

Leader Board

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OPINION | 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

Farmers' Market open for season

By Melanie Schwartz
The Howard County Farmers' Market officially kicked off its 2025 season on Friday, May 2, with a ribbon cutting hosted by the Nashville Chamber of Commerce.

A big thank you to everyone who braved the rain and came out to shop, support our vendors, and help us celebrate the start of another great season.

This week's market will include freeze-dried goodies, persimmon butter, sourdough bread and other baked goods, lamb and beef, crafts, plants, soaps, and other personal care items.

We'll also see the return of some fan favorites: Clint Wright, our local knapper, Aunt Fern's Fried Pies, and Kim's Homemade Salsa.

The market is open every Friday through September from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 110 S. Washington Street in Nashville.

Letter Carriers food drive set May 10

The National Association of Letter Carriers will conduct its annual national food drive on Saturday, May 10.

NALC's food drive, which began in 1983, helps feed millions of Americans.

The effort is the country's largest one-day food drive and provides residents with an easy way to donate food to those in need.

Customers leave their donation of non-perishable food items next to their mailbox before the delivery of the mail on Saturday, May 10.

Letter carriers will collect these food donations on that day as they deliver mail along their postal routes, and distribute them to local food banks, pantries, shelters and churches.

The Letter Carriers' food drive is held annually on the second Saturday in May in 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states.

Inside the News-Leader
Obituaries, 2A
Early Files, 3A
Opinion, 4A
Sports, 6A-8A
Trends, B
Classifieds, 5B

Early voting continues in re-purposing, school races

By Louie Graves
News-Leader staff

Early voting began this week for the annual School Election, and Howard County voters will make a choice on the proposed extension of a one cent sales tax.

County Judge Brent Pinkerton and Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway spoke to the Nashville Rotary Club last Wednesday, April 30, as they continued their appearances before groups to present reasons to vote for the extension.

Early voting began Tuesday and will end on Monday, May 12, the day before Election Day, May 13.

Every voter in Howard County will have a chance to cast ballots on the issue.



Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway (left) and County Judge Brent Pinkerton speak to Nashville Rotarians.

"It's really simple," Mayor Dunaway said in his Rotary talk. "It's an investment in ourselves."

Current revenues do not meet the city's needs, he said.

Judge Pinkerton said that county government has approximately 50% of the county's population which determines where the sales tax income would be split "per capita."



News-Leader photo/LOUIE GRAVES

From the county's portion would come a share for Developing Howard County and Howard Memorial Hospital.

The bulk of the per capita share could go for the

county's needs in roads, sanitation, law enforcement and possibly some form of animal control.

In addition, the county See **Election** • Page 5A



News-Leader photo/LOUIE GRAVES

IT ONLY HURTS FOR A LITTLE WHILE. Peach Blossom Festival bicycle parade participant Denton Dunn, 5, deals with a skinned elbow suffered when he slid off the seat of his ride after the bicycle parade May 3. His passenger, Harper Woodruff, 2, was sympathetic. More festival pictures in today's issue.

Students at Umpire gain CERT experience

Fourteen Umpire students completed CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training to give the school the presence of trained persons who can deal with an emergency while awaiting First Responders.

The students underwent a two-day training with a skill check day to check what they had learned.

The course was taught by Hilda Booth of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management and by Roddy Smith, Howard County Coordinator of Emergency Services.

The students were in- See **CERT** • Page 5A

Class 4A South regional set in DQ

The Nashville Scappers and Scrapperettes will play their first games in the Class 4A South regional Thursday, May 8, at De Queen.

The Scrapperettes enter the tournament as the District 7-4A champion.

They will play Crossett, the four seed from 8-4A, at 10 a.m. Thursday.

The winner will advance to the regional semifinal at 12 noon Friday, May 9, and will qualify for the Class 4A state tournament May 15-17 at Monticello.

The regional championship game will be Saturday, May 10, at 12 noon.

The Scappers are the

runners-up from District 7-4A. They will play Monticello, 8-4A's three seed, at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

The winner moves on to the semifinal May 9 at 2:30 p.m. and earns a berth at state.

The regional final will be May 10 at 2:30 p.m.

Seeding for the baseball and softball regional was determined by the conference double round robin.

District 7-4A softball teams which advanced to the regional include Nashville, De Queen, Magnolia and Arkadelphia.

Baseball teams are Arkadelphia, Nashville, De Queen and Magnolia.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

HOME WIN. Zeus Hutchinson, Dalton Manlove and Gage Green celebrate after Green's home run also drove in Hutchinson for a score in Nashville's 5-2 win over Malvern May 1 in the final home game of the season. Manlove was next up to bat following the scores. More pictures page 8A.



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

Jaree Hall (lower left) of Nashville pays a visit to the Big Texan in Amarillo.

'Go west!' Lots to do at Big Texan

By Don Hall
News-Leader staff

Sometimes we take granted what an amazing country we live in. No matter which direction you go from Arkansas, it looks different.

Head to the south and you'll go over rivers and through forests and end up at the Gulf of Mexico.

Go east from Arkansas and you'll pass through the towering, hardwood-covered Great Smoky Mountains and wind up at the Atlantic Ocean.

To the northeast, the Ap-

palachians extend all the way into Canada.

North will take you through a sea of corn and wheat to the rolling hills of the northern part of America's midwest.

So where do we go now? It's time to take the advice of an 1800s newspaper man named Horace Greeley, who (supposedly) said, "Go west, young man!"

As you cross the state line into Oklahoma from Arkansas, you'll notice the differences starting.

See **West** • Page 5A



OBITUARIES



Sarah Louella Brock Terrell

Sarah Louella Brock Terrell, age 101, passed away at her home in Murfreesboro, Ark., on April 28, 2025. She was born on Sept. 3, 1923, in Murfreesboro to parents Lula Mae Henderson Brock and William Grover Brock.

She was the proud owner of Murfreesboro Hardware which was established in 1917 by the Terrell family.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Robert Fielding Terrell; three brothers, Leon, Grover and James Brock; and one sister, Ruth Brock Tabor.

She is survived by five children: Ray Terrell and wife, Ouida of Pascagoula, Miss., Jean Terrell Shahan and husband, Howard, Plano, Texas, Sarita Terrell Floyd and husband, Mike, Murfreesboro, Ark., and Phil and Lance Terrell, Murfreesboro, Ark. She has 14 grandchildren: Renee Terrell Threlfall, Becca Terrell Barber, Michael Terrell, Matthew Terrell, Robert Shahan, Brian Shahan, Gina Shahan Killion, Sara Terrell Branch, Ande Terrell Eckert, Lea Terrell, Anna Terrell, Ashtin Hamilton, Randy Floyd, Crystal Floyd White. She has 18 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services for Mrs. Terrell will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro. Interment will follow in Brocktown Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to Brocktown Cemetery, P.O. Box 516, Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

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

[latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com).

Joe Wesley O'Bryant, Jr.

Joe Wesley O'Bryant Jr., 43, of Nashville, died Saturday, April 25, 2025.

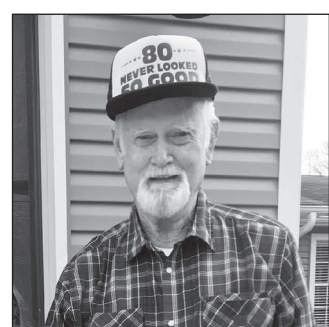
He was born April 5, 1982, the son of Almeater Johnson and the late Joe Wesley O'Bryant, Sr.

He was a 2001 graduate of Saratoga High School.

Survivors include: his mother, Almeater Johnson; two brothers, Joe Lewis O'Bryant and Kenneth Stevenson, both of Fort Worth, Texas; two sisters, Eddie Jean Davis of Fort Worth, Texas, and Michelle Neal-Bates of Bentonville, Ark.

Visitation was Friday, May 2, at M&H Memorial Chapel in Hope.

Graveside services were Saturday, May 3, at Sunset Gardens Cemetery in Nashville. Funeral arrangements were by McFadden & Hitchy Funeral Enterprises, Hope.



Winston Glen Humphry

Winston Glen Humphry was born on Nov. 26, 1940, in Stelltown, Ark., to Ertice Cecil and Bertha Marie Bell Humphry. He left this life and entered into the presence of the Lord on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the age of 84 years, 5 months, and 7 days.

His cherished family includes his wife of 56 years, Kattie Ellen Stark Humphry; his children Dawn Humphry (Thom Copeland) of Nashville, Ark.; Chandra Kirkham (Jim) of Delight, Ark.; Henry Humphry (deceased); Heather Cox (Jay) of Hot Springs, Ark.; and Silas Humphry, of Delight, Ark.; 14 grandchildren, Alexa and Edie Copeland, Katelyn Kirkham Gentry (Marquis), River, Seth Henry, Zane, and Judah Humphry Kirkham, and Camri Lane (Cameron); Laila, Zayde, and Colt Winston Cox; Ava and Adley Humphry and Gabriel Humphry (deceased); 3 great-grandchildren, Donovan and Estrella Kirkham and baby Cullen Lane (in utero); 7 siblings,

the cemetery is made possible by donations. Donations may be given to Basel Cox, Gary L. Cox, or Jimmy Goodwin. Donations may be mailed to: Gary L. Cox, 27 Bacon Creek Farm Rd., Nashville AR. 71852.

A service will be held to honor his life on Wednesday, May 7 at 2:00 at the Latimer Chapel at 1211 Anthony Street in Murfreesboro, Ark. The family will receive friends from 6-8 on Tuesday evening at the same location.

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

Sarah Barrett (Dale), both deceased; Wayne Humphry (Joann), both deceased; Jimmy Humphry (Dale); Mike Humphry (Becky); Steve Humphry; Emma Lee (J.J., deceased), and Ricky Humphry (Theresa, deceased); and 25 nieces and nephews. His Great Dane, Bogart Humphry, and Kattie's cat, Cattie (whom he petted secretly but pretended to hate), will also miss him greatly.

He was known as "Red" by many community members and was affectionately called "Cullen," a childhood nickname, by his beloved wife.

He was a retired poultry and cattle farmer. Prior to beginning his farming venture in 1972, he worked as a pulpwood logger and worked intermittently as an electrician for Brown & Root over the years. He was a hard worker and good provider for his family.

He attended high school in Corvallis, Ore., and entered the U.S. Navy in 1958 at the age of 17 as a Kiddie Cruiser and served until 1961. He enjoyed his experiences and travels in the Navy and made many friends there. He served on board the USS Staten Island, an icebreaker, and the USS Hector, a repair ship, where he worked as a mechanic. This experience proved valuable in his daily life, as he could fix almost anything.

He was a witty man, making jokes and laughing with friends and new acquaintances alike. He loved to read Louis L'Amour books and watch old Western movies. He started every morning with a cup of coffee and refilled his cup throughout the day. He adapted quickly to new technology and enjoyed playing games and watching funny videos on his phone. His wife wonders what he'll do in heaven without it. One of his greatest joys in life were his grandchildren. He enjoyed attending their ballgames and special events and was faithful to do so.

A service will be held to honor his life on Wednesday, May 7 at 2:00 at the Latimer Chapel at 1211 Anthony Street in Murfreesboro, Ark. The family will receive friends from 6-8 on Tuesday evening at the same location.

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



RIBBON-CUTTING WELCOME. Master Gardeners, Farmers' Market vendors and Nashville Chamber of Commerce officers gathered at the market's sign, Friday morning, for a ribbon-cutting and welcome for the opening of the market which will be open on Fridays from 7-11 until autumn. The market manager is Melanie Schwartz who is also a Nashville Chamber of Commerce director.

A

Garden Fresh Welcome for the Opening of Howard County Farmers' Market



(Left) SHE CROCHETS. Dakota Jones of Nashville brought her crochet creations to the Farmers' Market opening, Friday morning. She said she plans to be a regular vendor at the market.

(Left, below) THE EIGHTIES LADIES BOOK CLUB. Local authors hawked their books at their booth on opening day at the Farmers' Market in Nashville, Friday. From left, Linda Tolman, daughter of Lee Ann Turner, far right. In the middle is Patsy Young who produces the Early Files weekly in the 'News-Leader.'

Decoration Day, Homecoming May 18 for Biggs Chapel, Academy Cemetery

The annual Decoration and Homecoming at Biggs Chapel Methodist Church and Academy Cemetery will be Sunday May 18, with church at 11:00 followed by a potluck meal.

Mowing season is here and the upkeep of

the cemetery is made possible by donations. Donations may be given to Basel Cox, Gary L. Cox, or Jimmy Goodwin.

Donations may be mailed to: Gary L. Cox, 27 Bacon Creek Farm Rd., Nashville AR. 71852.

Regional Library Board to meet, 20th

The Tri-County Regional Library Board of Trustees will meet for their quarterly meeting on Tuesday, May 20.

The meeting will be at 5 p.m., at the Sevier County-De Queen Branch Library, and is open to the public. Financial reports along with old and new business will be

discussed. Following the meeting the Board will have a training meeting.

The Tri-County Library serves 10 public libraries in Howard, Little River and Sevier counties.

The director is Marilyn Addington, MLS.

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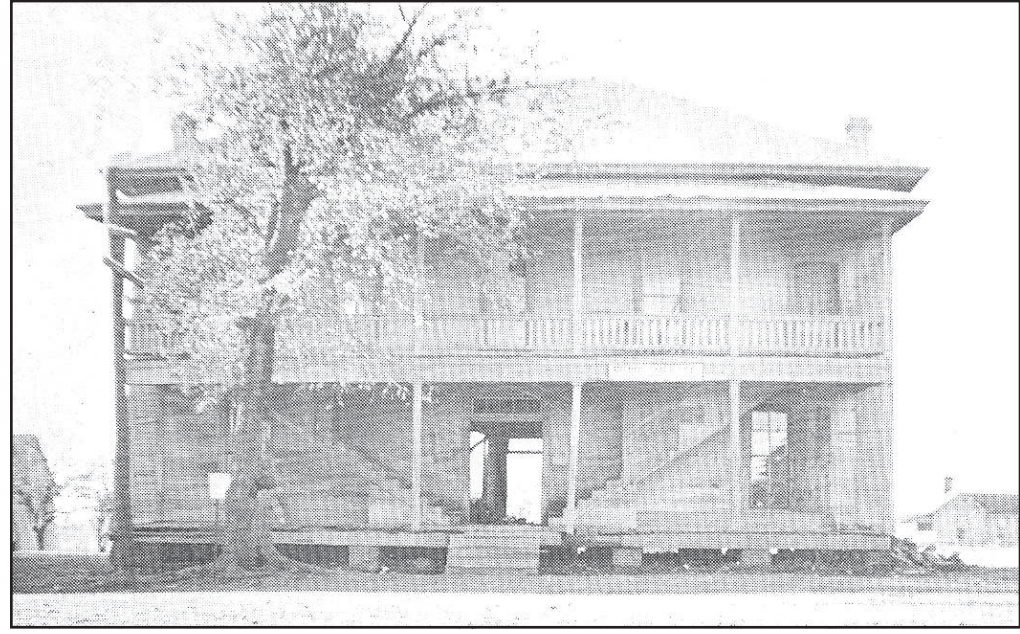
P.O. Box 298 Nashville, Arkansas 71852
www.latimerfuneralhome.com



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



Court House for the new county of Howard located in Center Point, 1873.

122 years ago: May 1903
The telegram received at the governor's office at Little Rock Wednesday sent by Governor Davis from Washington, D.C., stated that the governor would return to Little Rock today. It is supposed that the charges preferred against Davis by the Second Baptist Church of Little Rock are what has caused him to abandon his Eastern trip and return home.

The new telephone line from Columbus by way of Barker was completed yesterday and at 11:40 a.m. a message over the new line was received by the *News* from Dr. C. R. Peeples, the owner of the Columbus Exchange. This line is free to subscribers to the Nashville and Columbus Exchanges.

79 years ago: May 1946
The sixth slaying to occur in the Texarkana area in six weeks was disclosed today, and jittery citizens of this section wondered if it were the work of the "Mad Killer"

who officers suspect is at large in the district. They are uncertain as to whether the killing is the work of the mysterious murderer who shot and killed Virgil Sparks, a farmer, in his home near Homan on Friday night and who is believed to have killed Polly Ann Moore, Richard Griffin, Paul Martin and Joe Whittier in previous unsolved murders in the Texarkana area.

63 years ago: May 1962
Howard County sends three pretty girls and three topflight homemakers to Hope Friday for the Southwestern Arkansas Poultry Festival.

Competing for the title of Poultry Princess will be Misses Brenda Bratton, Marie Hill and Linda Hill; and competing for the Chicken Cooking Queen will be Mrs. Walter Balch, Mrs. Albert Sanders and Mrs. Roe Sanders.

42 years ago: May 1983
Myron Young has been

named valedictorian of the 1983 Senior Class of Mineral Springs High School. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Young. Kim Phillips, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. U. C. Phillips is the salutatorian of the class.

Former residents and students of the Center Point school district #4 are being invited to a Homecoming Saturday, May 28. A special invitation has been extended to the Chapel Hill, Center, Long View, York's Chapel, Messer Creek and Fellowship communities.

Several families in Direrks were evacuated Saturday night, and a number of county bridges were washed away as heavy rains soaked Southwest Arkansas.

State trooper Tom Morrow said Monday morning that Highways 4 and 71 were closed for some time, and on Highway 4 near the Weyerhaeuser Shop water flowed four feet deep over the highway. All along Holly Creek were flooding damages.

Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Apr. 24-30, 2025, unless noted otherwise:

Marriage Licenses
(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office)
Apr. 24. Ty Hardin Williams, 22, Nashville, and Allie Isabella Littlefield, 19, Nashville.
Apr. 28. Tristan Earl Zimmerman, 27, Muscoda, Wisc., and Rhonda Jolene Headings, 20, Ozan.
Apr. 30. Justin Thomas Turner, 43, Newhope, and Chelsea Brianne Jefferson, 36, Newhope.

Civil Court
CV25-54, Apr.24. America's Car-Mart, Inc. vs. Marquise Bryant. Debt
CV25-55, Apr. 25. Adalberto Pineda vs. Priscilla Chapman. Landlord/tenant unlawful detainer.
CV25-56, Apr. 30. Global Lending Services, LLC, vs. James Slaton. Debt.

Domestic Relations Court
DR25-38, Apr. 24. Danielle R. Willis vs. Charles S. Willis. Divorce.
DR25-39, Apr. 29. Kayla Reynolds vs. Steven Reynolds. Order of protection.
Criminal Court
(NOTE: POCS = possession of controlled substance; PODP = possession of drug paraphernalia; DOCS = delivery of controlled substance)
CR25-45, Apr. 29. State of Arkansas vs. Nicole M. Thomas, 32, white female Mineral Springs; POCS with purpose, class C felony.
CR25-46, Apr. 29. State of Arkansas vs. Brandon Leon Watts, 45, white male, Delight; POCS, class C; PODP, class D.
CR25-47, Apr. 29. State of Arkansas vs. Jovello Hendrix, 39, black male, Mineral Springs; PODP, class D; driving with invalid license, misdemeanor.

Land/Property Transactions
Quitclaim Deeds
Apr. 24. Nickolas Earl

Lemons and wife, Brittany Lemons; to William E. Lemons; property in S10 T10S R27W.
Apr. 28. (Life estate reserved) Louise Middleton, Surviving Spouse of John Middleton; to Krista Buck and Shannon Fulcher, Joint Tenants; 0.91. ac. iS20 T9S R27W.
Apr. 30. Penny Kesterson, widow of Basil Kesterson, deceased; to Kody Bailey (Kesterson) and Brody Bailey (Kesterson); 1/6 interest in aggregate 20.5 ac. in S15 T6S R30W.
Trustee's Deed
Apr. 24. (Warranty) David Owen Rauls and Lynda Hill Rauls, Trustees of the David and Lynda Rauls Living Trust; to Miguel Antonio Nava; property in S23 T9S R27W in the City of Nashville. \$289,000.
Warranty Deeds
Apr. 25. Jared Erwin and Sabrina Cooke; to Loyd Woodruff and wife, Denise Woodruff; Lot 5, Block 23, Incorporated Town of Nashville. \$75,000.
Apr. 25. W. John Curtis and LaDonna G. Curtis, Trustees of the W. John Curtis and LaDonna G. Curtis Family Trust; to Loyd Woodruff and wife, Denise Woodruff; Lot 22, Block 5, City of Nashville. \$75,000.
Apr.25. Robert Edwin Stavely and Mark Alan Stavely; to Joshua Neil Tice and wife, Jamey Lynn Tice; property in Block 27, New Nashville, Howard County. \$225,000.
Apr. 25. (Special) Weyerhaeuser Forest Holdings, Inc.; to Cody Tedford and Kara Tedford, a married couple; 14.41 ac. in S11 T6S R29W. \$36,025.
Apr. 25. Weyerhaeuser Forest Holdings, Inc.; to Cody Tedford and Kara Tedford, a married couple; 1.27 ac. in S11 T6S R29W. \$0.
Apr. 28. Justin Simmons and wife, Kaylan Simmons; to Southern Hills Poultry, LLC; 7.69 ac. in S6 T7S R28W. \$550,000.
Apr. 28. Richard Lacefield

and wife, Judy Laceyfield; to Cynthia Turner; 2 tracts, Lots 7-8, and Lots 9-10, all in Block 2, SREDC Addition, Town of Nashville. \$230,000.
Apr. 29. Don Pounds; to The Pecan and Elm Trust; Lots 7-8, Block 7, Sunset Addition, aka 718 W. Sunset, Nashville.
Apr. 29. Todd Finley and Lori Finley, husband and wife; to Aubrey Fatherree and Robin Shae Fatherree, husband and wife; 6 ac. in S15 T7S R29W. \$42,000.
Apr. 29. Gregory Lewis Pryor and wife, Jenna Junelle Pryor; to Steven Robins; 1.333 ac., part of Lot 7, Deerwood Estates, Nashville. \$325,000.
Apr. 30. Perry Clifton Young and wife, Barbara Sallye Young, and Victoria Elizabeth Young (aka Victoria Elizabeth Coleman); to Justin Jacques and wife, Sabrina Jacques; aggregate 6.28 ac. in S28 T9S R27W. \$60,000.
Apr. 30. Jason Morris and wife, Jana Morris; to Leslie Keith Launius and wife, Zebra Kay Launius; property in S11 T10S R27W. \$80,000.
Apr. 30. Veronica Fatherree, Survivor of an Estate by the Entirety with Dustin Fatherree, deceased; to Haley Davis and Nichalos Davis, wife and husband; Lot 10, Rolling Hills Subdivision Howard County. \$127,350.

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Motions, trial dates set for eight

Among the not guilty pleas taken in court here last Wednesday, April 30, were pleas from two female ex-employees who are charged with taking cash from the Dollar Store at Mineral Springs.

On the bench for the regular day for criminal court was Judge Bryan Chesshir, who set dates for motions and trials for a total of eight defendants charged with felony crimes.

The two who are charged with theft of property from the Dollar Store are Jessica Ephron, 34, black female, Mineral Springs, and Danael Evern McCray, 35, black female, also of Mineral Springs. The two were charged in early April after store management contacted law enforcement about missing amounts of money.

Pretrial motions for Ephron will be heard June 4, and for McCray on July 9. Because of the amounts missing -- between \$1 thousand and \$5 thousand -- the offenses are class D felonies.

Five other defendants also pleaded not guilty and had dates set for motions and trials:

Nicole Thomas, 32, white female, Mineral Springs, is charged with possession of controlled substance with purpose of delivery, a class C felony. Motions will be heard Oct. 1.

John David Allen, 26, white male, Saratoga, is charged with a pair of class D felonies -- possession of substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Motions for possible drug court screening will be Aug. 27.

Danielle Kersey, 42, white female, along with Sean Kersey, 54, white male, both of Lafayette, La., have June dates for motions. They are each charged with possession of controlled substance, felony, and possession of drug paraphernalia, misdemeanor.

Brandon Watts, 45, white

male, Delight, is charged with drug possession, class C felony, and possession of paraphernalia, class D. Motions will be heard Aug. 6.

Jovello Hendrix, 39, black male, Mineral Springs has a June 4 date for motions. He is charged with possessing drug paraphernalia, felony, and driving on invalid license, misdemeanor.

Sentences pronounced
Five defendants pleaded guilty or "no contest" and were sentenced.

- John Dynes, 59, black male, Oakland, Calif., pleaded nolo contendere and will return May 28 to be officially sentenced. He is charged with first degree forgery, a class B felony, for passing fake \$100 bills.
- Russell Wester, 43, white male, Mineral Springs, pleaded guilty to a class D felony of sexual indecency with a child. He was sentenced to three years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) with a further three years suspended imposition of sentence.

Upon release he must register as a sex offender.

- Jabin Specks, 22, black male, Nashville, faced a controlled substance charge. He was fined \$1,000 and sentenced to a six year prison term to be held in abeyance upon completion of drug court.
- David Gadson, 25, black male, Pensacola, Fla., was charged with felon in possession of firearm. He was sentenced to six years suspended imposition of sentence and was fined \$2,000.
- Damillion Henderson, 23, black male, Mineral Springs, pleaded guilty to a class D felony charge of possession of controlled substance. He was sentenced to 120 days in a regional punishment facility, five years of probation, and a fine of \$2,000.

Failure to appear warrants were ordered for two defendants who missed court dates: Bobby Murphy, 46, white male, Hope; and Marc Reed Harris, 49, white male, Ozan.

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Point of view

Get out the vote

Re-purposed penny tax will benefit whole county

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and by the time you read this column (and I am sincerely grateful for both of my regular readers), I will have already voted FOR the re-purposing of the county's one cent sales tax. I hope in the coming few days of Early Voting, or on Election Day, May 13, you will join me in support of the issue.

Mine Creek Revelations
By
Louie Graves

It is ironic the way the election process has worked out this time. The sales tax election was economically placed with the annual school election. Since the only school board races are in Nashville and Dierks, those are the only places where voters can go on Election Day. For Early Voting, all ballots must be cast at one place -- the Carter Day Training Center on North Main in Nashville. This makes voting harder for citizens in the south part of the county.

The issue needs the support of the whole county because we ALL will benefit from its passage. And we would ALL suffer if it loses.

We repeat that this is not a new tax, but is the extension of one that was originally enacted by voters to pay off a loan to build a new hospital building. That loan will be paid off in December.

If we citizens pass the tax re-purposing issue, revenues will be spread 'per capita.'

The county judge has supplied me with figures of an average year of that penny tax collection.

The figures are rounded up and are for a typical year.

- Nashville -- \$872,000.
- Mineral Springs -- \$228,000.
- Dierks -- \$192,000.
- Tollette -- \$34,000.
- Howard County (outside of towns) -- \$1,082,000.

In addition, Developing Howard County and Howard Memorial Hospital would EACH get \$135,000. These institutions are vital if we are able to recruit more jobs and payrolls for our communities.

I'm going to predict that our county will respond positively, and will pass the tax issue.

There are always some 'againers,' so the rest of us need to get out and vote.

I love what our mayor says: "It's simple, really."

The cities would decide for themselves where the revenues could be used. Paving, sanitation, water, etc.

The county could put the money to work via the county's five volunteer fire departments; for litter pickup; for roads; for some form of animal control; or for whatever the Quorum Court desires.

It is simple, really.



THE MOUTH WATERS. In order to celebrate Extension Homemakers Club month, the EH clubs of Howard County will host a Community Coffee on Wednesday, May 21.

The event will be in the EH Center on North Second St., across from the courthouse.

The public is invited. The coffee will be from 9-11 a.m., and I will give you one guess if there will be tons of delectables.

Thanks to EH club members for making our communities better places to live and raise families.



CONGRATULATIONS to all who labored so productively on the recent spring opening of the Farmers' Market, and on the annual Peach Blossom Festival. And the Easter events at practically every community in the county.

God bless volunteers.



ANIMAL CRACKERS. Our John Balch is the newspaper's resident bird expert. And bird-watcher.

He's been making me sick with envy lately talking about sightings of virtually every species of birds that can live or pass through southwest Arkansas.

I can sit out for an hour on my patio and only see the wasps and houseflies that dance around my head and buzz my ears.



MORE THINGS I LEARNED from the Universal Classroom of Life: I'm on two simultaneous diets. I wasn't getting enough food on on one.



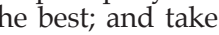
WORD GAMES. Wink and Blink. They are exactly the same, but, yet, so different. One is intentional and one is a reflex.



HE SAID: "How far that little candle throws its beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world." William Shakespeare, English playwright



SHE SAID: "This is the precept by which I have lived: Prepare for the worst; expect the best; and take what comes." Hannah Arendt, philosopher and historian



SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Love Thy Neighbor, and GET THE COVID VACCINE!

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

It's



but the coronavirus threat isn't over.

Keep yourself and those

around you safe -- please get your

free Covid-19 vaccination. If you're already

fully immunized, remember to get the booster shot.

Presented in the public interest by the Nashville News-Leader

LETTERS

More on repurposing penny sales tax

Dear Editor,

Thank you for including my data in the April 30 issue of the *News-Leader*, which I received today. On reviewing the data, I realized today that I made a mistake. I used 240 for the population of Tollette, which was its population in 2010, instead of the 2020 population of 185. The effect of this on the column "Your vote needed" in the April 30 paper was that the percentages for Tollette, the county, the hospital, and the economic development commission were incorrect.

The proper percentages are as follows (rounded to two decimal places):

- Dierks: 6.95%
- Mineral Springs: 8.23%
- Nashville: 31.51%
- Tollette: 1.40%
- County: 38.79%
- Hospital: 4.89%
- Economic Development: 4.89%

I regret the error, and I apologize that I did not catch it sooner.

I also wanted to express concern with the way that information has been presented during this election. It has been very difficult to get any information about this proposed tax from any of the entities that would like to use our tax monies. At times, it has seemed as though our local leaders believe that the true numbers are unknowable unless communicated from Little Rock (to quote the editorial from April 30: "these are not official

numbers until the State of Arkansas says so"). That has not now and never has been the case, as these numbers have always been within the grasp of our community to obtain and understand.

As soon as the proposed bill was written, it was possible to calculate the percentages of tax revenue based on the 2020 Census. According to A.C.A. § 26-74-313, the division of this tax is based on the last decennial census, unless a special census has been taken, which has not been the case in Howard County. Those numbers are not in question. Average values of the existing tax revenue could have been taken and used to communicate likely outcomes to the public. Instead, even as late as April 30, six days before the first vote would be cast in this election, local news sources reported not knowing how the tax would be divided, which meant voters did not know what they would be voting on.

Sometimes, that means that errors are made in calculating and reporting. To be clear, I take credit for the error in the April 30 paper, which was of my own making. Other reporting about this tax has not been free from error. Judge Pinkerton's Facebook post about the issue on April 28 misstates every percentage relating to the municipalities of Howard County (for example, writing ".324384 percent" instead of "32.4384 percent" for the percentage of Howard County's

population that lives in Nashville). [Note: this figure differs from the figure for Nashville above only because Judge Pinkerton was giving percentages for total population, not percentages for revenue from the tax, and the latter includes 3% that goes to state auditors, leaving 97% to be distributed by the county.] But even though the errors occurred, what is worse is not trying to communicate these figures (perhaps for fear of misstating the figures or for other reasons) which has largely been what has been happening during this election.

In this age of "alternative facts," distrust of media, distrust of government, and questioning of long-cherished national values, it is important for us to remember that facts matter. Part of showing that facts matter is admitting when you are wrong. That is what I am doing here. Another part of that is stating that this question of a tax has always come down to a matter of arithmetic, and the numbers are not in question.

Voters can rest assured when they go to the polls that the division of this tax is known, fixed, and certain, and that these percentages can be calculated by anyone at home by using the text of the measure, the law referenced above, population figures from the 2020 Census from www.census.gov, and basic arithmetic.

Sincerely,
Jonathon Lance

A mother's plea

Dear Editor:

I can not let being let down and discouraged time and time again stop me from finding out what happened to my beloved son, Corbin A'Sean Cooper Sr.

Just know your due judgment is coming and on the way. I've been armed with faith, patience, and strength to get through my daily life with the help of God. The Nashville Police Department of Arkansas are turning over every rock and have talked to numerous people, but still to no avail. We still will not stop the search for whomever is responsible for making my life so different.

Having to carry the burden of losing two children is an unbearable pain no human should have to endure. My plea to whoever is reading this, if you know something or someone who may be involved please do the right thing, and talk to officials. What if this were your son, uncle, brother or father? Wouldn't you want to at least give your loved one a proper burial and get to say your final goodbye?

Because of the cowardly way

you left my baby out there, it's just downright sad that another human being could be so cruel and heartless. The tragedy and heartache it's caused this family is unthinkable. It is approaching six months and we still have no answers. I miss him so much and think about him constantly throughout my days. The torture of losing you with no justice hurts on a whole different level.

No one has chosen to give us the necessary information needed to close this case. It's hard to believe a whole town is against my son and absolutely refusing to help or get involved in any kind of way. He may not have been popular or well liked, but he is a human being that doesn't deserve to have their life ended like that. I've heard parents are scared and refuse to let their relatives say what they know or have seen. They may be withholding vital information that could help solve the case.

Parents, what if this were your child left outside lifeless and helpless? Wouldn't you demand justice?

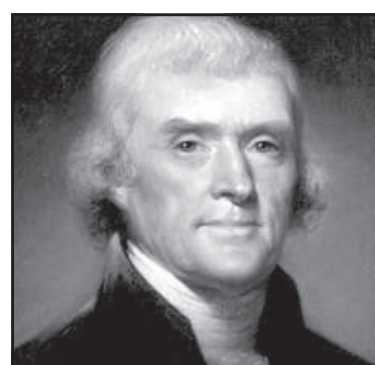
I, Bonnie Winston, am pleading

to the person or persons responsible to please come forward. I know you are not getting rest or peace simply because of your guilty conscience. If this were your loved one you would want answers and justice, and would never stop until someone is held accountable. My grandson Corbin Jr. has no idea his dad is gone from this earthly side forever. One day, even though the time will never be right, I have to break his heart and tell him this unfortunate news that no child can ever be prepared for.

It breaks my heart over and over again to hear my grandson say, "I miss my dad, or I want him to play with me." With all this I deserve to know why you took my son in such a heartless manner. We will never forget Corbin A'Sean Cooper Sr., found on October 15th, 2024 in Nashville Arkansas.

I am pleading from the bottom of my heart to all who are reading to please do what you know is right and come forward with any information you may have. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Winston



"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Thomas Jefferson, 1787
Free press, free people

Letters policy

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

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

E-mail: jrs@nashvilleleader.com

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

Nashville News-Leader

Louie Graves and Jane Graves (2007), co-publishers
John Balch, associate editor
Tracy Denny-Bailey, advertising manager
Pam McAnelly, office manager
John R. Schirmer, editor

You may contact us at
Nashville News-Leader
418 N. Main
P.O. Box 205
Nashville, AR 71852
Phone 870-845-0600

The *Nashville News-Leader* is published weekly by Nashville Leader, Inc.,
418 North Main, Nashville, AR 71852.

Nashville hosts 7-4A track meet

The Nashville Scrappers finished third in the District 7-4A track meet April 29 at Scrapper Stadium.

The Scrapperettes were fourth at the district met.

Boys
Magnolia won the boys division with 164 points, followed by De Queen at 144.5, Nashville 142, Hope 90, Camden Fairview 75.5, Arkadelphia 51 and Malvern 19.

Top eight finishes for the Scrappers include the following:

High jump - 1. Kasen Morgan 6-3; 3. Myles Hawthorne 6-2; 6. Trendon Northcross 5-10

Long jump - 3. Roochie Wiley 20-9.5; 9. Khaleel Canady 19-8.5

Triple jump - 2. Wiley 45-5; 7. Canady 41-0.5

Discus - 2. Jalen Staggers 138-5

4 x 800-m relay - 3. Nashville 9:17.82

110-m hurdles - 8. Phillip Longtin 17.64

Pole vault - 4. Staggers 10-6; 5. Lucas Muncy 9-6

4 x 100-m relay - 4. Nashville 44.54

400-m dash - 1. Wiley 51.22; 4. DJ Jefferson 53.03; 8. Carter White 56.40

300-m hurdles - 8. Staggers 45.87

800-m run - 2. Rees Davis 2:09.62; 8. Landon Morris 2:15.78

200-m dash - 1. Wiley 22.62; 3. Demetrius Shelley 23.07; 8. Jefferson 23.78

4 x 400-m relay - 2. Nashville 3:34.71

100-m dash - 1. Wiley 10.90; 8. Hawthorne 11.31



Scrapperette Ava Basiliere at the District 7-4A meet

4 x 200-m relay - 1. Nashville 1:29.63

Girls
De Queen won the girls division with 203 points. Magnolia was second with 190, followed by Camden Fairview third with 99. Nashville was fourth at 97, with Arkadelphia fifth at 51, Hope sixth 22 and Malvern seventh 10.

Top eight results for the Scrapperettes include the following:

Shot put - 2. Jaliyah Burchette 30-1; 7. Niasia Gilliam 27-7

Discus - 8. Gilliam 78-9

4 x 800-m relay - 2. Nashville 11:34.86

100-m hurdles - 8. Serenity Haney 18.99

1600-m run - 6. Daniella Hernandez 6:59.05; 7. Janice Gonzales 7:06.99; 8. Miriam

Barajas 7:42.90

4 x 100-m relay - 3. Nashville 53.41

400-m dash - 3. Kimora Carter 1:04.91; 4. Kennedy Scrivner 1:05.28; 7. Destiny Hendrix 1:09.19

300-m hurdles - 8. Fancee Brown 56.35

800-m run - 1. Emma Hill 2:32.90; 8. Kinley Martin 3:05.24

200-m dash - 4. Ava Basiliere 27.42

3200-m run - 6. Paola Hernandez 15:19.68; 7. Jan-nice Gonzales 15:59.01; 8. Hernandez 16:05

4 x 400-m relay - 1. Nashville 4:16.60

Pole vault - 3. Cheyanne Marshall 7-0; 3. Ella Westfall 7-0; 6. Hill 7-0. 8. Phoebe Coffee 6-0

4 x 200-m relay - 1. Nashville 1:29.63

board seats.

Nashville School Board
Three candidates have filed for two openings on the Nashville School Board.

Anthony Whitmore is unopposed for the seat for Zone 5; while incumbent Tem Gunter and D.J. Hibberd have filed for the seat for Zone 2.

Dierks School Board
Two candidates filed for the at-large representative on the Dierks School Board -- incumbent Jared Tipton and Phillip Glasgow.

Mineral Springs School
There are two seats coming vacant for the Mineral Springs School District where the incumbents are Mike Erwin and Xavier Vaughn. Erwin, a veteran member of the board, did not file for re-election and the MS board will appoint someone to fill the seat.

Vaughn is unopposed.

Blevins School Board
For the Blevins School District, three candidates are unopposed for seats on the board. The candidates are Kimberly Cole, incumbent for Zone 2; Cindy Parks, Zone 4; and James West, incumbent for Zone 5. Parks and West had been appointed to fill vacant seats.

All early voting in Hempstead County for the Blevins School District will be at the County Clerk's office during business hours.

In Howard County election day voting will be 7:30-7:30 at two locations in Howard County -- the Carter Day Training Center in Nashville and at the Dierks Community Center.

All voting for the Blevins School District will be at the Hempstead County Clerk's office.

Early voting continues through Monday, May 12. Election Day will be Tuesday, May 13.



READY FOR DISASTER. The Umpire High School students who completed CERT training, along with the instructors and the skills-checkers, paused for a moment at the high school Tuesday, April 29.

CERT

Continued from page 1A

volved Monday and Tuesday of last week. On the

second day their skills were checked by Umpire VFD Chief Cohen Davis, along with Maddie Cook and Sara Carter from the department; also Howard County Deputy Sheriff Brandon Smith,

and EMT Chris Janes of Pafford Ambulance.

The students also received emergency gear for identification and for dealing with emergencies, including personal injuries.

West

Continued from page 1A

Things are spreading out a little, there are more and more cattle, and the sky's getting a little bigger.

Continue west into Texas, and the differences are more obvious. Trees become scarcer and pastures become larger as you head toward the sunset.

Go past Paris and Sherman and Wichita Falls and the world becomes an undulating sea that flattens out into prairie as you approach Amarillo.

Many of us have at least skirted Amarillo on the way to somewhere else, and if you were asked what you remembered about the town, it would probably have something to do with The Big Texan restaurant.

Every few miles as you get closer to Amarillo there are billboards advertising The Big Texan and their free 72-ounce steak.

That sounds good until you find out that you have 1 hour to eat it—and keep it down—while sitting on a stage. That's 6 pounds of steak, and you have to eat all of the trimmings, too. In 1 hour. In front of hundreds of people.

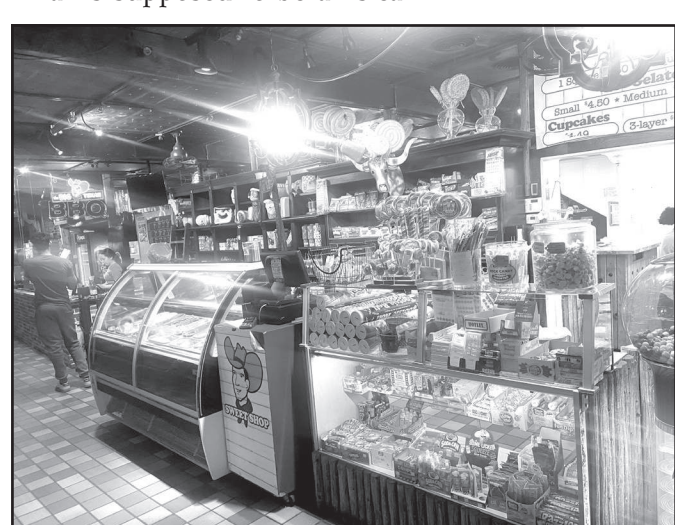
Many try, but few succeed.

Skip the 72 ounce steak at The Big Texan. They offer plenty of other alternatives, including a killer of a ribeye and a chicken fried steak smothered in gravy that's more than enough to feed two people.

Do yourself a favor and stop in at The Big Texan. It's not just a good restaurant with a grill in the dining area that fills the air with the wonderful aroma of sizzling steak, but it is also an experience, a gaudy, fun

destination with a western theme that will be enjoyed by kids and adults alike.

There are several shops and they have a hotel on a what is supposed to be a



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

Plenty of choices at the Big Texan's candy counter



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

Packed house on a recent Monday night at the Big Texan

Election

Continued from page 1A

has five volunteer fire departments that have no reliable source of income of income for equipment and maintenance.

The judge emphasized the importance of the funds for Developing Howard County and for the hospital, vital institutions for the whole community's economic health.

Early voting
In Howard County, early voting will be at the Carter Day Training Center in Nashville from 8-4:30 week-days. Early voting will end at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 12. On election day the polls will be open 7:30-7:30.

There are some races for Howard County school

board seats.

Nashville School Board
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District 7-4A track meet

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Kinley Martin (left)



Roochie Wiley



Serenity Haney (left)



4 x 100-m relay



Karstyn Scrivner



Phillip Longtin (right)



Roochie Wiley (right) hands the baton off to Demetrius Shelley during the District 7-4A track meet.



Athletic Director James "Bunch" Nichols was the starter for the running events at the district meet April 29 at Scrapper Stadium.



Phillip Longtin

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Jason Lenderman, CPA




As we say goodbye to **Nick Brooks** and his wife Koreen, we reflect on the lasting impact he's left at Dierks Lumber. His leadership, expertise, and passion for safety and teamwork have been instrumental in shaping our workplace culture and inspiring meaningful growth. We're deeply grateful for Nick's contributions, which have been invaluable to our community and the Dierks Lumber Family. His dedication and commitment have left a lasting legacy, and his influence will continue to be felt in the days to come. As the Brooks family begins their new journey in North Carolina, we wish them continued joy, success, and fulfillment.

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After the storm:

- When venturing outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume any dangling wires you encounter are energized and dangerous. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility. Also, when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.



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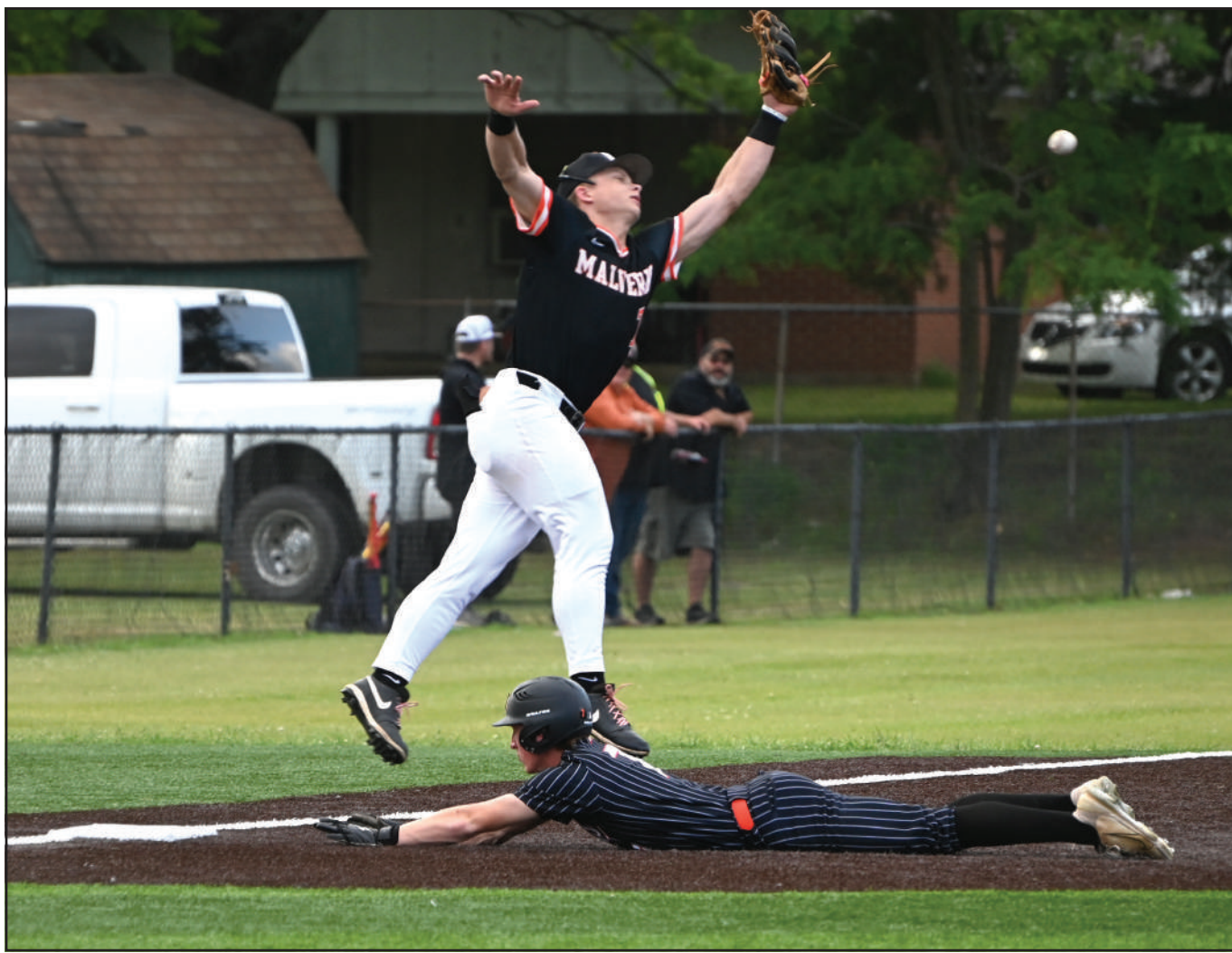
803 Hwy. 70 W PO Box 121 Dierks, AR 71833 870-286-2012

Nashville teams win final home games

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Natalie Nolte makes the out for the Scrapperettes in their 1-0 win over Fouke April 28 at Futrell Field.



The Malvern third baseman tries to catch the errant throw as Scrapper Hayden Gray slides safely in to third base before alertly taking off for home and a Nashville score against Malvern. The Scrapppers won 5-2 May 1.



Landyn Tompkins runs for first base April 28 against Fouke.



Karson Chambers pitches against Malvern in Nashville's non-conference victory.



Kayla Bretado comes up with the ball for the Scrapperettes April 28 in a 1-0 non-conference win over Fouke.



Sam Carter bats for the Scrappers May 1 in Nashville's 5-2 victory over Malvern at Wilson Park.



Adison Moore scores the lone run for the Scrapperettes April 28 in their win over Fouke.

Up next

Class 4A South Regionals @ De Queen
May 8 - Scrapperettes and Crossett 10 a.m.
 Scrappers and Monticello 5:30 p.m.
May 9 - Regional semifinals
May 10 - Regional finals
 Class 4A state tournament May 10-17 at Monticello
All games weather permitting

Follow the News-Leader every week. Subscribe today.

SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Area teams going to regionals

Area baseball and softball teams are gearing up for regional tournaments this week in their respective classifications. They include Nashville Scrappers and Scrapperettes, Dierks Outlaws, Mineral Springs Hornets and Lady Hornets, Murfreesboro Rattlers and Lady Rattlers. Teams will compete at regionals in hopes of qualifying for upcoming state baseball and softball tournaments.



This weekly feature sponsored by **McDonald's of Nashville**
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---	--

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--	---

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FIND NEW ROADS

New grocery store announced for Murfreesboro Construction on Chimney Rock Grocery set to begin soon

By P.J. Tracy
Murfreesboro Diamond
MURFREESBORO -- After close to two years without a grocery store, Murfreesboro area residents will no longer live in a food desert and will soon be able to bring home the bacon without having to travel outside of town.
Local businessman Jack Bonds has announced that a grocery store will be constructed across from Pawn Kings on South Washington Avenue in Murfreesboro.
Bonds said the plan is to

have a full-fledged grocery store featuring a fresh meat market and fully stocked produce section.
"It will be incumbent on the residents of the town to shop there as much as they can -- in order for this to be a success, we can't have everyone still going out of town to purchase their groceries. As with all of our town's businesses, local trade is essential for both the business owners and the residents of our great small town.
He added that a grocery store is important for the

long term success of Murfreesboro.
"It is also an important segment in the goal of retaining population and keeping the town alive, ultimately. The population is declining, and we need to draw a line in the sand in order to reverse the trend of downward growth. The addition of a grocery store to Murfreesboro is one of the vital steps toward making that goal a success."
In another point toward that line of thinking, Bonds said that he deliberated us-

ing an old building or building a new edifice, and opted for the latter to better help with the overall look of the town. Along with the new building, the area will be nicely landscaped and attractive for the residents of the area.
Bonds thanked First State Bank for being "exceedingly helpful" in financing the project, a fact the truly appreciates.
He also was complementary of Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal for not only his longstanding effort to get a

new grocer in town, but also for his full support of this project going forward.
Construction on the store, which will be named Chimney Rock Grocery, will begin as soon as bids are gathered from general contractors. The name is derived from the local landmark on Lake Greeson.
"We wanted to name it after something important to the community, and everyone who grew up here knows Chimney Rock."
Bonds said ultimately he is looking to help the community thrive with the effort.
"We are excited about serving the solid, hard-working people of our community with a home-grown and home-owned business. Those are favorable aspects for the local area -- supporting each other, the local schools, and chamber. We will be a real asset to everyone involved. It's not about making money as much as it is being a steward for the community. As my grandmother always said, if you want a good neighbor, you have to be a good neighbor."
Mayor O'Neal beamed when asked about his take on the addition to the town.
"I don't know what's the right word ... excited?" he

said with a laugh.
He said it had been a long 17 months since the fire gutted the former Cash Savers grocery store, and after many visits and calls to attract a store to Murfreesboro it was beyond refreshing that it looked like it was finally going to happen.
"I've met with people and groups since the fire -- of all topics I have dealt with as mayor, this is by far the number one discussed issue ... more than all the rest put together."
He echoed Bond's statement that the city needed to take advantage of the store when it arrives.
"I'd like to encourage all the town's residents to use the store as much as possible," he said, acknowledging that many people had become accustomed to shopping in other area towns and that Wal-Mart now delivers to Murfreesboro. "Please use the [local] grocery store -- be kind enough to take advantage of this opportunity."
He agreed that should the venture fail because of lack of local patronage, it would be unlikely that another grocer would invest in the town.
"We need to utilize it as best we can and shop at home," O'Neal concluded.



News-Leader photo/COURTESY OF USACE

LAKE SIDE VIEW OF NARROWS DAM WORK. After halting hydropower production in December 2023, work on Narrows Dam's trash rack system is now underway and will take approximately seven months to complete, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District. The Narrows Dam Day Use Area pavilion and swim beaches at Lake Greeson are now closed to the public and with access to the area to be restricted until work is complete on the dam's trash racks. The "No Boats" area in front of the dam has also been extended to include the entire work area. Also, a "No Ski" area will be established to help reduce wave action within the work area.

Crater of Diamonds' 12th Prospectors' Gemboree June 21

The Crater of Diamonds State Park has announced the date for their 12th annual Prospectors' Gemboree.
On Saturday, June 21, the festivities will include the Miners' Treasure Hunt where attendees can search the field for prizes. Also, a Famous Crater Diamonds

Exhibition will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be games for all ages.
All activities that day will be free with the purchase of normal mine admission of \$15 for adults and \$7 for children ages 6-12. Children under the age of six are admitted for free.

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DAR tradition continues with celebration of American's Creed Day

Elizabeth Overton, Regent of the Mine Creek-Paracrafta Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), spoke to David Smith's American History Class at Nashville Junior High School on Thursday, April 3.

DAR has a tradition of holding "The American's Creed Day" on the third day of April, commemorating the resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 3, 1918, which accepted the Creed.

The creed was first read before the DAR National Society during the 27th Continental Congress, April 15-20, 1918.

The students were given a copy of the Creed along with a United States flag lapel pin, and recited the Creed. Overton then presented a new United States flag and a new Arkansas flag, replacing the current ones at NJHS. Mr. Smith guided the students in the correct procedure for replacing the flags.

American's Creed Day is observed nationally on April 13, recognizing the 100-word essay written by William Tyler Page, a messenger in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is a summary of the fundamental principles



News-Leader photo/COURTESY OF DAR

REPLACING THE FLAGS ON CAMPUS. Nashville Junior High American History teacher David Smith instructs students on how the correct procedure for replacing flags. DAR gifted the junior high with new American and Arkansas flags.

of American political faith as set forth in its greatest documents, its worthiest traditions and by its greatest leaders. His essay was judged the "best summary of American political faith" in a national contest.

DAR would like to remind the community of the ongoing celebration of America250 through July 4, 2026. America250 is a non-partisan initiative working

to engage every American in commemorating and celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Fran Strawn, chapter registrar, accompanied Overton for the presentation.

If you would like to know more about becoming a member of DAR, you may contact Strawn, by e-mail, at gfstrawn@gmail.com, or any DAR member.

Couple charged with theft in Pike County

A local couple is facing felony theft and criminal mischief charges following an alleged property dispute last month.

Charged are James David Humphry, 49, who has a Delight address in court records, and Jennifer D. Smith, 47, of Murfreesboro. Both are charged in Pike County Circuit Court with theft of property and first-degree criminal mischief. Smith is also facing a misdemeanor charge of hindering apprehension or prosecution that stem from a jailhouse call she reportedly made to Humphry on the day of her arrest.

Smith plead innocent to the charges Monday, May 5 and was ordered to return to court on May 19 with an attorney.

The Pike County Sheriff's Department is currently seeking Humphry's whereabouts. Humphry is currently a fugitive on parole and is also facing an absconding warrant, which will be separate from his existing felony charges.

According to case information, Pike Investigator Jason McDonald was called

on April 22 to Highway 19 North outside of Murfreesboro concerning a possible theft. McDonald met property owner Aspen Harris and her mother, Kristie Harris. The younger Harris stated she had recently purchased the property from Smith, closing the deal on April 9.

Ms. Harris reported that after the deal closed, she had observed Smith and Humphry on the property, removing items from a shop building. Among the items were a hot water, a wall-mounted HVAC unit, electrical wiring and circuit breakers, all of which the new owner said were not subject to removal under any agreement.

Ms. Harris also alleged she had had "ongoing issues" with Smith after the property deal and claimed Smith had unauthorized individuals cut down trees and dismantle a wooden privacy fence and a chain-link fence. The estimated cost of the damage was \$3,000.

Furthermore, Ms. Harris stated she had once discovered her shop had been

locked without her consent and that her security cameras had been moved. She said Humphry's motorcycle was reportedly parked in the shop at the time.

The additional charge of hindering apprehension or prosecution against Smith were filed in Pike County District Court on April 30.

According to case information, Investigator McDonald, along with the Murfreesboro Police Department had went to Smith's home on Main Street to execute outstanding felony warrants for her and Humphry. Smith was immediately taken into custody but she said Humphry was at work and did not provide any more information.

While in custody at the county jail, Smith allegedly made a phone call to Humphry, informing him of his warrant and telling him to "get out of Dodge and hide." She also reportedly instructed Humphry on disabling tracking service on their electronic devices and stated that once she bonded out that she would find him and they would both "get the *&%\$ out of here."

Food boxes coming to Murfreesboro May 14

Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes in Murfreesboro directly from their truck on Wednesday, May 14, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed.

Recipients must come inside the Municipal Building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in. Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along Second Ave & Owens St. towards First

United Methodist Church. Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas support future broadband linemen with donation to UA Cossatot

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas have demonstrated their commitment to workforce development and the future of broadband infrastructure by donating utility poles to Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas as part of a pole replacement project that will ready the college's Aerial Lineman Program pole yard for 2025/2026 students.

"We are proud to support the next generation of linemen who will play a critical role in keeping our communities connected. By investing in training programs like the one at UA Cossatot, we are strengthening our workforce and ensuring reliable service for the future," said Dean McDowell, Sr. Director of Infrastructure & Network Operations for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives, along with Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI) and Arkansas

Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), which provide essential services and power generation for communities across the state. With a customer base of approximately 1.2 million members, the cooperatives remain dedicated to supporting education, infrastructure, and workforce training.

The Aerial Lineman Program is a free Arkansas Fiber Academy program funded by the Office of Skills Development. The short-term career training program was co-designed with industry partners to provide participants with an opportunity to embark on a meaningful and rewarding career in the telecommunications construction industry.

In addition to free training, supportive services are available to assist qualifying participants with transportation costs, and graduates are equipped with over \$3,000 in personal protective equipment and climbing gear to begin their career.



Happy Mother's Day!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with things our moms do:

- her bicycle on the path
- in the lake
- and folds laundry
- stories with us every night
- the flower box
- sure we do our homework
- cookies
- us to feed our pets
- us even when we make mistakes
- the bushes
- us how to take care of our things
- at a business
- at town events
- us to the bus stop on time
- for our groceries and clothes
- and kisses us goodnight
- summer vacations
- picnics
- us to the doctor or dentist
- in the road race
- and mops floors
- flower bulbs
- mini golf
- the bills

Mothers and fathers are very excited when their children are born. It is a time of wonder and love. Our parents take care of us, guide us and teach us for many years. Mothers do so many things for and with us. Stop and think about all the time and love your Mother gives you. **What can you do to surprise her or help her out a little on her special day?**

Visit! Write a note!

Who knew I had such a flair for flowers?

I love spending time with my kids. Tennis anyone?

For Mom

Animills LLC © 2017 V14-18

Animal Mothers and their Young

Some newborn animals need a lot of care, while others can take care of themselves almost from birth. Every spring it's a blast to visit farms and zoos to see, feed and pet the new baby animals. **Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:**

- this mother sits on her eggs to keep them warm, then spreads her wings to keep wind and rain away from her chicks
- this nanny watches her kid leap and jump on the mountainside
- this baby hangs by its toes in a cave: its mother hangs next to it to feed it and wrap a wing around it to provide warmth
- these babies are born onto their mother's tail
- this hopping mother has a large pouch to carry her baby
- this mother builds a nest of grass and mud to put her eggs in; when they hatch she tears the nest open
- her young can hang upside down by their tails - "look, ma, no hands"
- after this baby is born, others help it get its first breath of air
- this bear carries her young on her back
- mother carries her young by picking them up with her mouth

Does this mother bird get to feed her baby birds? Or will the worm escape?

We know that she's 'the early bird' because...

Start Peep! Peep! Escape

Animills LLC © 2017 V14-18

Edward Jones Member SIPC

Becoming a parent? Let's review your goals.

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Mineral Springs High School Class of 2025



Valedictorian & Honor Graduate
Ma'Hogani Trotter (at left)
Salutatorian & Honor Graduate
Dayauna Chiles (at right)

Mineral Springs Hornet Honor Graduates



Evan Erwin



Ashley Hernandez



Daisy Rojas



Keiara Miller



Tania Watson



Stephen Rocha



Za'Cyria Matlock



D'Kendrick Piggee



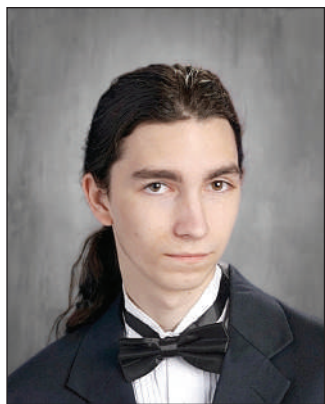
Rah'Maij Ware



Amya Wooten



Nadarius Vaughn



Johnathan Budd



James Burton



Aaron Contreras



Halimah Daniels



Jayonte Franklin



Javeon Fricks



Jericho Gamble



Saniya Gilliam



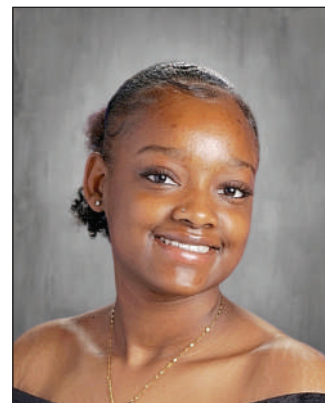
Faith Johnson



Malik Matthews



Da'King McLaughlin



Reynesha Miller



Breanna Parker



Dylan Richardson



Mariah Spencer



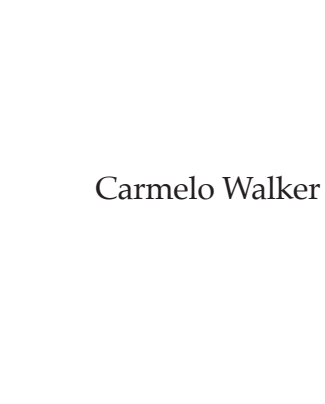
Ayden Stuart



Alesiah Thompson



Grayson Townes



Carmelo Walker



Dhamya Wright

Honoring our Graduates on this milestone achievement. We salute your heart work and dedication!
Congratulations from the City of Mineral Springs

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

SAM McALISTER & JACEE MARTIN AND THE CLASS OF 2025
Best of Luck on your new beginnings!
Mineral Springs church of Christ
318 Bridgeman Dr
Mineral Springs

Cherish This Moment
When you reflect back on your graduation, you'll treasure the great friends and wonderful memories you've made along the way.
We congratulate all the area graduates on a job well done!

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DREAM BIG
You've proved yourself capable of great things, graduate, and now the sky is the limit.
Congratulations, Graduates!
Central Baptist Church
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Nashville News-Leader
would like to congratulate all the Mineral Springs seniors!

Home&Heart

Cast Iron Pans Pt. 2: Cleaning, Maintaining

By Angie Freel

Howard County Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

Last week, I talked about seasoning your new or used cast iron pans, and this week I will talk about caring for your cast iron.

When cleaning cast iron you must protect the seasoning layer. To do this, just remember these two things. Don't use soap (it will remove the seasoning), and don't use anything too abrasive (like steel wool). The easiest way to clean cast iron is with water and a towel as soon as it's cooled down enough to handle. The longer you wait after using it, the more difficult it will be to clean. If you have developed a good seasoning, it is usually no more difficult than a few quick wipes with a towel. Since we are not using soap, there may be a little cooking oil left in the pan after cleaning. If it is just a thin coat and is not enough to pool up, it is perfectly fine to leave it there, and it will even help develop your seasoning further. The most important thing to remember is to never leave any water in or on your cast iron, and NEVER leave it in a wet sink. It will rust very quickly in the presence of water.

That is pretty much all there is to it! There are special tools you can get to make cleaning cast iron easier, but they are usually not necessary if you have a well-seasoned pan. If you have tough buildup on your pan, you can always boil water in it and scrape with a wooden spoon. That is typically enough for even the dirtiest pans. If the seasoning starts to look a little worn down, you can rub in a thin layer of oil after cleaning and drying the pan. And if the seasoning is in very bad shape, you can always clean it with soap and

apply a brand-new seasoning using the method described above.

It may seem like a lot, but once you've completed these steps and become familiar with your cast iron, you will start to see why people love it so much! Cast iron can last for generations, and it works so much better than other materials that the maintenance is well worth it. My favorite part of cast iron is that once you have a good seasoning, they are much easier and quicker to clean than other types of pans.

Special thanks to Christa Snider - North Carolina Cooperative Extension for her contributions to this article.

Recipe of the Week

2 Ingredient Biscuits

- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 1 ¼ cups heavy whipping cream
- Plus more whipping cream to brush tops (2 tablespoons) (optional)
- Preheat oven to 450°

Important: Measure your flour into dry measuring cups by loosely spooning the flour into the measuring cups, overfilling the cups. Then, take a knife and level it off. This gives the most accurate measure. **Pro tip:** NEVER scoop the measuring cup into the flour to measure it. This packs in too much flour.

Stir together flour and whipping cream in a medium size bowl just until flour is moistened with whipping cream. Your dough should look "shaggy" and not too dry. Add an additional 1 to 2 tablespoons whipping cream, if needed, to absorb flour if you feel you might have over measured the flour.

Dump mixture onto a lightly floured counter.

Gently press the dough together to

form a loose ball then gently, press the dough into a 1-inch thickness. It will not be a pretty circle at this point. Take one side and bring it up and over to the edge of the other side and gently press down.

Turn the dough a quarter of a turn and fold the dough in half again. You are incorporating air into the layers that you are pressing down which gives you the flakiness and fluffy biscuits you want.

Your shape should be a short rectangle at this point. Press the dough down until it is ¾-inch tall. Using a 2 ½-inch circle cookie cutter (or the size of your choice, cut out 4 biscuits and place in a lightly greased 10-inch cast iron skillet.

Press together the scrap dough and gently pat down again and cut 2 more; place in the pan. There should be some scrap dough left. You can just push the scraps together and make one ugly biscuit.

Be sure they are slightly touching each other if you want the softest biscuits. They help each other in the oven to rise to their tallest potential if they are touching!

For golden tops, brush 1 to 2 tablespoons extra whipping cream over the tops (optional).

Bake for 12 to 14 minutes or until tops are golden brown.

For more information on how to care for your cast iron, call the Howard County Extension Office at 870-845-7517, email Angie Freel at afreel@uada.edu, or visit our office on the second floor of the Howard County Courthouse.

The Cooperative Extension Service is part of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

TRI-COUNTY AGRICULTURAL Production Meeting

DOOR PRIZES!

PRESENTATIONS:

Bryan Mays, CES-Polk County- Nitrogen Source Demo Results

Rex Herring, CES-Sevier County- Fertilizer Comparison: Poultry Litter vs Commercial Fertilizer sources

NRCS Staff- NRCS Program Updates

Dr. Kirsten Midkiff, Extension Animal Health/Wellbeing- H5N1, New World Screwworm

Dr. Kelly Lofton, Extension Entomologist- Managing Insect Pests in Southwest Arkansas Forages

Dr. Alan Hunnicutt, DVM/Rancher- Profitable Grazing

When: May 10, 2025
Time: 9:30 AM
Where: Wickes Elementary School, Wickes Arkansas

Hosted by:
Polk, Howard & Sevier County NRCS & Extension Offices

MS School Board approves new hires, accepts resignations

The Mineral Springs School Board rehired the classified staff list for the coming school year as presented by Supt. JonDavid Amerson, Tuesday night, in the board's meeting for April. The board also approved new hires and accepted some resignations.

Board member Mike Erwin attended his last meeting after serving more than 25 years. He did not seek re-election.

The new hires for the school include: Diana Ramirez and Sandra Hernandez, both for elementary classrooms; Darren Horn for high school social stud-

ies, football and track; and Amber Jackson for business courses and as scheduling coordinator.

The board accepted the retirement of Christine Green, longtime K-12 arts teacher at Saratoga and Mineral Springs.

The resignations of coach Dre Lawson and elementary counselor Amanda Woodley were accepted.

Also accepted were amended pay stipends for several areas as suggested by the superintendent.

The school calendar for 2025-26 was approved. Stacy Gaddis, K-12 principal, gave her report.

Attend Church This Sunday!

HOLY MASS
St. Martin's Catholic Church
1011 W. Leslie • Nashville

Sunday (Eng.) - 9 a.m.
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
Welcome • Bienvenidos

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!

You are invited to worship with us at...
Center Point Missionary Baptist Church
211 Church St. • Center Point
Pastor: Jaron Tipton
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 5:00 p.m.

-- Non-Denomination --
New Life in Jesus Christ Church
913 South Main St. • Nashville, AR
Sunday Morning Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.
Pastors: Lankford & Mary Alice Moore

EBENEZER UMC
318 West Dodson • Nashville
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"
Scott Memorial (Paraloma Community)
First & Third Sundays Monthly
Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.
Pastor: Ellis Ray Floyd

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319 *Facts About The BIBLE* BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

A BRIDE FOR ISAAC

ABRAHAM'S STEWARD, ELIEZER, IN HIS SEARCH FOR A BRIDE FOR ISAAC, ABRAHAM'S SON, HAS ASKED A MAIDEN OF THE CITY OF NAHOR FOR WATER...

LET ME, I PRAY THESE, DRINK A LITTLE WATER FROM THY PITCHER!

DRINK, MY LORD!

...AND SHE POURS OUT WATER FOR HIM TO DRINK...

I WILL DRAW WATER FOR THY CAMELS, ALSO, UNTIL THEY HAVE HAD ENOUGH TO DRINK!

AND THIS THE MAIDEN DOES, CONTINUING TO POUR WATER INTO THE TROUGH FOR AS LONG AS THE CAMELS DRINK! ELIEZER SAYS NOT A WORD, AS HE WATCHES FOR THIS IS THE VERY SIGN WHICH HE HAD ASKED OF THE LORD!

Next Week
THE GOLDEN EARRING!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Unity Baptist Church
380 Buck Range Road
Pastor:
Bro. David Cassady
Sunday Service
10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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Delight Methodist Church
E. Antioch Street • Delight
Morning Services - 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting - Wed. 6:30 p.m.
Jim Henderson, Pastor

First Baptist Church
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Come Worship With Us!
Sunday school 9 a.m.
Morning worship 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
Evening worship 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Kevin Sartin

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First Church of God
Community Oriented & Christ Centered
946 MLK, Hwy 355, Tollette, AR
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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.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Bro. Brian Finn
Radio Program: 9:45 Sunday Morning • B99.5 FM
Visit us at: www.hollycreekmbc.net

Immanuel Baptist Church
Immanuel St. • Nashville • 845-3414
www.myimmanuel.com
Pastor: Paul Herndon
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:55 a.m.
Worship (KMTB-fm) - 10:55 a.m.
Worship - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: GROW - 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Youth - 5:30 p.m.

Be our Guest at Cross Point Cowboy Church
Sunday Services 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study for all ages at 6:30 p.m.
Hwy 371 W. of Nashville
"Pointing People to the Cross"
Pastor Don Jones

First Christian Church
500 N. Main • Nashville
(Corner of Main & Bishop)
845-3241
Sunday Bible School - 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Minister: Jim Pinson

First United Methodist Church
1403 W. Sunset St. • Nashville
870-845-3030
nashvillefumc.org
Pastor: Pam Estes
Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:50 a.m.
Facebook Live or listen to 105.5 FM

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at 870-845-0600

MINERAL SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST
318 Bridgeman Dr. • Mineral Springs
870-287-5652
Sunday Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.

Nashville City Park takes hit from wind storm

News-Leader photos/JOHN BALCH



TREES DOWN EVERYWHERE. The Nashville City Park was damaged on Wednesday, May 30 during the storms that produced a confirmed tornado in the Lockesburg area of Sevier County. The hard winds snapped or uprooted trees and created an overall mess to clean up. Below, Park Director Meghan Floyd with administrative assistant Abi Witherspoon in the back, help out during clean up last Thursday morning.



DAMAGED SAFETY NETS. The safety nets around the baseball complex were destroyed during the storm, which littered the park with debris. Here, park employees Will Harding and Becky McGee load a piece of tin found in the middle of the park that they were not even sure where it came from.



Stavely and Associates



#25007581 - Brick home w/approx 2,000 sq ft of living space, 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths. This home is move in ready and offers lots of space indoors and out. Oversized living room with wood burning fire-place opens to dining area and kitchen. All appliances including: dishwasher, stove and refrigerator to convey. CH/CA (gas heat), gas hot water heater, newer windows, newer roof and extra insulation. Nice large wooden deck - great for entertaining family and friends or relaxing after a long week. Contact our office for more details or to schedule your personal tour. **NEW ADVERTISED PRICE \$229,000.**

For more home, farm or land listings visit www.stavelyandassociates.com

- Eddie Stavely, Principal: 870-845-9000
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- Pam Kirby, Sales Agent: 870-845-9251
- Brad Vines, Sales Agent: 870-356-9680
- Jodi King, Sales Agent: 870-557-0747
- Holly Rucker, Sales Agent: 870-784-1349
- Matt Smith, Sales Agent: 870-845-8821

102 North Main Street • Nashville
870-845-1188

Featured LISTING!

121 W. Lee St, Mineral Springs



Welcome to this charming 3-bedroom, 2 bath house located at 121 Lee St. in Mineral Springs Arkansas. With a total living area of 2,494 square foot this lovely house offers plenty of space for you or your family to enjoy. The property was built in 1978 and is situated on a single level making it convenient for all residents. This house features 3 BR, 2 BA and a spacious living area providing plenty of room for relaxation and entertainment. This property is available now giving you opportunity to make this your own and create lasting memories. This house is a great opportunity for those looking to own a piece of real estate. **NEW PRICE \$220,000.**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF STEVEN DOUGLAS PITTACK, DECEASED NO. 31PR-25-25

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF CO-EXECUTORS AND FILING OF CLAIMS

Last known address of decedent: 1276 Hwy. 84 E, Umpire, AR 71971
 Date of death: March 13, 2025

An instrument dated March 11, 2019, was on the 21st day of April, 2025, admitted to probate as the Last Will of the above-named decedent, and the undersigned have been appointed co-executors thereunder. A contest of the probate of the will can be affected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six 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 this 30th day of April, 2025.

Jason Patrick Pittack and Rosemary Anne Sauser, Co-Executors

BY: Victor Martin, ABN 2018116
 Attorney at Law
 420 N. Main, Suite One
 P. O. Box 922
 Nashville, AR 71852
 (870) 845-5256 phone
 (870) 845-5899 fax
 (VM: 45, 46)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

STEPHANIE DIANE FRANCO, PLAINTIFF
 VS. NO. 31DR-25-6
 JAVIER FRANCO, DEFENDANT

WARNING ORDER

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
)
 COUNTY OF HOWARD)

The defendant is hereby warned to appear in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this Order and answer the Complaint for Divorce filed against (him/her) by the plaintiff.

Failure to file a written answer within 30 days may result in an entry of judgment by default against you or otherwise bar you from answering or asserting any defense you have.

WITNESS my hand and seal as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Howard County, Arkansas, this 1st day of May, 2025.

Angela Lewis,
 CIRCUIT CLERK
 (VM: 46, 47)



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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANK LEO JOHNSON, DECEASED NO. 55PR-25-20

NOTICE

ADDRESS OF DECEDENT: 6 Hedge Lane, Kirby, Pike County, Arkansas, 71950
 DATE OF DEATH OF DECEDENT: March 9, 2025

On the 29th day of April, 2025, the undersigned was appointed Administrator of the Estate of FRANK LEO JOHNSON, Deceased.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned 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. Claims for injury or death caused by the negligence of the Decedent shall also be filed within six (6) months from the date of first publication of the notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate.

THIS NOTICE first published on the 7th day of May, 2025.

JOSHUA JOHNSON, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF FRANK LEO JOHNSON
 DECEASED C/O RYAN VILLANO, ATTORNEY FOR FARRAR & WILLIAMS, PLLC
 1720 Higdon Ferry Road, Suite 202
 Hot Springs, AR 71913
 501-525-4401

(FW: 46, 47)

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 (BD: 46)

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2025 Peach Blossom Festival 'A Peachy Good Time'

News-Leader photos/LOUIE GRAVES



TRIBUTE TO THE PEACH. Nashville Chamber of Commerce directors Aaron Tollett and Lisa Chandler (at left) serve peach ice cream, Saturday morning at the chamber's annual Peach Blossom Festival, downtown. At the far end of the table is chamber executive director Tim Pinkerton who is hawking festival t-shirts. Pinkerton said that more than a dozen gallons of homemade peach ice cream was sold out. Chamber of commerce directors Maira Couch and Deede Reed, center of photo above, hand out prizes at the end of the bicycle parade.



CAKE WALK HOPEFULS. Yes, that is a giant 'Peachman' bringing up the rear of the line in one of the cake walks, Saturday morning at the Peach Blossom Festival. Bennie Bradford and his band (at right) performed for several hours at midday of the Peach Blossom Festival. Traffic was restored on Main Street at mid-afternoon after being closed for the festival.



New law allows for alcohol at state parks; beer now available at Crater of Diamonds

By P.J. Tracy
Murfreesboro Diamond
The Crater of Diamonds State Park will see an addition to their outside food offerings this year with beer now being available.

Jarrad Shelton, who owns Kickin Wingz Thingz in Nashville and operates the food stand at the Crater State Park, announced via social media that he had selected the types of beers that would be available after asking for preference suggestions.

"Good morning friends! I have the food truck out at the Diamond Mine. Just wanted to let all of you know that beginning next weekend 4-26, we will begin selling beer at the food truck ... I know after a hot day in the sun a few icy cold beers will help refresh you," Shelton wrote.

After deliberation, Shelton announced he would carry four Arkansas craft beers – Camp Hard Cider, Nebo Haze IPA, Petit Jean Pilsner and Black Jack Pirate Ale – along with four national brands including Miller Lite, Coors Light, Bud Light and Michelob Ultra.

At the recent community appreciation day at the Crater, Park Superintendent Caleb Howell said that in 2024 a law was passed after a push to get alcohol sold at state parks – including those located in dry counties.

He noted that a roped off area will be designated for partaking of the beverages and that they would not be allowed out on the digging area.

According to Howell said the rules for alcohol in the campground has not changed -- tourists can only consume alcohol they bring with them at their rented campsite. They will not be allowed to have it in public spaces in the campground.

When asked by the paper about additional staff to help supervise the new addition, he indicated that the current climate at the state level was calling for all reductions of staff possible and not additions.

The law, Arkansas Code Annotated 3-9-103, passed during the 2024 fiscal session and second extraordinary session, allows for the sale of the alcoholic beverages at state parks only during

normal operating hours (or outdoor events) to individuals 21 years and older without permitting by the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Division. The law also allows for the park to subcontract that ability to a third-party vendor – in this case, Shelton, who holds the contract to operate a food establishment at the state park.

The law also states that all beverages must be purchased from a wholesaler and that the individual parks must renew approval to do so on a yearly basis after state oversight.

By subcontracting the sales, the park has placed liability on Shelton as the third party vendor.

The law also states specifically that "any city, county or political subdivision

thereof" has the ability to prohibit alcoholic beverage sales, but stated that the state General Assembly -- in their infinite wisdom -- had determined that the states' tourism economy "contributes substantially" and that "extreme competition" for tourism dollars makes it essential to "be provided accommodations, services and facilities ... they are accustomed to and competitive with those offered in other states and areas -- especially states adjacent to Arkansas."

Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal admitted that the city was "caught by surprise" by the decision -- specifically by the fact they were not notified or consulted.

He added that he was concerned that the law provided the state park with

some "unfair advantages" over the two local businesses -- Feed Bin Café and Telinga's Mexican Restaurant -- by allowing a vendor to sell alcohol without the \$1,900/year private club licensing fee or that there will be no collection of the same special taxes of 27% for beer and 29% for mixed drinks that are applicable to the city's businesses.

The city will only be able to enforce an annual vendor's fee and normal tax collection as with any business conducting sales inside the city limits.

O'Neal also worries that the park -- which is a "family friendly" endeavor including a water park for children -- will be forced to be in close quarters with those publicly imbibing adult beverages.

"Now they get to walk right by an open saloon," he reasoned.

He also worries about the ramifications of having intoxicated people at the park.

"Our concerns were not addressed -- time will tell how much involvement the city's police force will have to have in the event of issues."

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