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News-Leader photo/DON HALL

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OBITUARIES

Annie Leavon Cogburn

Annie Leavon Cogburn, 83, of Nashville, died Thursday, May 8, 2025, in Nashville.

She was born Nov. 30, 1941, in Dumas, Ark., the daughter of the late Samuel Lee Irons and Mollie Elizabeth Blackburn.

She was preceded in death by a son, Frank Nichols, Jr.

Survivors include: a son, Lanny Nichols of Nashville; a daughter, Sherry Spurling of Nashville; also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were 4:00 p.m., Monday, May 12, 2025, at Shiloh Cemetery near Mineral Springs, with Bro. Don Jones officiating, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville. Online at latimer-funeralhome.com.



Sheila Marie Stone

Sheila Marie Stone, age 62, of Nashville, Ark., passed away peacefully with her husband and sons holding her hands 'til her very last breath on Thursday, May 8, 2025, in Texarkana, Texas.

She was born on April 13, 1963, in Marietta, Ohio, the daughter of the late Clarence E. Marshall and Edna Marie Whitney Marshall.

Sheila was known for her deep love of family, her resilient spirit, and her ability to light up a room with her presence.

She is survived by her loving husband, Yancey Stone; her children, Christopher and Carla Stone, and Shane and Kali Stone; and her cherished grandchildren, Brianna, Hunter, Konnor, Waylon, and Brooklyn. Sheila also leaves behind her siblings: Dwain Marshall, Stephanie (John Carson) Mullins, Sharon (Gary) Meyer, Janet (Steven) Francis, and Nadine (Randy) Fontaine.

She was preceded in death by her brothers Chip Marshall and Daniel Marshall, her sister Vada Ingram, and her sister-in-law Bonnie Marshall.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m., Monday, May 12, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville, Ark.

Funeral services will take place at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 13, also at Latimer Funeral Home, with David Hill and Bro. Brian Adair officiating. Interment will follow at Bingen-Ozan Cemetery in Bingen.

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



Barbara Ann Fisher Bogan

Barbara Ann Fisher Bogan, age 82, of Newhope, Ark., passed away on Friday, May 9, 2025, at her home.

She was born Dec. 13, 1942 in Marion, Ind., the daughter of the late Max Small and Ruth Spiker Small.

She loved the Lord, fishing, sewing, oil painting, playing piano, camping, gardening, and going to church.

Barbara gave her heart in helping others with love and kindness. She now can rest in peace in the heavens above.

Survivors include: her children, LaVonne Arnett, Regina McDaniel, Kirk McDaniel, and Suzanne Fisher; grandchildren, Amanda Clifton, Zack Clifton, Michelle Goodwin, Corbett McDaniel, and Alexis Arnett; as well as eight great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, at DeAnn Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

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



Nancy Gertrude Gardner

Nancy Gertrude Gardner, age 84 of Nashville, Ar., passed away on Thursday, May 8, 2025, in Nashville.

She was born on April 21, 1941 in Center Point to the late Jeff Dunn Reese and Ozella Gertrude Wood Reese.

Mrs. Gardner was a member of the Blue Bayou Church of Christ where she served as Sunday School Teacher.

She loved the outdoors and was always willing to lend a helping hand. She worked as a receptionist and office worker for various

companies.

She was a proud Breast Cancer survivor of 30 years.

Above all, she loved spending time with her family.

She liked to compete with her daughters and grandchildren foot racing, chin-ups, arm wrestling, basketball, softball and many other things.

She was an avid sports fan – especially when her girls and grandchildren played. She loved the Razorbacks, Warriors, Scrappers and Outlaws.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her loving husband of 54 years, Rodney Gardner.

Those left to cherish her memory include her three daughters and one son-in-law: Julie McRae and Jeff, Tina Chism and Machele Driver; two brothers and sisters-in-law: Jimmy Reese and Sheila, and Mike Reese and Darlene; eight grandchildren Taylor, Monique, Brooke, Brady, Montana, Mylee, Lane and Macy; 13 great-grandchildren: Eva Reese, Emma, Ella, Jett, Myla, Cruz, Morgan, Braxton, Parker, Cannon, Callum, Chism and Collins; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

A funeral service to remember her life will follow at 2 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the Latimer Funeral Chapel with Michael Howard officiating.

Interment will follow in Center Point Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.

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



RECEIVES DOCTORATE IN EDUCATION. Yolonda Coulter-Thomas of Maumelle received her PhD in Education from Arkansas State University on March 10. She is a 1987 graduate of Nashville High School and is the daughter of Paul and Doris Coulter of Center Point.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

By Josh Tice, Edward Jones Investments

Be alert for caregiver financial abuse

Do you have a parent or other elderly relative who may soon need a caregiver? If so, be diligent when selecting the right person for the job — because choosing the wrong one could lead to big financial problems.

You might find a close family member or friend to serve as caregiver — someone who is honest and trustworthy, with good judgment and strong money management skills. However, in many cases, people hiring caregivers just don't know how they'll perform until the caregivers have begun work. A dishonest caregiver could steal valuables or cash from the person they have been paid to assist or incept their mail to obtain credit card numbers and other sensitive information to commit identity theft.

So, if you enlist a caregiver and begin having doubts about them, you'll need to watch out for these warning signs of possible financial abuse:

- Efforts to prevent the individual receiving care from speaking to family members
- Inquiries into the location of estate-planning documents, such as a will
- Interest in brokerage and retirement accounts, possibly with the intent to change transfer-on-death designations
- Withholding financial or medical information from the family
- Missing jewelry or property
- Requests to be a joint holder on bank or brokerage accounts, sometimes followed by large cash withdrawals paid to the caregiver
- Request for legal authority, such as a financial power of attorney naming only the caregiver

This last item — the request for financial power of attorney, or POA — is particularly concerning because of the scope of duties covered by this type of authority. That's why it's so important that all family members understand what a financial POA can and cannot do.

A *general* financial POA provides the agent with the authority to act on behalf of an individual's finances, while a *limited* financial POA gives the agent the authority only for certain actions, such as paying bills, making withdrawals and opening or closing bank accounts. A general financial POA and a limited financial POA both can be *durable*, which means they take effect once executed, or *springing*, which is contingent on a specific event, such as a physical illness, mental incapacity or even a hospitalization.

Unfortunately, some POA agents have abused their responsibility by stealing money, making unauthorized transactions and even attempting to change the beneficiary designations on retirement accounts or insurance policies owned by the people for whom they provide care. These beneficiary designations can even supersede the instructions left in a will or living trust — and they can't be changed by a financial POA.

If you suspect financial abuse by a caregiver, you can consider contacting your loved one's financial advisor or attorney, if you know who it is. While they can't share information with you, they can check for red flags and contact your loved one directly. You also can get help from your state government. The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) provides a listing of offices in each state at napsa-now.org/help-in-your-area.

Finding a caregiver for a parent or other elderly relative can be emotionally difficult — but it doesn't have to be financially draining. Get to know the caregiver if you can and watch for any red flags, so you can take comfort in knowing that your loved one's finances are in good hands.

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Courtesy photo/JONATHAN CANADAY

CHURCH HONORS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. Chapel Hill Church of Christ held senior recognition night Saturday, May 3. Each senior received a Bible. The group includes Carmelo Jones, Chloe Turbeville, Logan Pennington, Walker Chesshir and Gage Green, all of Nashville; and Shalyn Lyle and Jessie Lyle, both of De Queen.

Church, cemetery sets Decoration Day

The annual Decoration and Homecoming at Biggs Chapel Church and Academy Cemetery will be Sunday May 18, with church at 10:30 a.m. 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.

Holiday changes told for Hempstead County

The Hempstead County Courthouse, Road, and Waste Departments will be closed Monday, May 26, for Memorial Day.

The offices and departments will resume regular work-

ing hours Tuesday, May 27.

The Hempstead County trash route for Monday, May 26, and Tuesday, May 27, will be collected on Tuesday, May 27,. Residents are asked to have trash receptacles out by 7 a.m.

Sardis Cemetery Fund makes 2024 report

The Sardis Cemetery Fund report for 2024: Total expenses exceeded contributions and memorials by \$2,645.

Donations included:
Linda Barnes -- \$1,000.
\$500 -- David Tiffin.
\$200 -- Cecil Arnold; Edwin and Allyson Tollett.

\$100 and less -- Mary Lynn Cornish, JoJo Reed, Jackie and Peggy Robinson; James and Irene Ross.

Memorials: \$100 -- Patricia Tiffin, in memory of Earl and Estelle Tiffin; Robert and Mary McFarland in memory of Virgil and Gladys Tollett.

Memorials to the Sardis Cemetery Fund may be mailed to 7160 Hwy. 278 W., Nashville, AR 71852.

The Nashville News-Leader

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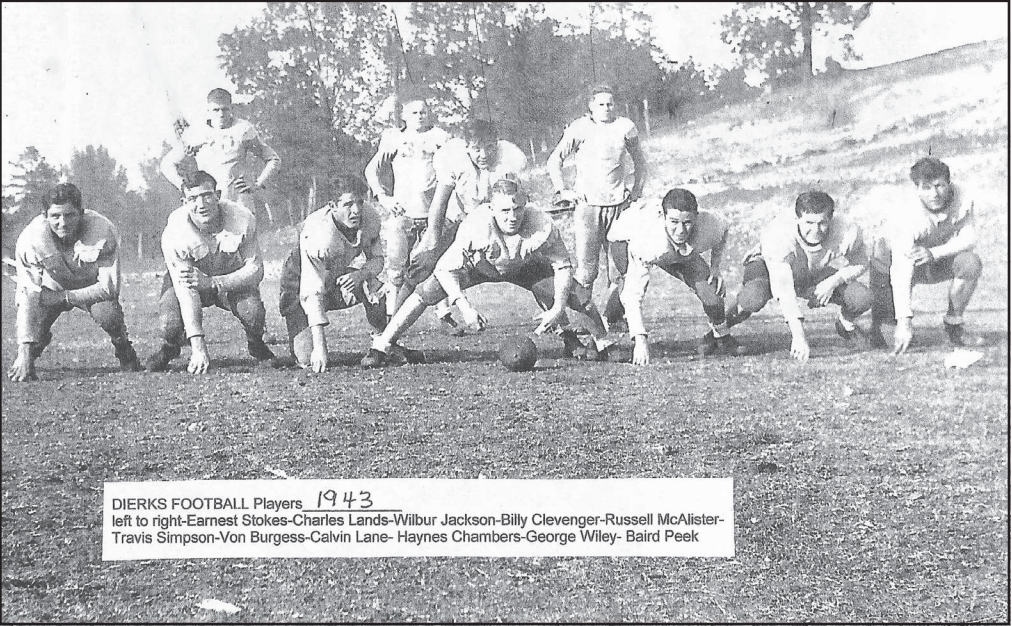


THE CECIL "BIRDDOG" HARRIS MEMORIAL

EARLY FILES

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

Compiled by Patsy Young



Dierks Outlaws 1943 (from Dierks the Early Days, compiled by Helen Lightfoot and Carolyn Griffin.)

122 years ago; May 1903
While en route from Memphis a few days since, Mr. O. W. Clark was robbed on a Cotton Belt passenger train. Mr. Clark had taken off his coat and vest and placed them in a suitcase he had with him. He went to another portion of the car to talk with a friend and thought nothing more of his belongings until the train had reached Texarkana. He went to look for his suitcase when a brakeman told him a man had left the train at Camden with a grip fitting description of his.

Notice: At the Buxton Building on the evenings of May 22 and 23 the "Deaton," a play of five acts, will be presented with music and recitations interspersed. The Kitchen Symphony and other choice selections will fill up the evening. Proceeds will go to aid Mrs. Old in paying her rent on music

room and painting the Episcopal Church.

79 years ago; May 1946
Selective Service today ordered local boards to call up draft-eligible childless men 26 to 29 for physical examination.

This is the first step in carrying out President Truman's instructions of yesterday to include these men in order to save what we can from the near wreckage of the Selective Service.

(Adv.) For dependable taxi service call Myrick or Copeland at Crystal Café. Phone 58.

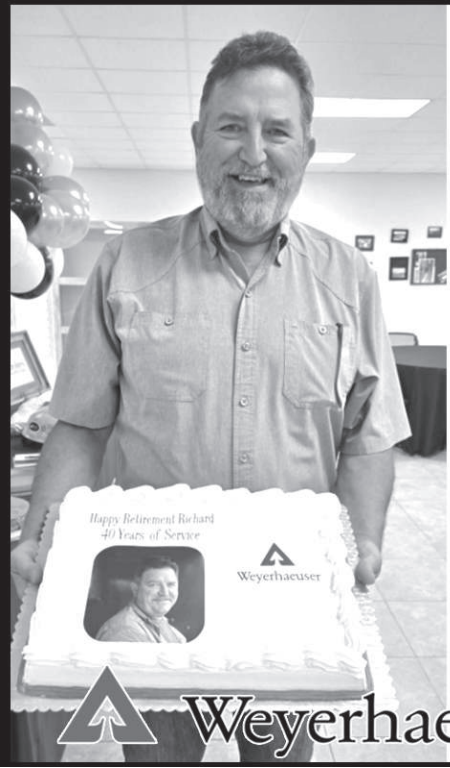
63 years ago; May 1962
Otis A. Blackwood, the district manager of the Texarkana Social Security office, advised those students who will be working for the first time this summer that there are two things they will need to do. First, they will need to

get a Social Security number; second, after you receive your number, it is most important that you show it to your employer.

A person should have only one number throughout his lifetime. If you lose your number be sure to apply for a duplicate.


42 years ago; May 1983
The two top graduates of Nashville High School for the class of 1983 are valedictorian Lori Aylett and salutatorian Marti Hood.

Melissa Anderson, a five-year-old, was treated and released by Howard Memorial after being apparently backed over by a car she was standing near. She was taken to the hospital by her mother, Cathy Anderson. According to the police report there were a number of children hanging on or near to the car as it backed out of the parking space.



Official retirement of Richard Murders, who has completed an incredible 40 years of dedicated service with Weyerhaeuser.

We are deeply grateful for your tireless efforts and outstanding contributions to our mills throughout the years, which have been instrumental in our growth and success.Your commitment and expertise have been invaluable to our organization, and we appreciate everything you have done for us, including your leadership, guidance, and mentorship.We wish you a long, happy, and relaxing retirement, filled with joy, good health, and time spent with loved ones, and we hope you will enjoy this well-deserved milestone.

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Before the end of May!

Due to the rising cost of newsprint, ink and printing supplies, *The Nashville News-Leader* in trade area subscriptions beginning June 1 will be **\$45 a year.**
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2025 MAY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	Nashville ³⁰ News-Leader Offer Ends	31

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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 May 1-7, 2025, unless noted otherwise, include the following:

Marriage Licenses

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

May 2. Michael Bradley Lowrey, 26, Dierks, and Breanna Nicole Mounts, 23, Dierks.

Civil Court

CV25-57, May 7. Tamara Cheatham, et al, vs. Howard Memorial Hospital. Class action, data breach.

Domestic Relations Court

DR25-40, May 2. Meghan Floyd vs. Joseph Floyd. Order of protection.

DR25-41, May 2. Jessica Empty vs. Anthony Empty, Jr. Order of protection.

DR25-42, May 7. Johnny Riley vs. Carmiecha Levinston. Divorce.

Criminal Court

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

CR25-48, May 2. State of Arkansas vs. Brandon Dewayne Poindexter, 44, black male, 1109 N. Main, Nashville; 3rd degree domestic battery, class D felony; fleeing, misdemeanor.

CR25-49, May 6. State of Arkansas vs. Meagan Hill, 30, white female, 730 Dillard Circle, Nashville; 2nd degree domestic battery, class C.

Land/Property Transactions

Quitclaim Deeds

May 2. Ann L. Carr; to Ann L. Carr and Shanteze Morris, Joint Tenants; Lot 52, Block 5, Toland Heights Subdivision, Nashville.

May 7. Lisa Wesson et al, sole heirs at law of Ernestine Matheny; to Paul Cox and Kristi Cox, husband and wife; 1.78 ac. in S12 T9S R28W.

Fiduciary's Deed

May 7. Alvin Dwayne Clardy, Acting Administrator of the Estate of Shirley Davis, deceased; to Alvin Dwayne Clardy and Lawrence Hill; aggregate 93.68 ac.in S23/S4 T9S R28W.

Beneficiary's Deed

May 7. John W. McBride and Tammy Lynn McBride, husband and wife; to Angela Starkey Kim Walker, John Charles McBride and Matthew McBride; 2 ac. in S19 T10S R27W.

Warranty Deeds

May 2. Eddie Duenas-Bautista; to Anthony Jones and Lakisha Jones, husband and wife; part of Lots 13 thru 18, Block 72, Town of Nashville. \$40,000.

May 5. Juan A. Rocha Banda and Laura Garcia, husband and wife; to Juan A. Rocha Banda and Laura Garcia and Athziry Rocha; part of Lots 20 thru 24, Block 71, City of Nashville.

Sentence imposed; court dates set

A California man who had previously pleaded guilty to attempting to distribute \$100 bills returned to the courtroom in Nashville last week for formal sentencing.

John Ray Dynes, 59, black male, Oakland, Calif., was originally charged with a class B felony, first degree forgery.

He was sentenced to two years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) with a further four years suspended imposition of sentence.

Jury trial dates and dates for pretrial motions were set for three defendants who entered not guilty pleas before presiding Judge Tom Cooper last Wednesday, May 7, the regular day for criminal court in Howard County.

Meagan Hill, 30, white female, Nashville, pleaded not guilty to a class C felony charge of second degree domestic battery.

Motions will be heard June 4.

June 4 was also set for the pretrial motions date for Brandon Poindexter, 44, black male, Nashville, who is charged with third degree

domestic battery along with a misdemeanor charge of fleeing.

Brandon Leon Watts, 45, white male, Delight, also has the June 4 date for motions. His original charges were amended.

They were controlled substance possession, class C, and possession of drug paraphernalia, class D.

Bond was revoked for Ricky Golston, 52, black male, Washington, who is facing two felony counts of non-support.

His next court appearance is to be June 4.

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Point of view

A busy season

Looking forward to those foody fund-raisers

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I am getting ready for a busy season in our neck of the woods.

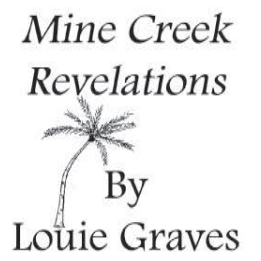
Lots of country churches are getting ready for homecoming and for decoration/cleanup in cemeteries.

Lots of groups are holding fund-raisers -- the truth is, that they mostly have food events. No longer do we have car washes or group lawn care. Did we ever have clubs that mowed lawns, or is that just my imagination?

It is unavoidable that some of the fund-raisers become competition for existing businesses which will get hit up at some point to buy an advertisement in a printed program.

One thing we DON'T have much more anymore is asking for handouts.

School groups or youth groups generally have projects.



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. Come get in line but only after I've filled my plate.

The coffee will be from 9-11 a.m., and I will let you have 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 organizers of recent events including the Peach Blossom Festival, the seasonal opening of the Farmers' Market, and the fund-raiser for the Center Point Volunteer Fire Department.

Great events reflect great volunteers and great leadership. Thank you, all, for making our community look so good to everyone else.

Although COVID had something to do with it, the decline in participation of such local events runs through our whole culture.

Our town has lost its Lions Club among others. I sincerely hope that Junior Auxiliary and Nashville Rotary manage to hold on and prosper. The continuity of such organizations is of great value to the community.

My request to readers is to support such organizations and agencies as the Children's Center, the Hospital Foundation, Band Boosters, The Moonlighters EH Club that sponsors blood drives at Center Point.

This is my chance to remind groups that (if they are non-profit) the 'News-Leader' will gladly publicize for free.

And a reminder, while I do support group fund drives, I often spare my support if they haven't asked their local newspaper for publicity.

ANIMAL CRACKERS. One bird I haven't seen in a couple of years is the Summer Tanager. Males are completely red; females are dull colored.

I had a clear view of one once at the patio birdbath. I think I have encountered another one back a year or so ago when I was able to take longer walks in the morning. I came up on what I think was a Summer Tanager at the far reach of my walk where it hid out in the dark of early morning.

That's when I learned its call. I think.

It is a shy bird. As soon as I got to within about 20 yards it just disappeared. It is surprisingly hard to spot, given the male's color which is not the same red as the common male Cardinal.

Another bird I have had unfortunately few encounters with is the Baltimore Oriole. A neighbor whose house is only about 100 yards away from mine brags that she has them at her patio feeders very frequently.

I learned this week that the Summer Tanager and the Baltimore Oriole both are attracted to oranges and to grape jelly.

Just like me.

OKAY, I COULDN'T RESIST.

Anyone else uneasy by the President accepting a new Air Force One from a foreign nation?

It's nice to save the money, but what do we owe in return?

MORE THINGS I LEARNED from the Universal Classroom of Life: "There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is that once you get old, you stop being polite and start being honest."

WORD GAMES. Distant relations: More or Less. Sometimes the words are used to describe things that are closely alike. Sometimes they are used like "positive and negative."

HE SAID: "No one should be ashamed to admit he is wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday." Alexander Pope, translator and poet

SHE SAID: "Some men have thousands of reasons why they cannot do what they want to, when all they need is one reason why they can." Martha Graham, dancer and teacher

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

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

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Nashville News-Leader
418 N. Main
P.O. Box 205
Nashville, AR 71852
Phone 870-845-0600

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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

Legislation passed in recent session will cut \$260 million from Medicaid

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

The Arkansas Medicaid expansion program known as ARHOME must be renewed every five years, and earlier this year the Department of Human Services submitted a renewal application to federal authorities that includes a revised work requirement for recipients.

Also this year the legislature approved Act 774 to achieve more than \$260 million in potential savings for taxpayers in the ARHOME program.

ARHOME is an acronym for Arkansas Health and Opportunity for ME. It provides government-subsidized health coverage for about 225,000 Arkansans at an annual cost of between \$2 billion and \$2.5 billion a year. The years in which it was most costly were during the height of the COVID pandemic.

The federal government pays for 90 percent of the costs of ARHOME and has authority to accept or deny proposed changes in eligibility and range of services.

Most of the cost savings from Act 774 would be through a more transparent rebate process. One of the significant cost categories in Medicaid is prescription drugs.

Some public health systems in other states have filed suit, or conducted investigations, and learned that they did not receive all the rebates to which they were entitled.

Also, the state will achieve an unknown amount of savings due to a new work requirement. Arkansas previously had a work requirement, but it was stricken after a legal challenge. The language in Act 774 is meant to comply with federal court orders in the previous lawsuit.

Getting or looking for a job will not be a requirement for eligibility, as it was before. Instead, people who receive ARHOME services will have individual development plans, which include work or continuing education. People who do not cooperate and refuse to follow their plan will have benefits suspended.

The national Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2010, making people between 19 and 64 years old eligible for Medicaid expansion services if their annual income was below 138 percent of the poverty level.

Each state enacted its own version of Medicaid expansion, and in 2013 Arkansas became the first

state to gain federal approval for a Medicaid expansion program that relied on private health insurance. Arkansas Medicaid pays private insurers to cover the eligible population.

It was first known as the private option and it lowered the rate of uninsured significantly. Arkansas hospitals reported that the number of unnecessary visits to emergency rooms went down. Beginning in 2017 the name was changed to Arkansas Works, and the state began imposing the work requirements that were later stricken by a federal court.

Under Act 774, companies that provide coverage under the ARHOME program must maintain a medical loss ratio of 85 percent. Previously it was 80 percent. The ratio refers to the amount that insurance companies must pay to physicians, hospitals, pharmacies and other providers for medical care, and which cannot be spent on administration or salaries.

Federal public health officials estimate that 92.3 percent of the United States population is covered by health insurance of some type. There are about 26.1 million Americans with no insurance.

CYC members give needed advice

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

As Arkansans, we are blessed our state is home to many talented, intelligent and capable young people who shine in a variety of ways. Many of our students thrive across academic, athletic, artistic and community-focused extracurricular endeavors, all while balancing a challenging workload and other important responsibilities like family obligations and part-time jobs.

Fortunately, there are many meaningful ways our communities can support bright students and future leaders across The Natural State.

One such opportunity is through my office's Congressional Youth Cabinet (CYC), a program I have been proud to offer to high school juniors in Arkansas since 2017 to encourage civic engagement and help develop an interest in public service.

Participants invest their time meeting with other students in the congressional district they reside in during the school year while also working with my staff and learning about the legislative process. These young men and women select a topic that interests them, such as rural health or the debate surrounding "name, image and likeness" in college athletics, and spend months collaborating through interviewing subject matter experts and gathering research. The program concludes with an end-of-year presentation to my staff and me where students outline their findings, recommenda-

tions and potential legislative solutions. They are also encouraged to describe how their proposals could be funded and implemented.

The CYC was designed with the intent to provide students from a wide variety of backgrounds and personal interests first-hand experience with the democratic process. Ultimately, the program is a non-partisan opportunity for hardworking and enthusiastic youth to learn how public policy impacts their communities, their families and themselves.

This year's CYC -- the eighth iteration of the event -- included 114 exceptional participants. I was thoroughly impressed with their presentations and am grateful for the deliberate and meaningful work they accomplished over the course of the school year. It was clear they selected topics they were passionate about exploring, which led us to thoughtful discussions and exciting, fresh ideas.

Multiple groups all chose to present on topics relating to rural health care, such as increasing access for Arkansans in smaller and underserved communities, improving maternal health care and infant outcomes, increasing the availability of non-emergency medical transportation and methods to attract more doctors, nurses and health care professionals to our state. Another focused on the impact of social media on mental and social health. It was clear that leading healthier and fulfilling lives was important to many of

these young people.

As a former health care provider, I thoroughly appreciated their perspectives and found their interest in a topic so important to me inspiring.

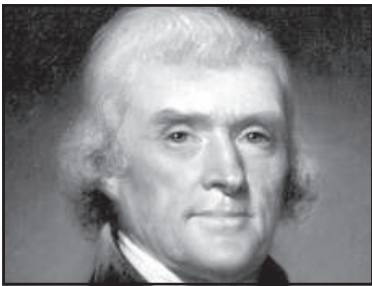
While I do not miss two-a-days and exhausting conditioning sessions as a former Razorback football player, I was excited to hear other presentations on the possible impacts of collegiate "name, image and likeness." And I also learned a great deal from groups that highlighted innovative technologies and trainings to promote safe and productive learning environments in school. That is something, as a former Rogers School Board member, that I know is a concern across communities and school districts.

I appreciated seeing these issues through their eyes and it is safe to say this was a great end to an enjoyable, rewarding experience.

Students of this character and caliber are a strong representation of our state and nation's next leaders, and I look forward to seeing them continue down exciting paths that can lead to purposeful, service-oriented futures.

I am confident whatever they decide to invest their time and energy in, they will continue to find ways to make their voices heard on the issues and initiatives they care about deeply.

CYC members -- from this year and the many before -- are the leaders of tomorrow that our nation needs and can anxiously expect to make a real difference.



"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.

Unique

Continued from page 1A

querque have a breath-taking beauty.

Sitting at the base of the Sandia mountains, Albuquerque has had human visitors for at least 12,000 years and began to be settled by the Spanish around 1600. In 1706, the Spanish governor officially named the town, and its ownership has passed from Spain to Mexico, and finally to the U.S. in 1846.

The Sandia mountains (Spanish for watermelon, based on their color at sunset) border Albuquerque on the east.

The Sandia Peak Tramway, the second longest in the world, carries passengers to an elevation of 10,378 feet, overlooking the city and roughly 11,000 square miles of the New Mexico countryside. Carry oxygen, if you have it.

At the top is a restaurant and numerous Forest Service trails for hikers, as well as many ski runs—popular in the wintertime for skiers and for mountain bikers the rest of the year—going down the east side of the mountain range.

Albuquerque itself is a Mecca for hikers, with 77 trails covering 195 miles in the immediate area and ranging in difficulty from easy to stupid. One of the more interesting is the Paseo del Bosque (“Forest Walk”), a paved multi-use trail that follows the cottonwoods along the Rio Grande for 16 miles through the heart of Albuquerque.

Along the Paseo del Bosque is Old Town, an area that traces its roots to the 18th century and retains much of the flavor of the past. It’s home to numerous shops and restaurants, as well as a park and the San Felipe church, built in 1793.

Another must-see for visitors is the Petroglyph National Monument. The earliest settlers of Albuquerque were Native American shepherds. For whatever reason, these shepherds, probably while tending their sheep, carved an estimated 25,000 figures into the black basalt rocks. There are four trails through the national



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

Jaree Hall of Nashville visits one of the many museums during a recent trip to Albuquerque, N.M.



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

One of the 25,000 petroglyphs carved into black basalt rocks at the Petroglyph National Monument

monument, ranging from 1-4 miles round trip and from easy to moderate difficulty, with loads of petroglyphs to see.

Finally, there is the food. I love Mexican food. I’ve eaten Mexican food throughout

the United States and along both coasts of Mexico. I love hot food, but NOTHING prepared me for New Mexican food.

They have their own variety of chiles, New Mexico Chiles from the Hatch val-



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

An 1881 brothel converted to three apartments at Albuquerque

ley, and unless you have a tongue and stomach made of cast iron, you might want to order the salsa on the side of your dishes and add as much as you have the courage for. It will definitely light your fire, and it will be

a memorable experience for two days.

In a few years, Musk and Bezos might make it possible to visit other planets. Until then, consider Albuquerque. At 850 miles from Nashville, it’s worth the drive.

State

Continued from page 1A

Nashville defeated the Saints 6-1 in the Ralph Gross Memorial Tournament early in the season.

The winner of Thursday’s game will play Morrilton or Stuttgart at 10 a.m. May 16 in the quarterfinals.

The state semifinal will be at 12 noon May 17.

Soccer

The Scrappers will enter the Class 4A state soccer tournament as the two seed from the South.

State soccer will be hosted by Robinson and will be played at different sites around central Arkansas.

Nashville will play Star City at 11 a.m. May 15 at Bauxite.

The winner will play Robinson or Clarksville in the quarterfinals May 16 at 4 p.m. at Robinson.

Semifinals will be May 17.

Memorial Day event set May 26 in Nashville

Howard County’s annual tribute to soldiers, sailors and airmen who died defending the nation will be held Monday, May 26, at 11 a.m.

The public is invited to the Memorial Day event which will take place in front of the monument to war dead on the courthouse lawn in Nashville.

A wreath will be placed in front of the monument at that time.

Wright’s Chapel Decoration Day May 24

The annual Decoration Day at Wright’s Chapel Cemetery will be Saturday, May 24.

There will be a short business meeting at 11 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch.

The cemetery is located at 1907 Hwy. 317, north of Cowlingville.



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PICK-OFF PLAY. Murfreesboro senior Rattler Brody Maroon at work at first base during a pick-off play against the Parkers Chapel Trojans at the regional tournament held last week in Woodlawn.

Murfreesboro enters state tourney

Thursday versus Conway Christian

WOODLAWN – The Murfreesboro Rattlers punched their ticket to the Class 2A state tournament last week with a win at the regional tournament.

In the first round, the Rattlers defeated Junction City by a 5-4 score.

The Dragons would lead 2-0 after the top half of the second inning. In the bottom of the second, the Rattlers would explode for five runs.

Junction City would add two runs in the fifth inning, but were unable to add another run in the game’s final two innings to complete the comeback.

Kooper Caldwell had a pair of hits and an RBI for MHS, while Laytan Wilcher added a stolen base and an RBI.

Carter Gilmer had an RBI and a run scored for MHS, and Kale Burns added an RBI and a run scored.

Isaac Kuykendall, Alex Bonner and Lathan Compton scored a run each.

Brody Maroon started the game for the Rattlers, going four innings while allowing a pair of earned runs and a walk. He would strike out four batters.

After Wilcher got into trouble in the fifth (two earned runs, three walks and a strikeout), Kuykendall would come in to shut the door on the Dragons, going 2.33 innings while allowing no hits or walks and striking out five.

Jaxon Temple was the starting pitcher for the Dragons, going one out short of the distance while allowing three earned runs, two walks and striking out six.

Graden Hanry would drive in threes runs for Junction City, while teammate Reid Cates scored twice with two hits and a stolen base.

VERSUS PARKERS CHAPEL

In the second round of regionals, the Rattlers would drop a 2-1 game to Parkers Chapel.

Murfreesboro would hold a 1-0 lead after the third inning, an advantage that would hold until the fifth inning when Parkers Chapel scored both their runs.

Wilcher would score the Rattlers’ lone run. Isaac Kuykendall had the game’s only extra base hit with a double as part of his 2-for-3 day.

Kuykendall went the complete seven innings on the mound for the Rattlers, allowing five hits, two earned runs and three walks with eight strikeouts.

Parkers Chapel’s Cameron Mayo would match Kuykendall’s effort, pitching seven innings himself while allowing five hits, an earned run and five walks while striking out seven Rattlers.

Mayo and Dyson Dougan each had RBIs for the Trojans.

Parkers Chapel would drop the championship game the next day to Woodlawn by a 24-3 score.

VERSUS SPRING HILL

In the regional consolation game, Murfreesboro would drop the game to conference for Spring Hill by an 8-3 score.

The Bears found themselves in the game following a 9-5 loss to Woodlawn the day previous.

Spring Hill Jumped out to a 2-0 lead in their top half of the second inning, which the Rattlers matched in the bottom half of the second.

The Bears would extend the lead to 6-2 when Murfreesboro added their final run un the bottom of the sixth.

Brody Maroon (two innings) and Carter Gilmer (five innings) would pitch for the Rattlers, collectively allowing six earned runs, eight walks and nine hits while striking out three.

Mason Moore went the complete game for the Bears, allowing seven hits, three earned runs and two walks. He would strike out five batters in his effort.

Burns had three RBIs for the Rattlers on his 3/3 day with a pair of doubles and a stolen base.

Kuykendall doubled and scored a run for the Rattlers.

Karson Hamilton and Andrew Carrillo each had two RBIs and a run scored for Spring Hill.

STATE TOURNAMENT

The Rattlers (21-9) will next see action in Thursday’s game versus Conway Christian (19-4) in the Class 2A state tournament hosted at Palestine-Wheatley. The game is set to be played in Forrest City at 10 a.m..

Conway Christian is the number one seed from Region 3-2A.

Should the Rattlers win the game, they would play the winner of the Izard County and Westside-Johnson County contest on Friday.

LADY RATTLERS

The Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers softball team ended their season with a first round loss at regionals to Woodlawn by a 10-0 score.

The Lady Rattlers finish with a 6-15 record on the season.

Exclusive Access:

Explore state’s private fishing hotspots

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s Public Access to Private Waters program offers anglers a chance to explore exclusive fishing spots on private land across our beautiful state. This isn’t just about more places to fish; it’s about quality experiences, less competition and the thrill of discovering a new favorite honey hole.

Arkansas boasts 600,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, and another 96,000 miles of streams and rivers, much of which are accessible to the public. More than 500,000 anglers share those waters every year. Through the AGFC’s Conservation Incentive Program’s Public Access to Private Waters practice, now you can take a chance to get off the beaten path and enjoy a quieter, more secluded experience. The AGFC forged unique partnerships with private landowners who are passionate about conservation and angling. Through the incentive, these landowners generously open their properties for limited, permitted fishing, creating a win-win situation for everyone involved. Landowners gain assistance in managing their fish populations, and anglers gain access to unpressured waters and the potential for a memorable catch.

Whether you’re a seasoned angler chasing trophy fish or a weekend warrior looking for a peaceful escape, the Public Access to Private Waters program means more opportunities for exceptional fishing.

The variety of waters included in the program is also a significant draw. From tranquil lakes holding impressive bass and bream to quiet oxbows and flowing rivers harboring other popular species, the program encompasses a diverse range of aquatic environments waiting to be explored.

Participating in the Public Access to Private Waters program operates on a straightforward permit system for weekend access. Each weekend (Saturday and Sunday) until June 29 is applied for separately online. The application window for each weekend opens on Thursday a week before at noon and closes that Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Applicants pay a \$5 permit fee at the time of application. Winners are notified via email on the Monday preceding the fishing weekend. And the best part? Your permit allows you to bring a guest, providing an excellent opportunity to share the experience and create lasting memories with a fishing buddy.

Each available site is clearly listed by the county and the nearest town, making it easy to find potential locations that pique your interest. Access to these properties is granted only on the permitted days, ensuring the exclusivity and quality of the experience for all permit holders. Fishing hours are also clearly defined, running from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset each permitted day, allowing for those coveted early morning and late evening bites.

Beyond the exceptional fishing opportunities, participating in the Public Access to Private Waters program contributes to conservation. By allowing limited access for fishing, private landowners can, with the guidance of AGFC fisheries biologists, effectively manage fish populations. In some cases, this may involve the removal of overabundant species, contributing to a healthier and more balanced aquatic ecosystem. As a permit holder, you become a partner in this management effort, playing a direct role in the long-term health of these waters.

Conservation Incentive Program waters are private lands generously opened for public enjoyment. The AGFC urges all permit holders to treat these locations with the utmost respect, as if they were your own. Just as with all private water, daily creel and length limits still apply. These regulations are in place to ensure the sustainability of the fishery and the continued success of the program. Additionally, please be mindful of the land itself, leaving no trace of your visit and helping us maintain these valuable access points for future anglers. The AGFC provides signage and trash pickup to assist in this effort, but your personal responsibility is vital.

The Public Access to Private Waters program is an exciting opportunity for Arkansas anglers. It’s a chance to escape the crowds, explore pristine waters and potentially land the fish of a lifetime. Don’t let these exceptional angling adventures pass you by. Take a look at the available locations, mark your calendar and get ready to unlock your next unforgettable fishing experience. Apply for your permits today at www.agfc.com/licenses – the fish are waiting.

MS Lady Hornets raising funds for trip to state tournament

The Mineral Springs Lady Hornet softball team is currently raising fund for its first trip ever to the 1A state tournament. The Hornets will enter the state tournament on Thursday, May 15 at 12:30 against County Line.

The tournament will be held in Harrison, which is a 227-mile trip from Mineral Springs High School.

In a social media post, Head Coach Jessica Williams stated, “For the first time in 23 years, our program has made the Arkansas softball state tournament. To help make this experience special for this group of hardworking girls, we’re asking for any donations from our friends, family and community. These girls have already accomplished so much this year including being undefeated conference champions and a district tournament championship. Donations will go toward travel expenses and shirts for the girls for their successful year. Every dollar helps!”

Good Luck

to the

Nashville Scrappers, Scrapperettes

Mineral Springs Lady Hornets

Murfreesboro Rattlers

in the

4A, 2A & 1A

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Scrappers compete at regional tourney

News-Leader photos/DEDE ROBINSON, JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Hayden Gray is safe at third base Friday afternoon, May 9, against Magnolia at the regional tournament. The Panthers won the game 6-3.



Carson Kirby records a hit for the Scrappers in their 8-7 win over Monticello in the Class 4A South regional May 8 at De Queen.



Mason Honea watches the ball after a hit against Warren. The Lumberjacks won 7-6 May 10.



Banks Ray takes his turn at bat in the Class 4A regional against Monticello.



Peyton Fritts bats against Monticello during the Scrappers' victory over the Billies.



Gage Green secures the ball in the regional tournament game against Warren.



Zeus Hutchinson makes the catch for the Scrappers in last week's regional tournament at De Queen. The Scrappers will play at state starting May 15.



Brett Fritts arrives at second base May 8 against Monticello. Nashville finished third at the regional tournament and advanced to Class 4A state.



John Wallis pitches in the Scrappers' 6-3 loss to Magnolia Friday, May 9.



National Hospital Week
May 11 - 17

Howard Memorial Hospital is celebrating National Hospital Week - we are proud of all our dedicated professionals that care for our community.



First Baptist Church
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Sunday Morning Worship
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Rev. Kevin Sartin

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Commercial forms **MUST** be returned postmarked by **May 31, 2025**
Howard County Assessor



SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE. The National Letter Carriers’ annual food drive was held Saturday, May 10 and collected an estimated 6,000 pounds of food with possible more expected to gathered this week. The annual event first started in 1983 and is credited with helping feed millions of American. Pictured here with the haul is Nashville carrier Jim Kirkham, who got an assist from one of his sons, Judah.

News-Leader photos/COURTESY OF JIM KIRKHAM



Daughters of the American Revolution

Businesses invited to sponsor ‘Missing Man’ tables for Memorial Day

By Carrie Lewis McGaha
MC-PC DAR Treasurer

In advance of Memorial Day, the Mine Creek-Paragould Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is now offering businesses in Southwest Arkansas a meaningful way to honor Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

Through the sponsorship of a “Missing Man Table,” businesses can visibly demonstrate their respect and remembrance of our fallen heroes during the week leading up to Memorial Day.

The DAR chapter will set up each table (opportunities are limited) at participating business locations and remove them following Memorial Day. Each Missing Man Table will feature symbolic elements representing service members who are missing in action or never returned home. A small sign explains the significance of each item on the place setting.

DAR invites everyone to join us in honoring those who gave everything to preserve our freedoms. The Missing Man Table is a powerful tribute that brings the meaning of Memorial Day to the forefront in our community.

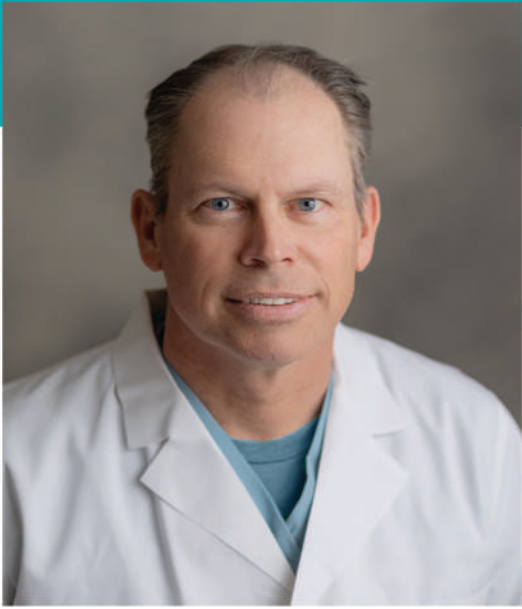
Persons wanting to to sponsor a Missing Man Table can contact Elizabeth Wilson Overton at 870-845-8419 or via email at Overton24@gmail.com as soon as possible as table kits are limited and Memorial Day is right around the corner.

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Sam Ernest
Valedictorian
&
Honor Graduate



Jordan Hill
Salutatorian
&
Honor Graduate

Dierks High School
Class of 2025



Honor Graduates
Chloe Billings, Jaycie Johnson, Kayla Marquez, Hannah Kirby & Hailey Smith



Alley Stinson



Autumn Dixon



Bailee Hill



Caleb Woodall



Casen Hunter



Landon Young



Daniel Barnett



Danny Deer



Denver Tollett



Dylan Moore



Erin Cowart



Ethan Kuykendall



Grayson Kersey



Hayle Broach



Isaac Wade



Jerron Hill



Juan Salazar




Justin Humphreys

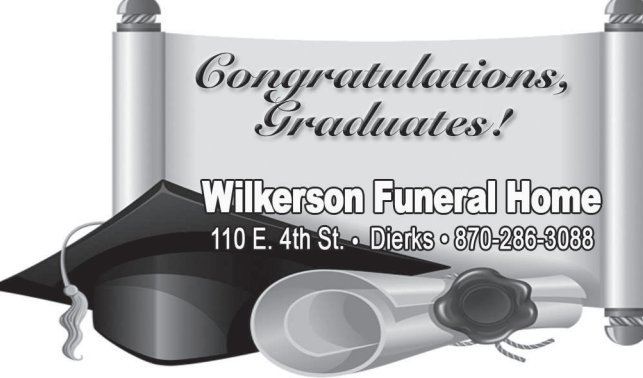
More Dierks High School Class of 2025 Next Page>

DHS Graduation
May 20 • 7:00

All Dierks Photos by Cindy Steward,
Remember When Photography


HATS OFF!
to the
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Class of 2025!**
Best Wishes,
Mayor Ronnie Cogburn
and the
City of Dierks


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Congratulations
GRADS!

It's taken years of hard work and dedication to get where you are today, and you should be proud of your achievement. Today is your day to celebrate, so give yourself a pat on the back. The road ahead will be filled with new and exciting challenges, but we know you can make the grade. We wish you all the best as you forge ahead in pursuit of your hopes and dreams!

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More Dierks High School Class of 2025



Kalli Alexander



Kamila Olvera



Karsyn Marshall



Kason Dougan



Kirsten Hendershott



Madison Hoskins



Malaine Robinson



Marcus Bruce



Nicholas Hodges



Preston Icenhower



Sierra Ainsworth



Stailee Harrison



Steve Ortiz



Triston Priest


Umpire High School
Class of 2025
Graduation May 15 • 6:00



Jonathan Dominquez




Darrien Duboise



Kelly Ortiz-Ortega




Christopher Tomblin



Jose Zaragoza

CONGRATS

to the 2025 Graduates!




Honoring our graduates on this milestone achievement. We salute your heart work and dedication!

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IT'S YOUR WORLD,
GRAD!

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Class of 2025

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Congratulations
to the area school graduates
and to our Graduates



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Caroline Cannon
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Best of Luck
To All The Area Graduates!
The Nashville News-Leader


Murfreesboro High School Class of 2025

					
David Barnes	Chloe Beck	Isaac Bush	Cameron Campbell	James Chaney	Ethan Coleman
					
Lathan Compton	Layne Cox	Cesar Cruz-Reyes	Kaleb Delarosa	Caden Dixon	Tyler Ellis
					
Taiden Fannin	Aniyah Harris	Janiyah Harris	Daelyn Henderson	Nathan Hill	Jocee Holt
					
Trista Howard	Jamie Howell	Weston Lamb	Cash Lowery	Brody Maroon	Jada Matthews
					
Jenna May	Santan McMillian	Natalie Perrin	Albert Quiroz	Kylie Ray	Briana Rosillier

MORE Murfreesboro High School Class of 2025 NEXT PAGE➤

A WORLD OF WELL WISHES, GRAD!

Hats off to you, graduates, as you celebrate a fine achievement. A world of opportunity awaits, and we wish you happiness and success in all that you do. Thanks for making us proud!



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We would like to congratulate all area students on achieving a true milestone in their lives.



More
Murfreesboro
High
School
Class
of
2025



Chloe Scoggins



James Silva



Brody Smith



Reid Spradlin



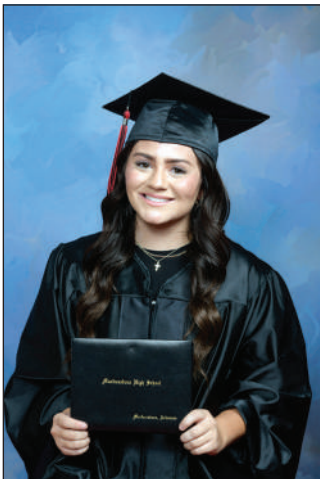
Cameron Stevens



Layken Stone



Elijah Strawn



Kinleigh Sullivan



Alli Synco



Makenna Taylor



Anna Terrell



Allie Wicker



Laytan Wilcher




James K. Williams



Braden Wright

MHS’ 2025 Graduation was held Tuesday, May 13
on Holloway Field @ Rattler Stadium

Best of Luck
To All The Area Graduates!
The Nashville News-Leader



Congratulations on your many achievements, 2025 Graduates!

May the knowledge and experience you have gained as a student serve you well in your future endeavors. We wish you all the best!

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Honoring a Prestigious Achievement

Congratulations to our distinguished graduates. You’ve worked hard over the years, and we are very proud of your accomplishment here today. Now a bright future awaits you, and there are no limits to the success you can achieve. We wish each of you the best of luck as you pursue exciting new challenges and goals after graduation.

Congratulations 2025 Murfreesboro Graduates

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Locals officers among
ALETA Class of 2025

CAMDEN - Fifty-nine cadets of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Class 2025-A graduate as law enforcement officers during a ceremony held in Camden on April 18.

Over the course of the 13-week program, they completed approximately 650 hours of instruction and practical training.

Special recognition and awards were presented to the cadets who attained the highest scores within the respective training categories listed as follows:

Academics:

1. Gavin Constant, Osceola P.D.
2. Matthew Maas, El Dorado P.D.
3. Dawson Dunn, Garland Co.

Physical Fitness:

1. Larry Morales, Hot Springs P.D.
2. Jared Wilson, Hot Springs P.D.
3. Jeffery Green, Howard Co.

Firearms:

- 1 - TIE. Daniel Roumbanis, Johnson Co. / A’Quan Tyler, Pine Bluff P.D.
2. Mark Herndon, 18th West Judicial DTF
3. Jeremy Barnett, Ashley Co.

Emergency Vehicle Obstacle Course (EVOC):

1. Christian Mortimore, Waldron P.D.
2. Jesse Smith, Pine Bluff P.D.
3. Jacob Sexton, Searcy P.D.

Servant Leadership Award: Brandon Bush, Hot Springs P.D.

The graduates and their agencies are listed as follows:

Caleb Dinger, Howard Co. – Class Leader

Justice Cato, Johnson Co. – Assistant Class Leader

Brandon Bush, Hot Springs P.D. – Squad A Leader

Radale Scoby, Eudora P.D. – Squad A Assistant Leader

Aaron Arndt, Yell Co.

Jeremy Barnett, Ashley Co.

Andrew Bell, Hot Springs P.D.

Gabriel Bentley, Baxter Co.

Dillion Berryman, Stuttgart P.D.

Robert Blanton, Little River Co.

Neil Brasse, White Hall P.D.

Adam Bryant, Madison Co.

Marcus Caskey, Arkansas State University P.D.

Braden Cupples, Prescott P.D. – Squad B Leader

John Cooley, Berryville P.D. – Squad B Assistant Leader

Gavin Constant, Osceola P.D.

Alisa Cooke, University of Arkansas at Hope P.D.

Dawson Dunn, Garland Co.

Jared Entrekin, Mulberry P.D.

Erin Estes, Fordyce P.D.

Chandler Gray, Searcy P.D.

Jeffrey Green, Howard Co.

Ashlyn Holman, Johnson Co. – Squad C Leader

Thomas Haley, Hot Springs P.D. – Squad C Assistant Leader

William Harberson, Mineral Springs P.D.

Mark Herndon, 18th West Judicial DTF

Brady Hess, Wynne P.D.

Alec Hoffman, Jefferson Co.

Gabriel Hooten, Garland Co.

Crystal Jarrett, Marianna P.D.

Anthony Johnson, Sevier Co.

Aaron McGuire, Monticello P.D. – Squad D Leader

Cameron McCaskill, Jefferson Co. – Squad D Assistant Leader

Adrianna Laurent, Pike Co.

Charles Lewis, Osceola P.D.

Dakota Loggins, El Dorado P.D.

Matthew Maas, El Dorado P.D.

Eli Marroquin, Berryville P.D.

Bryce Moon, Texarkana P.D.

Elisha Champion, Lincoln Co.

Daniel Roumbanis, Johnson Co. – Squad E Leader

Tiffany Radcliff, Baxter Co. – Squad E Assistant Leader

Larry Morales, Hot Springs P.D.

Christian Mortimore, Waldron P.D.

Terry Plumlee, Carroll Co.

Benjamin Poole, Ashley Co.

Jacob Sexton, Searcy P.D.

Eric Shriver, Grannis P.D.

Jared Wilson, Hot Springs P.D.

Dessie Worstell, Searcy P.D.

A’Quan Tyler, Pine Bluff P.D. – Squad F Leader

Cierra Washington, Jefferson Co. – Squad F Assistant Leader

Jesse Smith, Pine Bluff P.D.

David Speers, Montgomery Co.

Murray Stotts, Osceola P.D.

Jesse Tate, Texarkana P.D.

Jonathon Tubbs, Warren P.D.

Jonathan Velazquez, Hot Springs P.D.

Michael Washington, Hot Springs P.D.

Congratulations

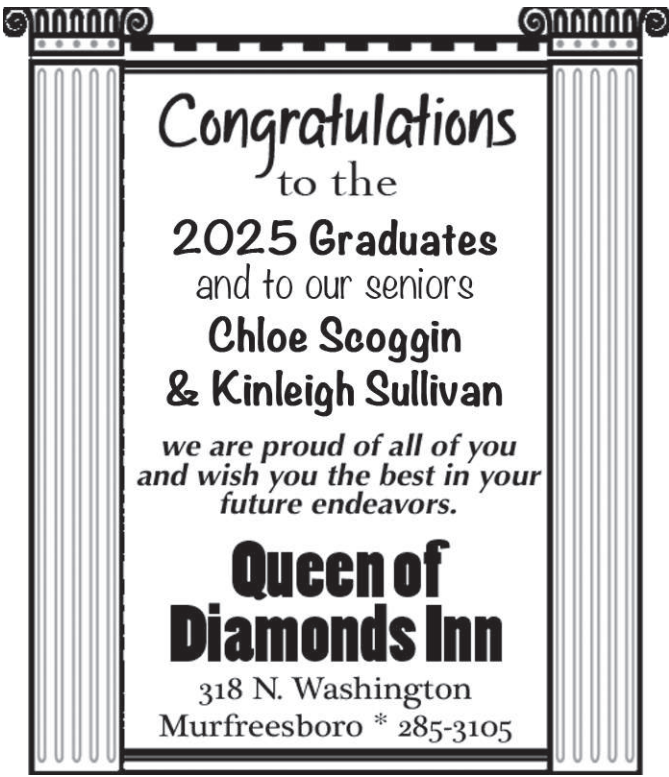
Class of

2025

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and to new beginnings**


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Congratulations
to the
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and to our seniors
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& Kinleigh Sullivan**

*we are proud of all of you
and wish you the best in your
future endeavors.*

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Murfreesboro * 285-3105

Home&Heart Consumer Protection - Don't Fall for Scams

By Angie Freel
Howard County Family & Consumer Science

We work hard for our money and want to protect our assets, but thieves are clever, and they have tools and devices that can help them commit fraud very easily today.

Scammers often impersonate trusted entities like banks, retail outlets, or government agencies to trick you into revealing personal information or paying fees. The top 5 most common

scams this year are as follows:

Fake Package Delivery Alerts – Scammers send texts claiming a problem with an incoming delivers and link to a fake website that looks legitimate but is used to steal credit card information or other personal details.

Phony Job Opportunities – These texts or email start with offering work without specifics. The “job” may involve completing simple tasks like rating

products or apps, but ultimately, it leads to requests for personal information or investments.

Fake Fraud Alerts – You receive a text or email claiming there is suspicious activity or a big purchase you didn’t make, often pretending to be from your bank or popular retail establishments. They may ask you to call a fake fraud department or reply “yes” of “no” to a transaction verification, leading to identity theft or financial loss.

Bogus Notices About Unpaid Tolls – Scammers send texts claiming you owe unpaid tolls and include a link to pay them. These messages are designed to make you feel anxious and act quickly without thinking.

Wrong Number Scams– Scammers start with a seemingly innocent accidental text the evolved into a conversation, often with romantic undertones, to gain your trust and eventually lead to investments in other scams.

How to protect yourself – DON’T click on links in unexpected texts.

Beware of urgent requests.

Medicare and Social Security will never call you asking for money and they will never suspend your social security number. Ever. If they say you are a beneficiary for Medicare and ask for your banking information – hang up.

Report scams to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at reportfraud.ftc.gov and the Arkansas attorney general’s office at arkansasag.gov/ and click “file a complaint” or call

501-682-2007.

Guard personal information and PINS. Shred mail and documents.

Shop at legitimate businesses online.

Keep computer virus software up to date.

Limit the amount of credit cards you carry. Carry only the cards you need and leave the rest at home.

Register your phone number to help prevent or at least reduce the number of telemarketers who call you - www.donotcall.gov/verify.html.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Investigate the offer before accepting or paying any money.

Recipe of the Week

A few weeks ago I went to Nashville Jr. High to conduct a “Get Real, Here’s the Deal” financial simulation for Mrs. Hanney’s students.

She was gracious enough to serve us a delicious lunch which included an amazing dessert. I hope you enjoy it as much as we did!

Nutter Butter Cake

Ingredients – this recipe can be adjusted to reduce the sugar by using sugar-free pudding

and whipped topping.

One package of Nutter Butter cookies

1 ¾ cup milk, divided

Pudding Mix (vanilla or cheesecake flavor)

Peanut Butter

Whipped Topping

Reese’s Pieces

Dip your cookies in milk and place them on the bottom of your pan.

Whisk pudding mix with milk. Then whisk in peanut butter.

Fold in the whipped topping.

Top cookies pudding, then more milk-dipped cookies, then more pudding and so on.

Continue until you’re out of all ingredients.

Top with whipped topping. Chill at least 2 hours, then top with candy before serving.

For more information on scams or how to avoid fraud, contact our office at 870-845-7517 or visit us upstairs in the Howard County Courthouse.

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



New-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER. Nashville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tim Pinkerton recently welcomed independent insurance agent Kimberly Stoffle as a new member of the chamber. Stoffle deals in life, health, dental, vision, advantage and supplemental insurance and will work out of Chamber IT Service, located at 312 N. Main Street on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with appointments reserved for Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Homemakers to host coffee May 21 at EH House

The Howard County Extension Homemakers will host a Nashville Chamber of Commerce community coffee on Wednesday, May 21 at the EH House, located behind the courthouse on Second Street.

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

Futrell Marine

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Nashville

(870) 845-3122

320

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
ELIEZER, HAVING ASKED FOR WATER, WATCHES WHILE THE MAIDEN ALSO BRINGS WATER TO HIS CAMELS. A SIGN HE ASKED OF THE LORD SO HE WOULD KNOW THE PROPER BRIDE FOR ISAAC...

NOW, ELIEZER BRINGS FORTH A GOLDEN EARRING AND TWO BRACELETS...

HE GIVES THE MAIDEN HIS GIFT FOR THE WATER...

WHOSE DAUGHTER ART THOU? IS THERE ROOM FOR ME IN THY FATHER'S HOUSE?

I AM REBEKAH, DAUGHTER OF BETHUEL, AND THERE IS ROOM FOR THEE IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE, ALSO PROVEDER FOR THY CAMELS!

NOW REBEKAH RUNS AHEAD TO HER HOUSE—SHE IS EXCITED, FOR, ALTHOUGH IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR ANY STRANGER TO OFFER A GIFT FOR THE WATER HE HAS RECEIVED, STILL A GOLDEN EARRING AND TWO BRACELETS ARE QUITE UNEXPECTED!

Next Week
A FAMILY COUNCIL!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK!

First Baptist Church

415 N. Main • Nashville

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

Come worship with us!

First Church of God

Community Oriented & Christ Centered

946 MLK, Hwy 355, Tollette, AR

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m. • Youth 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening service 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Charles Green, Pastor

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

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

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

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.



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

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Pastor Don Jones



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



WELCOMING COMMITTEE. At Saturday's BBQ benefit for the Center Point Volunteer Fire Department welcome/donation table were Fire Chief Alan Green, right, and fireman Drew Moody.



A TALE OF THREE LINES. At Saturday's benefit, the far left line is for take-out orders; the middle line is for volunteers who are filling plates with smoked beef, pork, chicken and trimmings for line three, the large crowd which turned out for the fundraiser.

Spring Hill High School teacher arrested on multiple charges related to child exploitation

Ercel Waylon Lewallen, 47, a high school teacher employed by the Spring Hill School District, was arrested by Hempstead County Sheriff's investigators on May 7. Lewallen faces multiple felony charges, including promoting obscene materi-

als, pandering or possessing visual or print media depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, and engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media. The investigation leading to Lewallen's arrest was

conducted by the Hempstead County Sheriff's Office. Lewallen is currently being held at the Hempstead County Detention Center pending further legal proceedings.

Nashville driver charged with DWI #5

A Nashville man was sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court for a fifth offense of driving while intoxicated. Freddie L. Robinson, 57, pled guilty to the felony charge and was sentenced to a total of five years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with three years suspended. He was also fined \$1,000 plus court costs.

Charge filed
Carl Glen Self, 52, of Murfreesboro, was charged April 29 in Pike County Circuit Court with felony possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Self pled innocent on May 5 and his bond was set at \$10,000 with a June 2 pretrial date. Self was arrested on April 25 by Murfreesboro Officer Brandon Copeland, with an assist from Pike County K9

deputy Bret Reid, following a traffic stop for expired vehicle tags. A search of his vehicle produced evidence for the charges.

Murfreesboro City Council votes to help pay retroactive retirement coverage

By John Balch
News-Leader Staff
The Murfreesboro City Council voted Monday night to help pay back more than \$72,000 in retroactive retirement coverage for the waterworks department employees.

Mayor Jim O'Neal explained that the waterworks department, which is separate from city operations, had recently switched to retirement benefits offered through Arkansas Public Employee Retirement System (APERS) for its employees. The city had made the move to APERS in 2022 for its employees. O'Neal said that APERS, despite the city and waterworks being separate, has concluded the department actually "falls under the umbrella" of the city and that \$72,567.77 in retroactive must be paid before additional coverage can be provided.

The mayor said the water commission has requested that the city pay \$20,000 of the bill with the waterworks paying the remaining amount. "That's money that's owed," said Mayor O'Neal, who added that he sees no other option and that the funds can be paid out over a 24-month period.

Council member Mark Barnes questioned whether it was city or water officials in charge of the waterworks and asked, "Who's making the decisions?"

With that, Mayor O'Neal said since the waterworks department is considered under the city's umbrella, he called for a motion to go into an executive session to talk about Water Superintendent Randy Miller. Barnes made the motion and the closed session convened at 6:15 and was voted back into open session at 6:43.

O'Neal announced that there would be "no action taken on Mr. Miller" following the executive session. The meeting was not attended by Miller or any waterworks commissioners.

The council then turned its attention back to the retroactive funds and eventually voted 4-0 to pay the amount out over a 24-month period.

With council members Betty O'Neal and Kirk Stone absent from the May meeting, those in attendance included Barnes, Jane Fugitt, Lewis Gills and Cody Bachmann.

In other business Monday night, the council voted to immediately give the Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center \$3,000, which is

budgeted annually by the city, to continue its Meals on Wheels program as the center's budget is currently running short.

The council also approved Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb's financial report, which included the following beginning and ending balances for April:

General Fund	\$63,475 / \$85,719
General Operating	\$297,437 / \$233,262
Street Fund	\$16,527 / \$24,200
Street Operating	\$298,166 / \$289,497
Park Fund	\$14,723 / \$8,439
Waterworks Department	\$508,001 / \$507,471
Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission	\$84,049 / \$75,966

Also Monday, the following event reminders were issued:

Murfreesboro Farmers' Market grand opening, May 22, 18 Park Street
Juneteenth Freedom Day, June 14, Murfreesboro City Park. Contact Mrs. Burton at (870) 925-0458 for more information.
4th Annual Keith Stone Memorial Car Show, Sept. 12-13, on the square in Murfreesboro

Farmers Bank & Trust announces new agri loan officer

Farmers Bank & Trust in Nashville is proud to welcome Celina McLelland as Agri Loan Officer and Regional Farm Loan Specialist.

In this role, Celina will focus on providing agriculture lending solutions and assisting with Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan packaging for area producers.

Celina brings 11 years of agricultural finance experience to FB&T. She was previously employed at the USDA Farm Service Agency of Howard County, where she worked with agricultural program enrollment and loan applications. In 2019, she moved to banking and began assisting clients with farm lending services.

A southern Arkansas native, Celina grew up on a small dairy farm and has a lifelong connection to



Celina McLelland

the agriculture industry. She is a graduate of Centertpoint High School and studied agricultural business at Southern Arkansas University. She currently resides in Nashville with her husband, Matt McLelland, who serves as Agri teacher at Nashville High School. They have two daughters who are ac-

tively involved in 4-H and FFA livestock showing and compete in the junior rodeo circuit.

Celina volunteers with local agriculture organizations, including the Howard County Cattle-men's Association and the Southern Junior Rodeo Association (SJRA), where she serves as secretary. She is also a member of the Howard County Farm Family Committee.

"Celina's deep understanding of the agriculture industry and her commitment to serving farm families make her an incredible asset to our team," said Kelly Chambers, Nashville Market President at Farmers Bank & Trust. "Her expertise will help us better support and understand the needs of the producers who are vital to our region's economy."

General Practice of Law
Victor Martin
Attorney at Law
420 N. Main, Suite 1 • Nashville
phone: 870-845-5256
fax: 870-845-5899
vmartinlaw@gmail.com

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING IN NASHVILLE AND DIERKS
Applications may be picked up at the Howard County Housing Authority office located at
1010 S. Pope Street, Nashville, Arkansas (off of Hope Hwy).
Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, Monday - Friday, closed on Wednesday afternoons.
For questions, you may call the Housing Authority Office at (870) 845-1080.

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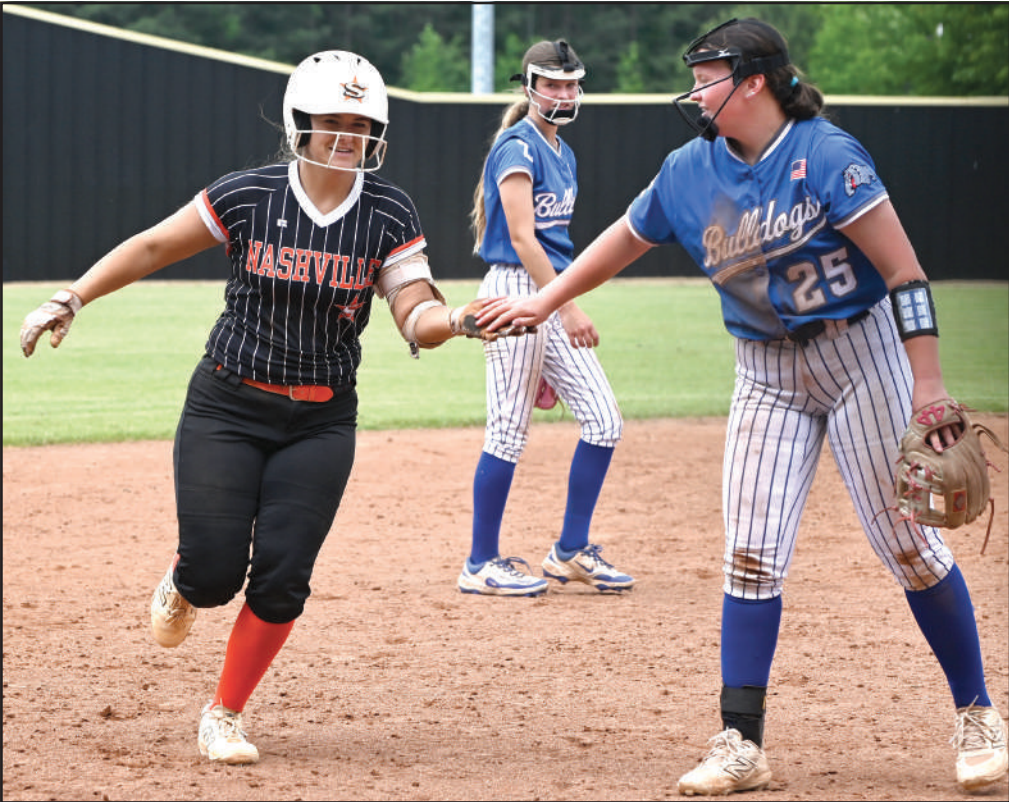
Hayden Linville
Feral Swine Technician
for Mine Creek Conservation District
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Nashville
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cell: 870-200-0309
email: mcdtrapperhayden@gmail.com
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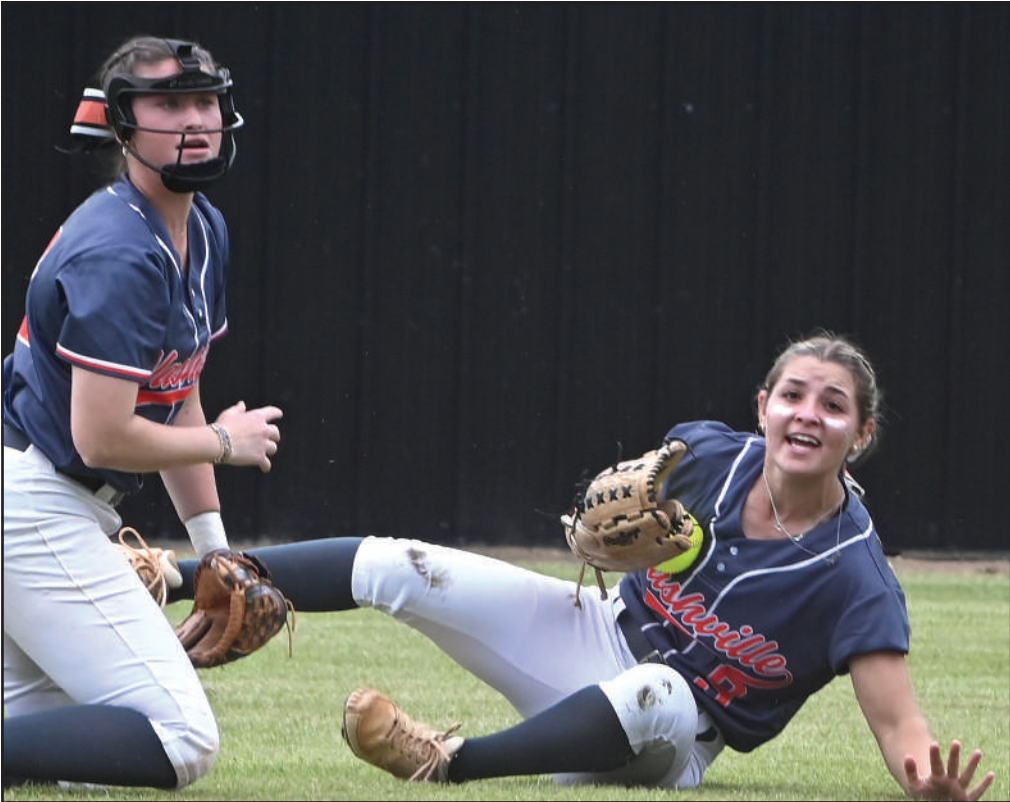
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Scrapperettes second at 4A South regional

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



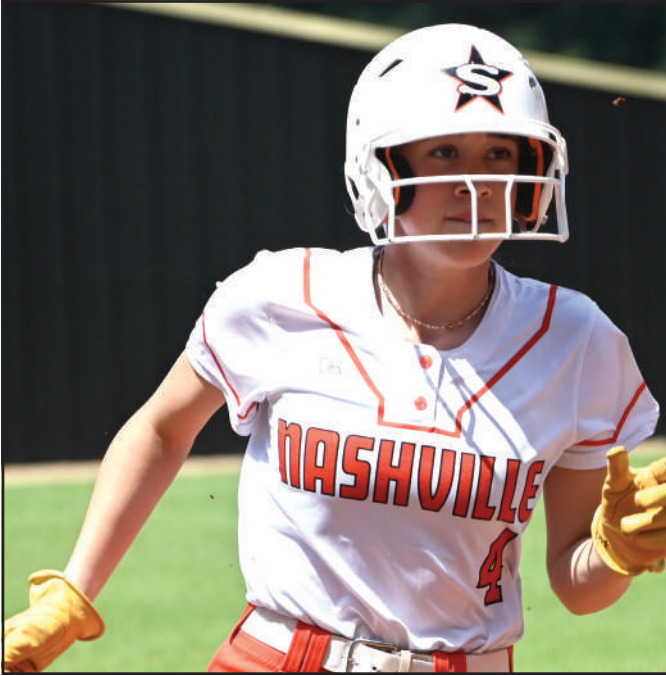
Landyn Tompkins (left) passes second base on a home run for the Scraperettes in Nashville's 9-5 win over Star City in the Class 4A South regional May 9 at De Queen.



Natalie Nolte (right) comes up with the loose ball after it bounced away from Rayleigh Harmon during the Scraperettes' regional final against Monticello May 10.



Adison Moore slides into third base May 10 in Nashville's 12-8 loss to Monticello in the regional final.



Kinley Martin runs for the Scraperettes in their 16-3 win over Crossett in the opening game of the regional.



Harleigh Hill heads for third base and later scored against Star City.



Adison Moore, Sofia McCauley and Landyn Tompkins all recorded home runs during Nashville's victory over Crossett May 8 in De Queen.



Parker Tate welcomes Elli Wallis to the field during player introductions before the Monticello game May 10.



Gabby Williams snares the ball for the final out against Star City.



Natalie Nolte (right) makes the play for an out at home plate against Crossett in the regional tournament.

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SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Area teams going to state

Five area teams are state bound this week following their performances at regionals. They include Scrapper baseball, Scrapper soccer, Scraperette softball, Murfreesboro baseball and Mineral Springs softball. State tournaments will be held at different locations through the semifinals May 17. State championship games will be played May 23-24 at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway.



This weekly feature sponsored by McDonald's of Nashville 845-2364 South Fourth Street



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FIND NEW ROADS

Upcoming Pike County Event: Pleasant Hill Quilters to present powerful fundraiser in Antoine

By Eva Langley
Pike County FCS Agent

The Pike County Extension Homemakers Club (EHC) invites the public to a special communitywide event featuring the Pleasant Hill Quilters on Saturday, May 17, at Harrison Chapel Church in Antoine, Arkansas. The event will run from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and promises a moving and educational experience for attendees of all ages.

This gathering is more than just a celebration of quilting—it's a fundraiser supporting the historic Rosenwald School, located next to the church. Admission is \$15 per participant, with proceeds going toward the preservation and revitalization of this important cultural landmark.

The Pleasant Hill Quilting Group, a talented and passionate circle of women committed to preserving the art of quilt-making, will present a dynamic and engaging program centered around the Underground Railroad Quilt Code. Through a combination of storytelling, historical narrative, and soulful spiritual singing, the quilters will explore how quilts were used as coded messages to guide enslaved people to freedom along the Underground Railroad.

Attendees will learn about the patterns and symbols sewn into the quilts, each holding meaning and instruction for those escaping to the North. The presentation will highlight the creative ingenuity and quiet courage of those who used everyday objects—like quilts—as tools for survival and resistance.

This event offers a unique opportunity to learn about a powerful chapter in American history through the lens of art, music, and community. Join the Pleasant Hill Quilters and Pike County EHC for an unforgettable afternoon of education, inspiration, and support for a worthy cause.

Mark your calendar and be part of this meaningful event.

Memorial Day ceremony scheduled May 26 in M'boro

Pike County Veterans Service Officer Bob Williams reports that a Memorial Day ceremony will be held at the War Memorial located on the Pike County Courthouse square Monday, May 26, starting at 10 a.m. The event will last approximately one hour.

Williams encourages all veterans, residents, and visitors of Pike County to take this opportunity by gathering as Americans to honor and remember the men and women throughout the history of this great Nation who “Gave Their All” to purchase and preserve our Nation’s freedoms.

The event will honor the 78 Pike County residents who lost their lives in combat from WW-I, WW-II, Korea, and Vietnam. We will unite in spirit on this day with others not only across our Nation, but on battlefields and cemeteries in other countries where American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines lost their lives and their remains were never returned home.

“I don’t believe this is asking too much”, said Williams. “This solemn day was established specifically for this purpose, and as an American, we should feel a sense of deep gratitude for those who purchased our freedoms, and contrary to what you may think, FREEDOM ISN’T FREE... it was purchased with the precious blood of someone’s son, daughter, husband, father and mother!”

Pike County will be highlighting one of our WW-II veterans who became a POW and never returned home to Pike County. The Honorary Wreath will be placed by his relative. The county 4H group will be providing lunch following the ceremony. Set aside an hour out of your day to join with millions of Americans in a Spirit of Remembrance.

Benefit May 17 in Delight

A benefit for Amy Campbell will be held this Saturday, May 17 in Delight.

At 9 a.m., carwashes by C.J. White and company will be offered at the Bank of Delight parking lot.

At noon, smoked chicken dinners will be available at the Delight Cafeteria, followed by a live auction at 1 p.m.

For more information about the event, contact Katrina at (832) 315-7915.

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HOMEMADE AT PARALOMA. Kim Erwin makes salsa from tomatoes and produce grown in her garden. This is the second year that she has brought her salsa to the Howard County Farmers' Market in Nashville.



LAMB AND SOURDOUGH BREAD. Theresa Brothers of LTB Farms brought freshly-processed lamb and homemade sourdough bread products to the Howard County Farmers' Market in Nashville, Friday.

Schaal community host Juneteenth event

The Schaal Community Development will present the third annual Uneteenth Freedom Day Celebration on Saturday, June 14, from 2-6 p.m.

The event will include family fun, free food while supplies last, music, dancing, vendors, information and motivational speakers.

We can't wait to meet...

...the other campers in our groups.

Kids: color stuff in!

www.readingclubfun.com

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Camp has so many new activities to try!

Are **you** going to any summer camp? If so, what kind of camp?

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with the names of different kinds of camps:

1. stunts, cheers, competitions

2. kitchen safety, recipes, pans

3. defense exercises, sparring practice

4. canoeing, hiking, fishing

5. lessons, practice, recitals

6. study, singing, praying

7. programming, gaming, web site building

8. brainstorming, stories, editing

9. flight simulation, mock launches

10. swimming, basketball, soccer

11. ballet, hip hop, jazz

12. costumes, acting, shows

13. horses, riding, shows

14. experiments, rockets, robots

15. drawing, comics, animations

Science Music Writing

Bible Cooking Dance

Cheerleading Martial Arts Equestrian

Space Sports Nature

Computer Cartoon Theater

Off to Summer Camp!

Chitter and Chatter are going to go to day camp. Forest and I are going to overnight camp for two weeks. Chitter and Chatter only need to bring their lunches each day, but Forest and I must pack more stuff.

Look at Forest on the zip line!

Fill in the blanks below to help Forest and Glade make their list of things to bring to camp:

1. __ oo __ hbrush

2. sh __ _ ts

3. fla __ _ ight

4. hair _ _ _ _ _

5. t _ _ _ _ ls

6. so _ _ _ s

7. pill _ _ _

8. __ tamp _

9. j _ ck _ t

10. h _ _ _ _

11. _ _ _ _ _

12. _ _ _ _ _

13. _ _ _ _ _

14. _ _ _ _ _

15. _ _ _ _ _

Do you see the glow from that tent?

I love to read comics by flashlight!

Freebies! Yay!

What? I can do the dog paddle too.

How many fireflies are on this page?

More free puzzles: www.readingclubfun.com

Hey guys! Pull harder! Forest is as strong as a bear!

Eeeek! Look out for me. !!!

No kidding!

Ugh!

Hi Mom and Dad, I love camp! I have made lots of friends. We are so busy all the time swimming, making crafts and learning new activities. I even made you a puzzle. Can you find and circle all of these activities that I have tried this year? I can't wait to see you! Love, Forest

Capture the Flag

Playing Cards

Horseback Riding

Scrapbooking

Model Rockets

Catching Fireflies

Spooky Stories

Roasting Marshmallows

First Aid Class

Magic Tricks

Nature Walk

Kickball

Go-Carts

Photography

Swimming

Pottery

Bicycling

Mini Golf

Animal Care

Baking

F P K H F M O D E L R O C K E T S A L Y S L K

C Q I I V B S K C I R T C I G A M Z B X C P R

B V N C Q P W O E I R U T Y G H F J Z R E O

B N M C K A P C V H F E U P B U I W E A P A

K Q T Y B X S O U T I B L R T U D I P T S

C B P A A Q U Y N V B A K X O I S B A T

F H J O Y L B N M V A Y K S I R F O B I

N W F Y J K V X L A W H I I A I G F A O G N

T W E D V H C Q F X K A H N P E N A Q K T G

H O R S E B A C K R I D I N G Q Y P G E I V M

E U U C T B T A Q W O A P E C A W I P R N O A

F B T A A O C E Q O B L Q S A G R L B A G O R

L P A P C X H E A H U I H L R A Q O S C Q U S

A B N T P O I D W G V C S A D N T T O L A Q H

G B S U H I N A O W K L N S Z R Z X A V N M

P A S R O I G Q W P O Y T S A A M A Z M Z P A

N V X E T N F I R S T A I D C L A S S I W Q L

B F V T O P I A Q V M N Z O A Q P C V N M P L

Z L O H G U R P Y Z M B G A W O L P N A C V O

X O M E R V E P R N A T U E W A L K Y U L W

V G P F A W F L E B V M C G N I M M I W S P S

B I Z L P E L A T B I C Y C L I N G N M V A I

V N T A H L I C T A Q W S E P M B C N M Z X T

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EHC Month

Beginning in 1912, EHC still offers leading, learning

By Rebekah Hall
U of A System Division of Agriculture

As the largest volunteer organization in the state, the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council and its nearly 3,000 members are dedicated to improving their communities and their quality of life. To recognize the organization's achievements and contributions to the state, celebrate May as Extension Homemakers Month in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Extension Homemakers program was started in 1912 by the Cooperative Extension Service, the outreach and teaching arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, to expand the reach of extension programming. The organization has a three-part mission: lifelong learning, community service and leadership development.

"The purpose of the three-part mission of EHC is to empower people to improve quality of life," said Laura Hendrix, extension associate professor of personal finance and consumer economics for the Division of Agriculture and advisor to EHC. "While EHC has been around for decades, recent years have seen increased use of new technology and methods to stay connected. Members meet via Zoom and Facebook Live, and webpages and materials are updated for accessibility."

Hendrix said that in 2023, 5,491 volunteers with EHC contributed more than 200,000 hours of community service, valued at \$6.7 million.

"The Cooperative Extension Service and Arkansas Extension Homemakers have partnered on EHC programs for more than 100 years," Hendrix said.

"EHC clubs and councils collaborate with business, community and public service organizations and leaders in their local communities. Arkansas EHC also partners with a variety of organizations at the state level, including the Arkansas Food Bank, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Arkansas Children's Hospital."

From 2019-2022, Arkansas EHC focused on food insecurity as its state project. Members raised more than 4.5 million meals through food drives and monetary donations to local food pantries and the state's six regional food banks.

In 2023, the organization kicked off its next state project, EHC Cares, focusing on mental health awareness. Dot Hart, a member of the New Horizons EHC Club in Jefferson County, said she brought this topic to the state EHC board.

"Mental health awareness is close to my heart," Hart said. "I pitched that to our board, it's personal to me. We've offered mental health first aid training to our EHC members and community members, and a couple of counties have done crafting for mental health awareness or mental health walks."

Hart said the project aims to destigmatize mental

health and educate members — and by extension, their communities — about available mental health resources.

"It's just about being that advocate," Hart said. "I always say, Extension Homemakers are boots on the ground. That's how I look at us."

Leading and learning with EHC

As part of the continuing education mission, Hendrix said extension specialists and agents develop non-formal educational programs and train volunteers to teach others the latest research-based information about money management, health, nutrition and personal development.

EHC also offers training and opportunities for members to serve in leadership roles, such as in their club, county and state offices. Deb Teague, a member of The Scrappers EHC Club in Lawrence County, said EHC has helped her become a leader in her day-to-day life.

"The leadership development portion of our organization has benefitted me more than any other part," Teague said. "It's helped me with other roles I hold in my life."

Teague has served as president of her county Extension Homemakers Council, the creative skills chair, and district director of the Delta District for the EHC state office. She currently serves as the organization's president-elect and will take office as president in July.

"When I talk to people about EHC, the most common thing they say is, 'I have a job, I'm not a homemaker,'" Teague said. "I always tell people that if you have a place where you live, where you cook and clean, you are a homemaker. Our organization has valuable information that can help you on a wide variety of subjects, to help you do what you're already doing in a better way."

"Our leadership focus can give you tools to do your job



MAKING A PROCLAMATION. Eva Langley, Pike County U-A Extension Service Staff Chair; Avonne Petty, Pisgah Club representative; Jeanette Deaton, Pike County Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council President; Eddie Howard, Pike County Judge; Ginny Evans, East Delight Club representative and Betty Epperson, Glenwood Club representative.

Pike County judge proclaims May as EHC Month

May has been declared Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council (EHC) month by Pike County Judge Eddie Howard in a proclamation released earlier this month.

In its 113th year of existence, the group started homemaker and home demonstration work in Arkansas in 1912. Their purpose is to "empower individuals and families to improve their quality of living through continuing education, leadership development and community service."

The volunteer organization, associated with the University of Arkansas System Division Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, offers the latest research-based information in the areas of family and consumer science, agriculture and community development.

EHC has local councils in 70 Arkansas counties and supports 4-H club work as a vital part of the county Extension program.

Across the state EHC local clubs

give assistance to a variety of worthy causes, including hospitals and other health facilities, food pantries, day care centers, charitable organizations and families in crisis along with offering opportunities to residents statewide to learn heirloom arts and crafts.

Howard proclaimed the month of May to recognize Pike County EHC programs and asked that fellow citizens across Arkansas join their fellow state residents in recognizing and participating in the program.

better," Teague said. "Our community service can help get your name out there, and it can go on your resume and look good to employers. Our organization can assist you with what you're already doing."

Hart said EHC has helped her become more vocal as a leader and an individual.

"I have grown so much as a person, as a leader," Hart said. "I'm originally from Kentucky, and people

don't believe me when I say that I'm shy, I'm quiet. But if there's a passion, I'm an advocate. If I feel that there's a need, I want to be that voice. I want to make that difference. And extension has allowed me to do that."

Hart has served as associate and district director of the Delta District. She has also served as vice president of the National Volunteer Outreach Network, a collection of service organizations

from ten states, with which Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council is affiliated. Arkansas EHC is also af-

filiated of Associated Country Women of the World, a global organization with members from 82 countries.

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