKI FIELDS IMAGES & DESIGNS

**DIERKS@MURFREESBORO.** Dierks Outlaw Brayden Palmer (above) up against a defensive stance by Rattler Caden Dixon in the Rattlers' 60-431 win and Lady Outlaw Ryleigh Simmons (below) hits a three-pointer in the 62-32 win over the Lady Rattlers.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY,  
ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:  
CHARLES OLLIE WHITE, deceased No. 31PR-25-5

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Last known address of the decedent: 916 Highway 70 W, Dierks, Howard County, Arkansas 71833

Date of Death: December 29, 2024

An instrument dated February 04, 2025, lawfully appointed Danny White Administrator of the above estate. That all persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate. This notice first published on the 12th day of February, 2025

Petitioner,  
Danny White

BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell  
Attorney for Petitioner  
306 E. Broadway  
Glenwood, AR 71943  
(870) 356-2589  
Arkansas Bar #2022047

(DB: 34, 35)


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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Southwest Arkansas Developmental Homes, Inc. will accept applications from individuals 18 and over without regard to race, creed, color, sex, religion or national origin for residence in the group homes and apartments administered by Howard County Children's Center. Contact Alicia Roberts at 870-845-1211 or 1577 Hwy. 371, Nashville, AR 71852 TTY: 800-735-2989





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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,  
ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE ESTATE OF DANNY RAY HAPPY 55 PR-25-7

**NOTICE**

Last known address of decedent: 2427 Highway 26 E Delight, Arkansas 71940

On February 5, 2025, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by a distributee was filed with respect to the Estate of Danny Ray Happy, deceased, with the Clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. §28-41-101. The legal description of the real property listed in the Affidavit is as follows:

All that part of the West Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (W-2 SE-4 SE-4) of Section 19, Township 8 South, Range 23 West, lying North of Wolf Creek, described as follows: Begin at the NW Corner thereof and run thence East 220 yards to the East Line of said W-2 SE-4 SE-4; thence South 100 feet; thence West 220 yards; thence North 100 feet to the Point of Beginning, the same being the North 100 feet of the said W-2 SE-4 SE-4, and containing 1.5 acres, more or less.

AND ALSO: Part of the West 18 and 1/3 acres of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE-4 SE-4) of Section 19, Township 8 South, Range 23 West, lying South of State Highway No. 26 (previously recorded in Error as State Highway No. 27) and North of Wolf Creek, containing 2 acres, more or less, and containing in the aggregate 3.5 acres, more or less.

All persons having claims against the Estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributee or her attorney within three months from the date of first publication of this Notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the Estate. Provided, claims for injury or death caused by negligence of the decedent shall be filed within six months from the date of the first publication of the notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate.

This notice first published on February 12, 2025  
The name and address of the distributee or attorney is:

Pamela Campbell, by  
Brasel Law Firm, PLLC  
Aaron R Brasel  
Post Office Box 813  
Nashville, AR 71852  
(870) 845-4100 – Telephone  
(AB: 34, 35)



# Chicken ‘woody breast’ detection improved with advanced machine learning model

## \$200M annual yield loss hard to swallow

**By John Lovett**  
University of Arkansas  
System Division  
of Agriculture  
Arkansas Agricultural  
Experiment Station

It’s called “woody breast” and for consumers it can mean a chewier chicken sandwich, but for the industry it can mean up to \$200 million annual yield loss.

Work done by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station is not only making woody breast easier to detect in chicken meat but is accurate up to 95 percent of the time.

The development could help improve quality assurance and customer confidence in one of the state’s most economically important agricultural products. What allows researchers to see inside the meat is a combination of a hyperspectral camera, which examines the meat through various energy wavelengths, and machine learning to interpret what the camera sees.

“We’ve been able to improve accuracy of detection of woody breast by utilizing machine learning to analyze complex data from images with a hyperspectral camera,” said Dongyi Wang, an assistant professor in the biological and agricultural engineering department for the experiment station, the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

“The next step will be trying to integrate the system online and make this beneficial for stakeholders,” Wang said, noting this specific application of image analysis had not been done before.

**Loss in premium meat**  
“Woody breast” meat is harder and chewier than normal chicken breast, but it is still safe to eat, according to Casey Owens, professor of poultry processing and products for the experiment station and a co-author of the study. When detected by processors, either by humans or computer-assisted imaging technology, she said the meat is diverted from whole-breast packaging for further processing into products including chicken nuggets and patties.

The loss in premium as a whole-muscle product accounts for yield loss as high as \$200 million in Arkansas and over \$1 billion in direct and indirect costs annually across the United States poultry industry, Owens added. Up to 20 percent of chicken breast meat can have the defect, which is more common in larger birds of 8 to 9 pounds versus 6- to 7-pound birds.

**Hyperspectral imaging**  
Hyperspectral imaging is a rapid, non-invasive way to capture detailed data about objects and their composition. This data can be used

to classify food products according to food quality, consumer preferences and other product requirements.

But hyperspectral images come with tons of data. That’s where machine learning comes in.

Chaitanya Pallerla, a food science graduate student who has been working on the project for the past two years with Wang as his adviser, said the new machine learning model is called NAS-WD. When correlated with known data about the “woodiness” of chicken breasts, the model allows for deeper and wider analysis of hyperspectral images to identify the defect.

“In hyperspectral imaging, there are common machine learning models being used, but we were able to develop a new model that could be well-suited for correlating more than two variables,” Pallerla said. “We kind of took two different models, made a few changes, and put them together to detect patterns better and correlate the hyperspectral data with hardness of the chicken meat.”

The results of their research were published in the journal Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture under the title “Neural network architecture search enabled wide-deep learning (NAS-WD) for spatially heterogeneous property aware chicken

woody breast classification and hardness regression.”

The results showed that NAS-WD can classify three woody breast defect levels with an overall accuracy of 95 percent, outperforming the traditional models like the Support Vector Machine and Multi-Layer Perception, which offered 80 percent and about 73 percent accuracy, respectively.

Wang said the study offers an example of how to use new algorithms to mine data and dig into key information. The form of hyperspectral imaging used in the research is called “push broom,” which takes an image of several objects once every 40 seconds, compared to a more common industry method of a “snapshot,” which takes an image of individual objects as fast as every 30 milliseconds. The “snapshots” have a lower resolution than the “push broom” method, but software upgrades may one day provide higher resolution for “snapshot” images, Pallerla said.

Wang said his team is working on deploying this technology in the real-time system.

The study was supported in part by the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute for Food and Agriculture.



## Beekeepers to host mead-making class Feb. 17 at Hope

Southwest Arkansas Beekeepers Association will be hosting a program for those who would like to learn how to make their own mead this coming Monday, Feb. 17, at Hempstead Hall on the University of Arkansas Hope campus.

Mead, made from fermenting honey in water, sometimes with additional added ingredients, is one of the oldest fermented drinks. John Gladden, former Director of Hempstead Hall, will be conducting a demonstration on mead-making and answering questions about the process, equipment and reasons for making your own. Sign-in will begin at 5:30 pm in the Springhill suite.

The program will begin promptly at 6:00 pm.

A short business meeting will follow the evening’s program for SWABA members and any others interested in attending.

Southwest Arkansas Beekeepers Association meets quarterly at Hempstead Hall on the University of Arkansas Hope Campus and holds free beekeeping workshops and training activities at various other times during the year. The Association is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and all classes, workshops and activities are open to anyone interested in beekeeping without charge.

For more information about Southwest Arkansas Beekeepers activities visit the website at swabeekeepers.org/ or call or text (870) 557-2352.

## Howard, Pike county extension services to combine for ‘homesteading’ conference Feb. 15 at UA Cossatot

NASHVILLE – The Howard and Pike County branches of the University of Arkansas Extension Service will host the Southwest Arkansas Homesteading Conference on Saturday, Feb. 15.

Registration for the event will begin at 8 a.m. and the conference will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The event will be held at the UA Cossatot campus, located at 1558 US Highway 371 in Nashville.

There is a \$25 registration fee to attend the event, and

a meal will be included. Those who RSVP by Feb. 10 get a guaranteed meal of their choice. Youth meals may be added on for \$10 each. Interested participants may register at uada.formstack.com/forms/southwest\_homesteading.

Topics to be discussed at the conference include food fermentation, flour milling, rain barrels, garden prep, soap making, quilting, barn quilts, bread making, intro to poultry, buying protein, dehydration, NRCS programs, soil fertility, canning, basics of forage and feral hogs.

## Washington Vintage Dancers to hold annual George Washington Birthday Bash on Feb. 22

The Washington Vintage Dancers will be holding its annual George Washington Birthday Ball on Saturday evening Feb. 22 at the Brunson House in Washington, located at 615 SW Carroll Street.

The evening festivities will begin at 7 p.m. and end around 9:30. All are invited to attend. No dance experience is required for the event. Group dances from the 18th and 19th centuries will be part of the evening. Come and enjoy

fellowship with friends and neighbors in the area. The event is family friendly and welcome to all who wish to attend.

The admission fee for the ball is \$12 a person and \$20 a couple at the door. Children 12 and under are free. Refreshments will be provided at the event. Period dress or Sunday dress attire is requested for the event.

If you have any questions concerning the event itself, call 870-703-8256 or email joshuawilliams14@hotmail.com.

## Murfreesboro chamber banquet set for March 6

The Murfreesboro Chamber designated Thursday, March 6 as the date for their annual banquet.

The event will be held at the Murfreesboro Senior Adult

Center with a Mardi Gras theme. Crater of Diamonds Superintendent Caleb Howell will be the featured speaker.

Tickets will be priced at \$25 each.

## HCMG’s spring seminar

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 p.m.

Randy Forst, state Master Gardener program coordinator and consumer horticulture specialist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, will speak on incorporating edible plants into the landscape.

Amanda Malcom, owner of Love Creek Nursery in Okolona will talk on native plants for pollinators and how she is incorporating more beneficial plants into her retail business.

The cost to attend is \$20 for early registrations received through February 21st and \$25 after and at the door.

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

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Howard County Housing Authority will hold a **Public Meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025**, to receive comments on the Housing Authority’s 2025 Five-Year Plan and the 2025-2029 Capital Fund Five-Year Action Plan Budgets.

All documents are on display at the office of the **Housing Authority located at 1010 S. Pope St. in Nashville, Arkansas**, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Office is closed Wednesday after 12 p.m.

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