

VISITING LAKE DON. In 2010, Dr. Don Sitzes bought a 25-acre pond surrounded by 200 acres of pastureland. Today, the secluded spot provides lots of opportunities for fishing. When he makes a catch, the fish gets “a kiss on the head, and back into the pond they go,” Sitzes said. (More pictures, page 10A)

OBITUARIES



Clarence Mobbs
Clarence Mobbs, age 83, of Nashville, Ark., passed away on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at his home. He was born Oct. 16, 1941, in Red Colony near Lockesburg, Ark., the son of the late William Scriven “Scribb” Mobbs and Josie Burt Mobbs.

Mr. Mobbs enjoyed fishing, hunting, football, especially the Dallas Cowboys, and working his cows that followed him around like puppies. Clarence was a hard-working man that could do and fix anything. He truly cared about people and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Alongside his wife for many years, they operated the Lone Star Donut Shop in Nashville.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings Allene Elston, Billy Mobbs, Gerald Mobbs, Modena Conatser, and Jimmy Mobbs; as well as one granddaughter, Maggie Maylee Jarrett.

Survivors include: his wife of 64 years, Shirley Mobbs of Nashville; daughters Deanna Jarrett (John) of Nashville, Tina Aikens (Darrell) of Nashville, Amanda Porterfield (David) of Nashville, Roseanna Melson of Springdale; one brother Denzil Mobbs (Louise) of Henderson, Texas; grandchildren Tamzen, Jessie Joanna, Christopher, Joseph, Whitney, and Colton; great-grandchildren Dallas, Jarrett, Remmington, Charlie Darlin, Abreanna, Scarlett, Lexi, Paisley, Jolene, and Cohen Clarence; as well as one great-great-grandchild Delilah. As well as a number of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m., Saturday, June 21, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

A memorial service will be 2 p.m., Monday, June 23, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

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

James Edward Caldwell
James Edward Caldwell, 65, of Ashdown died June 17, 2025.

He was born July 8, 1959, to the late Edward and Lavelle Corbell Caldwell.

He was retired from Husqvarna and was a member of New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his brother, T.C. Caldwell.

Survivors include: his wife, Sherri Caldwell; his daughters, Ashley Neal and Brittany Caldwell, both of Anderson, Ind., and his sons, Dustin Caldwell, also of Anderson, Ind., and David Mattox of Mineral Springs; also grandchildren.

The family received friends at Nashville Funeral Home on Friday, June 20, 2025, from 6-8 p.m. Services were at 10 a.m. Saturday at

Nashville Funeral Home. Burial followed in Coulter Cemetery in Lockesburg, Ark.



John Thomas Pickering
Mr. John Thomas Pickering, age 86 of El Dorado, passed away Saturday, June 21, 2025, at South Arkansas Regional Hospital. John was born on Dec. 12, 1938 in El Dorado to the late Pearl Jane McGoogan Pickering and Rufus Ham Pickering.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran, proudly serving his country from 1957 until his discharge in 1960. He was a retired shift foreman for Albemarle Chemical Company, serving 35 years with the company, before his retirement in 2002. He was a longtime member of Galilee Baptist Church and was faithful to attend and serve in any area needed until his health prevented him from doing so.

John was a “People Person” and enjoyed talking with everyone wherever he went. He was well known by everyone at the funeral home, grocery stores, pharmacy and most places that he attended regularly. He was an avid Parkers Chapel sports fan, but he especially loved watching the Lady Trojans Basketball team. John was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend, who will be sorely missed by all.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 59 years, Carol Hendricks Pickering; a grandson, Chris Ham; one brother, Powell Pickering; two sisters, Patty Newell and Ann Smith; two nieces, Cecilia Paciello and Janie Griffin.

Survivors include: three daughters, Christie Ham of El Dorado, Tammy Alexander of Hot Springs and Sandra Turner of El Dorado; six grandchildren, Nicole Smith and husband Chris of El Dorado, Dakota Williams of El Dorado, Emily Alexander Gaines and husband Tony of Hot Springs, Cameron Alexander and wife Kimberly of Magnet Cove, Ark., Ashley Neal of El Dorado and Patrick Neal of El Dorado; 10 great-grandchildren, Ellery Palculict, Isabella Palculict, Rafe Palculict, Sophie Ham, Jaxon Gaines, Rylee Gaines, Connor Alexander, Elizabeth Alexander, Mylee Jo Neal and Kylee Rae Neal; his special friend and companion, Ms. Jo Honeycutt. He is also survived by two special friends, Karla Goodwin and Bella Goodwin, along with numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Visitation was held from 5-7 p.m. Monday, June 23, 2025, at Bailey Funeral Home in El Dorado. Funeral service was held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at Bailey Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Clay Dickson and Rev. David Bush officiating. Interment with military honors followed at Old Parkers Chapel Cemetery, under the

direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Rafe Palculict, Cameron Alexander, Chris Smith, Hunter Steel, Clint Smith, Blake Smith and Tony Gaines. Honorary Pallbearers were John Gross, Rick Blackmon, Hayden Fitzgerald and Robert Ford

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Galilee Baptist Church.



Bobby Ray James
In the famous words of Brother Bob, “I have lived a Super Fantastic life!”

Bobby Ray James was born June 19, 1936, in Stokes, N.C. Surrounded by his family, our beloved Pops entered his heavenly home on June 21, 2025, at the age of 89 years old. He was preceded in death by his only child, Randolph Sebastian James.

Bob was in the ministry for over 60 years. He knew from the time he was a little boy he wanted to be a preacher. As Bob quoted, “When I was four, I used to go to the woodpile behind the house, stack a log up and preach to the chickens.” Following high school Bob enrolled in Atlanta Christian College. He was ordained as a minister in the Church of Christ on Sept. 2, 1956, while still a student. He spent two years as a youth minister at a church near Atlanta, Ga., while he finished his Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies. His first full time pulpit was at Acworth Christian Church in Georgia. From there he moved to Pinetown, N.C., then accepted a position at First Christian Church in Murfreesboro, Ark. Bob preached at several other churches and in 1973, he left one of the largest Christian Churches in Mississippi to go to one of the smallest in Tupelo. The church was about to close due to the lack of members; therefore, they could not afford to pay a minister. That did not stop Brother Bob! He worked odd jobs, doing whatever was necessary to pay the bills. Two years later when Brother Bob left, the congregation had grown to 90 members from six!

In 1998, Brother Bob arrived at First Christian Church in Dewitt, Ark., where he preached until he retired. He then moved back to Murfreesboro, Ark., where he continued to hold revivals and became the minister at First Christian Church in Nashville, Ark. Brother Bob never really retired. In his own words, “Why would I retire? I love life, I love people, and I enjoy what I do.”

Brother Bob was awarded “Good Neighbor of the Year” in 2003 by the Dewitt Chamber of Commerce. He was also recognized for many years of weekly devotionals by the Dewitt Senior Citizens Center and was selected as an Honored Member of The Heritage Registry of Who’s Who 2006-2007 edition. However, his real love was holding revivals! He held well over 120 revivals

in his ministry career! As he stated, “All my life, that’s all I’ve ever wanted to be ... a preacher.”

Survivors include: his wife of 18 years, Carol Steuart James; daughters, Freela Barker (Jesse) of Murfreesboro, Ark., and Jennifer Kirk (Shawn) of Vero Beach, Fla.; grandsons, Zane Barnett (Alisha) and Tate Barnett (Chanel) and great-grandchildren Teegan, Meakayla, Izabella, Lucas, River, and Willow.

A private memorial will be held by the family. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Murfreesboro Cemetery.

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



Ronald Mack Morris
Ronald “Ronnie” Mack Morris, a cherished pillar of the Nashville community, passed away peacefully on June 20, 2025, at the age of 84. Born on Oct. 7, 1940, in the very same city, Ronnie’s life was a testament to his enduring love for his family, his unwavering faith, and his compassionate spirit.

Ronnie was the beloved son of the late Mack Morris and Mary Imogene Anderson Morris. His journey through life was marked by a deep commitment to his

family, his business, and his faith. As the owner and operator of Morris Drug, Ronnie became a well-known figure in Nashville, not only for his professional service but for his generous heart. He often went above and beyond for those in need, sometimes choosing not to charge for medicine, ensuring that no one would go without the care they required.

His kindness extended beyond the walls of his drugstore. Ronnie was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ, where he dedicated countless hours to studying the Bible and teaching its lessons to others. His faith was a cornerstone of his existence, guiding him in his daily actions and inspiring those around him.

Ronnie’s love for his family knew no bounds. He leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories with his children, Marti Eden (Robert), Dawn Copeland (Billy), and Brock Morris. His role as a grandfather was one he embraced with joy and pride. He is fondly remembered by his grandchildren, Ashley Arnold, Adam Copeland, Allison McBay, Alex Copeland, Abigail Copeland, Austin Copeland, Peyton Kirkdoffer, and Mason DeLaughter. His five great-grandchildren, who brought him immense joy in his later years, will also hold dear their memories of him.

Ronnie’s life was filled

with simple pleasures; he loved spending time with his grandchildren, sharing stories, and imparting wisdom. His faithful dog Pete was a constant companion, and together they enjoyed many serene moments that Ronnie cherished deeply.

Ronnie’s departure leaves a void in the Nashville community and within the hearts of those who knew him. His gentle demeanor, his ability to find joy in the everyday, and his unwavering commitment to his family and faith will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

The family will receive friends at Nashville Funeral Home on Thursday, June 26, 2025, from 1-2 p.m. A memorial service will follow at 2 p.m.

Cyndie Lou Hockaday
Cyndie Lou Hockaday, 63, of Nashville, Arkansas died Saturday, June 14, 2025.

She was born Nov. 7, 1961, in Fresno, Calif., to the late J.T. Bennett and Mary Berge Davenport.

She was preceded in death by her son, Casey Bennett, and a brother, Jay Bennett.

Survivors include: her daughter, Kristie Bennett-Halls; and two sisters, Barbara (Mike) Imm, and Jimmie Miera.

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

Obituaries continued on Page 7A

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THE CECIL “BIRDDOG” HARRIS MEMORIAL

EARLY FILES

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

Compiled by Patsy Young

122 years ago; June 1903
Uncle Nicholas Jackson of Centre Point, many years a well-known character of this county, died last week. He was said to be about 94 years of age. There are very few people in Howard County who do not know Uncle Nicholas.

A horse at Centre Point belonging to Sterling Graves was killed a few days ago by falling into a well.

79 years ago; June 1946
A tall ruddy army officer, Major Hans Hornbostel, determined to spend the remaining years of his life by his wife’s side in Carville Leprosarium in Louisiana, was undaunted by official word from Carville that his request would probably be denied. Mrs. Hornbostel, his wife who is 52, developed skin problems while she and her husband, an army engineer, were prisoners of the Japanese at Santo Tomas in Manila.

Game Warden Floyd Kirby for this section placed last Thursday 20,000 largemouth bass in the various streams in Howard County. The fish were from Lonoke Hatchery and were exceptionally fine specimens. The fish were placed in Saline, Mine Creek, Coleman Creek and other streams in this area.

James Holcomb of Horatio will do stunt flying over the Murray Airfield Sunday afternoon and the public is invited to attend. Trips over the peach district now are proving very interesting.



The Pine Theatre managed by Jerry and Ruth Man-tooth in Dierks, Arkansas circa: 1950

63 years ago; June 1962
St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Nashville will be dedicated Sunday, June 17, the Rev. John Kettler, pastor, has announced. Bishop Albert Fletcher of the Diocese of Little Rock will dedicate the new building on Grumbles Street near Memorial Hospital at Mass beginning at 11 a.m.

A public reception will be held at the church beginning at 3 p.m. and the public is

invited to visit the church.

42 years ago; June 1983
Billy Frank Spangle of Nashville has been named to the Chancellor’s and Dean’s lists for the 1983 spring semester at the University of Arkansas College of Business Administration. Spangle maintained a 4.0 grade point average. Spangle is a business and accounting major. He is the son of Barney and Jo Coody of Nashville.

Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period June 12-18, 2025, unless noted otherwise, include the following:

Marriage Licenses
(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk’s office)
June 16. Jorge Alberto Fernandez, 17, Nashville, and Jasmine Marie Soto Ramos, 22, Nashville.

June 17. Jackie Antonio Matthews, 41, Nashville, and Rykia Savon Lee Swift, 24, Nashville.

Civil Court
No new civil cases since CV25-66, June 11.

Domestic Relations Court
DR25-54, June 12. Cody Blair vs. Deanna Blair. Divorce.

DR25-55, June 19. Jessica Empty vs. Anthony Empty, Jr. Divorce.

Criminal Court
No new criminal cases since CR25-60, June 11.

Land/Property Transactions

Distributee’s Deed
June 13. Deborah Grant Benson, Distributee of the Estate of Marlon Benson, deceased; to Montez Benson, et al; Lots 5-6, Block 17, SREDC Addition, City of Nashville.

Mortgagee’s Deed
June 13. Kari Valentine; to United Trust Bank; property in S25 T9S R27W.

Beneficiary’s Deeds
June 13. Clarence Richard Sillavan and wife Juanalla Linn Sillavan; to Tabetha Nguyen and Allihyah El-dridge; 2 tracts in S13 T9S R27W.

June 17. Phyllis Roans; to Leslie Ann Reeder ad Emily Caire White, Joint Tenants’1.32 ac. in S24 T9S R27W.

Warranty Deeds
June 13. Lacrystal Ware Johnson, et al; to Nicholas Stuart and Porsha Stuart, husband and wife; aggregate 0.43 ac. in S9 T11S R27W. \$5,000.

June 13. Justin Blake Snelgrove and wife, Emily R. Snelgrove; to Zachery Hansen Parrish; Lots 19 thru

23, Block 4, R.L. Hayes Addition, Town of Nashville. \$169,500.

June 17. Matthew Cole Moore and wife, Emily L. Moore; to Avery Still; 1 ac. in S33 T9S R27W. \$300,000.

June 17. Marguerite Amonette Robinson and husband, Ronnie Robinson and Mark E. Amonette, Sr., and wife Glynda Amonette; to Javier Lazaro Morales Osorio and Javier Osorio Mendez, Joint Tenants; 15.06 ac. in S18 T9S R27W. \$87,500.

June 17. Marc Rosson, LLC; to Shannon Lee Crane, Jr., and Angela S. Grostefon Joint Tenants; 7.25 ac. in S13 T9S R28W. \$70,000.

June 18. Josefina S. Bran and husband, Martin B. Bran; to Dilcia Magdalena Henriquez; part of Block 44, Town of Mineral Springs. \$60,000.

June 18. Dilcia Magdalena Henriquez; to Elena Hernandez Alvarez and husband Cruze Daniel Gordiner Torres; part of Block 44, Original Town of Mineral Springs. \$108,500.

Lawmakers deal with state police pay, increase funding for school vouchers

By Rep. Dolly Henley
Legislators are continuing work to strengthen Arkansas’s public institutions, improve access to education, and support our state employees and communities.

The Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) approved a new step pay plan for Arkansas State Police officers. At a projected cost of \$3.5 million, the step system will provide a more predictable and transparent approach to compensation, while helping retain institutional knowledge and ensuring equity across similar roles.

The ALC also approved a \$90 million request from the state’s Restricted Reserve Fund to support the Education Freedom Account (EFA)

program. More than 44,000 applications for the program have been submitted by parents and guardians for the 2025-2026 school year. In addition, \$35 million from the Restricted Reserve Fund will be allocated to the Arkansas School for the Deaf. This funding will be utilized for costs associated with a new facility that will house classrooms for students who are hearing or visually impaired.

Earlier in the week, the House and Senate Education Committees met to discuss the first phase of the biennial Adequacy Study, which helps determine the state’s future K-12 public school funding needs.

Committee chairs also

shared plans to visit schools across Arkansas in the coming months to gather first-hand insight.

In addition, members reviewed a recent report highlighting the return on investment in higher education and its long-term benefits for students and the economy.

Finally, on Wednesday, the House and Senate City, County, and Local Affairs Committees convened at the Statehouse Convention Center during the Arkansas Municipal League’s 91st Convention. Members received a detailed presentation on housing affordability, planning, and land use—critical issues affecting cities and towns across the state.

Defendants enter pleas

Among the four not guilty pleas taken last Wednesday, June 18, was that of a Nashville man charged with rape, a class Y felony. Alexis Garcia, 25, Nashville, whose race was listed as “Hispanic/white,” has a Nov. 14 date set aside for a jury trial.

On the bench for the regular day of criminal court proceedings was Judge Tom Cooper.

Trial and pretrial motions dates were set for three other defendants.

Javon Bradley, 24, race unlisted on the charge document, Ozan, is charged with theft of property. Motions will be heard Aug. 27.

Gremyko Scoggins, 34, black male, Nashville, pleaded not guilty to a class B felony charge of furnishing prohibited articles. Motions will be heard Oct. 1.

Phillip Janes, 35, white male, Dierks, is charged with terroristic act and with first degree criminal mischief. Motions will be heard Aug. 27.

Guilty pleas
Four defendants entered guilty pleas and were sentenced.

Ju’ Kyle Barnett, 22, black male, Cincinnati, Ohio, was charged with breaking or entering. He was sentenced to a \$2,500 fine; five years of probation; and 120 days in a regional punishment facility.

A sentence of 15 years in the ADC plus a further five years suspended imposition of sentence was given to Marlon Benson, 51, black male, Nashville, who was facing two sepa-

rate criminal cases including delivery of controlled substance; maintaining a controlled substance premises; felon in possession of firearm; and possession of drug paraphernalia. Some of the charges were amended down or not pursued in return for the plea.

Brandon Watts, 45, white male, Delight, was charged with a pair of felony drug offenses. He was sentenced to three years in the ADC with a further three years suspended imposition of sentence.

Marcus Jordan, 22, black male, Nashville, was charged with class D felony fleeing. He was sentenced to continued probation and

his probation revocation was dismissed.

Ellis Grisham, 56, white male, Nashville, charged with controlled substance possession will have deferred adjudication pending successful completion of drug court. Otherwise, his sentence will be six years and court costs.

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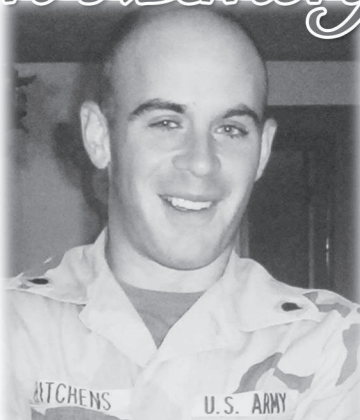
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will be having the Seamless Summer Feeding Program this year. Any child under the age of 18 will be eligible to receive a free breakfast and lunch. In order to receive a meal, this child must be present to pick up the meal.

The dates are June 9, 2025 thru June 30, 2025. Monday-Friday.

Lunches will be served in the cafeteria on the Mineral Springs Campus.

Breakfast 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Point of view

Words of music

Sometimes there is just too much to learn

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and first things first. I need to apologize for an error in last week’s “Mine Creek Revelations” column. I wrote that President Trump was wearing his trademark red MAGA cap during the military parade which made the event a political campaign activity in my opinion.

I was wrong. He was not wearing the cap. He wore no cap at all.

I was confusing the parade memory with one of him wearing that cap just a few days earlier in a rally at Ft. Blagg, N.C.

I still think the military parade was merely to kiss his ego. It was just coincidence that it occurred on his birthday.

I guess his famous bone spurs didn’t keep him from presiding over the Army’s parade. You know -- the same bone spurs that got him deferments from the draft five times during Vietnam.

Lordy I hope he is right about Iran’s nuclear development.

Mine Creek Revelations

By Louie Graves

SOMETHING REVEALED.

I love music. Most music, at least. This dates back to when I was in the Scrapper band.

I still regard myself as the Third Greatest Scrapper Band Trombone Player of All Time.

That’s unofficial, sadly.

Unofficial, the same way that I am the Unofficial Downtown J-Turn Enforcement Officer.

And Unofficial Administrator of the hospital’s Senior Citizens Nose and Ear Hair Clinic.

But I digress from an important message about listening to music. A couple of years ago I decided to listen to Cajun music. It made me wish I understood Louisiana French.

Then I decided to listen to Salsa.

It made me wish I understood Puerto Rico Spanish.

Then I decided to listen to Rock ‘n Roll.

It made me wish I understood Otis Redding English.

Then I decided to listen to Mariachi.

It made me wish I understood Mexican Spanish.

Then I decided to listen to Opera.

It made me wish I understood Italian Italian and French French.

Then I decided to listen to Rap.

It made me wish I understood Mystery English.

Then I decided to listen to Country & Western.

It made me wish I understood Honky Tonk English.

I was in the Scrapper band the year we played for Bearden’s homecoming because Bearden didn’t have a band.

It was cold and I was wearing my warm blue and white cowboy pajamas in lieu of longjohns underneath the thin old band uniform.

While the band was on the field the uniform’s belt buckle snapped and the oversized uniform pants fell down clearly revealing the aforementioned blue and white cowboy pajamas.

The officiating was so bad that night that the school board president went to the sidelines and told the coach to take the team off the field.

The record still shows Bearden 7, Nashville 6. It was so cold that the slide on my trombone kept freezing. Why couldn’t the uniform belt buckle have frozen instead?

ANIMAL CRACKERS. Several years ago some dear friends gave me a monocular. Like a binocular only with just one viewing channel. This was before I lost my left eye.

I used the monocular only occasionally then. After I lost the eye I dug out the lost monocular (it was hiding in plain sight).

I keep it on my patio now so I have easy access during my morning coffee reflection.

I can keep up with my Bluebirds. I know where the Mockingbird’s nest is.

I watch the Grosbeaks and Sparrows and Cardinals at the feeder and I keep the feeder full of birdseed.

I get to watch the Bluejays compete for in-shell peanuts on the patio table. I am amazed at how they peck apart the shell to get to that morsel inside.

How many peanuts does it take to fuel a full-grown Bluejay for a whole day. I see some fly off with a peanut clutched in the beak. Are they taking them ‘home’ to chicks or to a nesting mate?

Next time I want an Alexa monocular that will answer all of my bird questions.

MORE THINGS I LEARNED from the Universal Classroom of Life: “To the paranoid people who check behind their shower curtains for murderers. If you do find one, what’s your plan?”

WORD GAMES. I do love oxymorons.

For example: “After listening to that ‘rap artist,’ the following ‘deafening silence’ sounded ‘awfully good.’ Three oxymorons.

HE SAID: “To me, every hour of the day and night is an unspeakably perfect miracle.” Walt Whitman, poet and journalist

SHE SAID: “What people say, what people do, and what they say they do are entirely different things.” Margaret Mead, anthropologist and author

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Nashville News-Leader

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School voucher program receives extra \$90 million to remain viable

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

Due to its growing popularity, legislators allocated an additional \$90 million to Educational Freedom Accounts.

The chief financial officer of the Education Department said that without the additional funds the state would not be able to make first quarter payments before the upcoming school year.

The governor proposed and the legislature approved the creation of Education Freedom Accounts in 2023, phasing in the program over three years. The 2025-2026 school year will be the first in which all students are eligible, and the number of families applying for the accounts shows that it is very popular.

Education Freedom Accounts provide families who home school, or who send their children to a private school, with 90 percent of the amount that state government and local school districts would spend for each pupil enrolled in public schools. In the 2025-2026 school year that will be \$6,864 for each student who is eligible for an Education Freedom Account.

According to the state Educa-

tion Department, it has received applications for more than 44,000 students, and almost 40,000 have already been approved. About 28,000 applications are from families who send their children to private schools and 16,000 are from families who home school their children.

The legislature anticipated higher demand for Education Freedom Accounts and earlier this year approved Act 1017, which set aside the additional \$90 million for the program.

Earlier this year the legislature increased funding for Education Freedom Accounts from about \$97 million to about \$187 million. Last week’s allocation of \$90 million will bring the total amount of funding to \$277 million for the upcoming school year.

School Insurance

In the 2025 regular session the legislature created a sustainable, new system of property insurance for schools, higher education institutions and state agencies. It was the result of several years of work.

A legislative subcommittee approved the creation of a captive insurance plan last week that would

hold rates unchanged next year. Deductibles next year for schools will be \$25,000 if they have less than \$100 million in insured assets. For school districts with more assets the deductible will be \$50,000.

State agencies will have a deductible of \$250,000. A consultant’s report cautioned that schools and state agencies can expect deductibles to increase the following year.

The state Board of Finance has approved the plan. Another state agency, the Department of Shared Administrative Services, will operate the insurance program, known as a captive plan. The state will operate the program as if it were its own insurance company.

The governor and lawmakers have been shoring up school finances with one-time disbursements, after they had experienced rising costs for property insurance. Last fiscal year the state provided \$11 million to help pay for higher insurance premiums that were driven up by claims after severe storms.

Consultants reported to lawmakers that rates had tripled from 2021 to 2024, in large part due to wind and hail damage.

Kids are in trouble; leaders make it worse

By Dr. Chris Jones

Arkansas just ranked 45th in the nation for child well-being—again. We’ve failed to move up even one spot. Meanwhile, more than 1 in 5 Arkansas children live in poverty, and our health outcomes are slipping fast. The truth is, this is both a human crisis and an economic one.

Unhealthy kids lead to an unhealthy economy.

Child Health Is Economic Development

When children are born sick, undernourished, or uninsured, the costs follow them—and us—for life. Those children struggle in school, require more medical and social services, and are less likely to thrive in the workforce. That’s not speculation—it’s measurable economic drag.

And in Arkansas, that drag is deepening.

- Child obesity is at 38%.
- 80% of 8th-graders are not proficient in math.
- The rate of uninsured kids is rising, not falling.
- Fewer children are attending preschool, and more teens are dying.

This hurts families—but it also hurts employers, stifles productivity, and slows down entire local economies.

Local Entrepreneurs Can’t Thrive on a Broken Base

We talk a lot about growing small businesses and local entrepreneurship in Arkansas.

But how do you build a vibrant business climate when the future workforce is sick, undereducated,

and unsupported?

Organizations like The Venture Center are doing the heavy lifting—helping entrepreneurs launch, grow, and innovate across the state, the nation, and the world. But their success depends on more than just capital and coaching. It depends on having a healthy, educated population that can staff and sustain local businesses.

It depends on policy that aligns economic development with child development.

Right now, our state and federal leaders are failing to make that connection.

Where Our Elected Officials Fall Short

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders has not met the moment when it comes to child health or family supports for child health. To add insult to injury, at the federal level, Arkansas’ congressional delegation is pushing cuts to programs that support both families and small businesses:

- Eliminating the expanded Child Tax Credit gutted spending power in local economies.
- Blocking Medicaid and SNAP expansions hurts health and retail spending in rural communities.
- Fighting federal investments in early childhood and workforce care infrastructure undercuts long-term growth.

This is bad economics disguised as “fiscal conservatism.” In reality, these choices kill jobs, undermine business, and weaken Arkansas' competitiveness.

What Smarter Policy Could Look Like

This Isn’t About Programs—It’s About People

Let’s be clear: this isn’t about defending programs for the sake of programs. I don’t care about preserving line items in a federal budget. I care about people. Programs are just tools. What matters is whether they make life better for Arkansas families—whether they help parents work, help children grow up healthy, and help communities build a future.

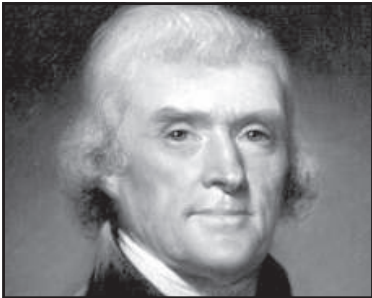
If a program works, we should use it. If it doesn’t, fix it or replace it. But walking away from tools that are working—just because of politics—is reckless and harmful.

Here’s what would actually help:

- Restore the Child Tax Credit: It stimulates spending in local businesses and keeps families afloat without creating new bureaucracy.
- Expand Medicaid postpartum and children’s care: Keeps costs down long term and supports working families.
- Create a local childcare incentive fund: Partner with local business to grow sustainable, locally owned childcare ventures.
- Boost early education tied to local economic zones: Because workforce development begins at age three—not 30.

If we want Arkansas to compete economically, we must invest in the next generation like we mean it. That means treating child well-being as a foundation of economic growth—not a side issue.

Share your comments at chrisjoneslistens@gmail.com.



“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

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.

Honor roll named at NJHS

The honor roll for the fourth nine weeks at Nashville Junior High School has been announced by Principal Hannah Topor.

Students on the lists include the following:

Ninth grade
All A's
Javian Atkins, Ittzel Barajas, Audri Bearden, Kayla Bretado, Allisa Byers, Catherine Campos, Kimora Carter, Sophie Dale, Camille Davis, Fernando Garcia, Amy Hernandez, Candelaria Hernandez, Talena Hill, Halton Howard, Nathan Jacoby, Bracen James, Kelyse Jefferson, Lexia Kitchens, Landon Magee, Maddison Martinez, Adolfo Puente, Anna Renteria, Eden Sartin, Jazlyn Scroggins, Seonna Thompson.

A's & B's
Natalie Alexander, Kayden Allmon, Isaias Andraca, Aiden Bradley, Tatiyana Carrigan, Derryk Carter, Mallory Clifton, Brooklyn Cox, Hayden Crabtree, Princess Davis, Carsyn Delozier, Jaxon Dixon, Kandence Dobbins, Charlee Edwards, Chloe Gathright, Andrew Gitchell, Alexander Gomez, Bailee Haney, Scarlett Harris, Daniela Hernandez, Eduardo Hernandez, Paola Hernandez, Trenton Hill, Nyelah Holder, William Howell, Alyssa Jarman, Julian Johnson, Stormee Lang, Alex Martinez, William McGough, Ammi Moreno, Ernesto Nava, Kaleiah Pryor, Khloe Reich, Kevin Santamaria, Brianna Stone, Destiny Stuart, Julia Tedford,

Jazmyne Thompson, Trace Troutt, Emily Watts, Ella Westfall, Garrett Westfall.

Eighth grade
All A's
Tailynn Barker, Owen Bauer, Zakyrius Beasley, Emily Byers, Weller Chesshir, Luke Cooley, Kaylie Couch, Landry Craven, Abishai Cruz, Bo Dean, Addison Gammage, Brayley Lowery, Molly Marion, Ace McKinnon, Cason Parker, Emiline Petty, Ivana Pineda, Andrew Reese, Addison Sullivan, Harlee Webb, Rhett Young.

A's & B's
Giovani Aguilar, Rayniah Alvarez, Guadalupe Arroyo-Martinez, Madden Brassfield, Addison Brewer, Khloe Brewer, Jonathan Bustamante, Dalton Carter, Tyler Castleman, Miranda Dukes, Alan Green, Zania Green, Jacob Hale, Hudson Halter, Ethan Hamilton, Gemma Harberson, Noah Harris, Royce Johnson, Raven McFadden, Brooklyn Morgan, Elijah Muresan, Bay Nolte, Geysi Pena, Adrian Perez, Corban Perez, Bryce Ramsire, Aubrie Reed, D'Tajeun Ross, Xavier Rubio, Jacob Salazar, Taylon Schooley, McKynlee Scott, Kaegan Waters.

Seventh grade
All A's
Brynlee Bagley, Addison Banegas, Selina Berruquin-Alonso, Heavenly Brett, Wyatt Chesshir, Carson Clifton, Arleth Cuevas, Jarrett Culp, Davin Dowdy, Parker Giddens, Connor Gordon, Dieucotie Green, Alexis Hernandez, Kallen

Horn, Kale Hughes, Kimber Jones, Macey Keeton, Gage Kinkade, Lucas Lowrey, Harmony Martin, Caleb Mounts, Loraine Natividad, Jaxson Parker, Kaylee Pizarro, Carter Reeves, Channing Shackelford, Dawson Smith, Minka Stanley, Hunter Stone, Bella Topor, Cherish Tucker, Nicolas Vilar, Z'onna Williams, Emma Wilson.

A's & B's
Lilith Allmon, Katelynn Bailey, Benjamin Betancourt, Mollie Boone, Kylie Buenrostro, La'Miyah Canady, Tarlaycia Chippis, Cruz Cortes, Emma Cox, Jahce Curry, Gunner Davis, Jaicee Davis, Betsaida DeLaRosa, Carolina DeLosSantos, Autumn Dillard, Luke Evans, Melanye Fraga, Jakob Ganous, Brantley Goodwin, Emma Gunter, Genesis Hernandez, Leo Hernandez, Parker Jackson, La'Trevious Johnson, Jayce Jones, Jayson Jones, Kaden Jones, Xzabrea Langston, Paxton Linville, Eden Lopez Mercado, Jonathan Maldonado, Joshua Martinez, Avery Mascarenas, Emily Mendoza, Destiny Mercado, Adalyn Parker, Ayleen Pioquinto, Kennedy Porter, Chloe Russo, Abigail Sartin, Annabelle Schooley, Westyn Schroader, Olivia Simmons, Braylee Smith, Kennedy Smith, Alonzo Stroud, Kendal Talley, Benjamin Teresa, Brayan Thomas, Adalyn Tollett, Olivia Trimble, Imani Underwood, Terra Vanderziel, Julianne Webb, Ahmad Williams, Aiden Wright, Khamille Wynn.



NASHVILLE CONNECTION AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Rev. Pam Estes, Rev. Terry Gosnell and Connie Castleberry visit during the annual Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church last week at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Rev. Estes is pastor of First United Methodist Church at Nashville. Rev. Gosnell is a Nashville native who will pastor two congregations in central Arkansas. Castleberry was the lay delegate from FUMC Nashville and Bingen United Methodist Church.

School Continued from page 1A

used for instruction), Bluetooth-enabled devices, devices capable of capturing or transmitting images, sound or data.”

Upon entering the school, “Students may power off and store their electronic devices in their backpacks,” according to Perez. “Earbuds, smart watches and other accessories must be stored in backpacks throughout the school day. Phones may not be taken to the restroom.”

Misuse includes, but is not limited to, use of personal devices in classrooms, hallways or rest rooms; allowing any audible sound from a device, academic dishonesty, including using devices to cheat, recording or photographing students or staff without permission, sharing or posting content to

social media during school hours, creating, sending, viewing or possessing inappropriate content, recording or live-streaming fights or inappropriate behavior, the policy says.

Before the morning bell and after the end-of-school bell, or at school events, “Students may use devices within the guidelines of the activity or sponsor. Use is allowed in emergency situations or as specified in an IEP or 504 plan,” Perez said.

Disciplinary consequences include the following:

First offense - Phone is confiscated and turned in to the office. A parent must pick up the device and sign documentation acknowledging the policy and next consequence.

Second offense - Phone is confiscated and turned in to the office. A parent must pick up the device, and the student will serve one day

of ISS.

Third offense - Phone is confiscated and turned in to the office. A parent must pick up the device, and the student will serve three days of ISS.

Fourth offense - Phone is confiscated and turned in to the office. A parent must pick up the device, and the student will serve three days of OSS and may be recommended for placement in ALE.

Refusal to comply with policy - Results in five-day home suspension.

The policy will be enforced per school year, not per semester.

The policy says that the school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices, including those that have been confiscated.

Other changes will be reviewed in future issues.

The Nashville calendar for 2025-26 may be found on page 1A.

Lake Continued from page 1A

A kiss on the head of each fish, and back into the pond they go. He says he “lets them go to let them grow” and then they’ll be there, larger, to catch on another day.

The fish didn’t get this big by accident. “When I first got the pond, the ecology was a little messed up,” he said. “Little fish are the life of a pond, and there wasn’t much cover.”

To give the population of the little fish a chance to grow, Dr. Don added structure and started buying shiners. LOTS of shiners.

For several years, he had 2,000-2,500 pounds delivered in the warmer months. In addition to that he began adding cedar trees to give the young bass, bream, and crappie a place to hide. It worked. There are lots of fish now, and they’re big.

“I want to have a place where it’s tough to NOT catch one or two 5-pound bass in an hour.”

Don has invested a lot of time and money into his pond, and in addition to the fish, there’s a pavilion, picnic tables, benches, two docks and lots of lights. He’s hosted extended family gatherings and birthday parties, as well as having friends come out to fish.

One of Dr. Don’s favorite things to do with all of this is to watch young people enjoy what he’s built. Scouting troops from Hope and from Cabot come at least once a year to fish and to camp out, and a Christian group of 20-30 teens from Mountain Home, members of a group called Cross Trail Outfitters, come annually, also. “They all want to fish at Lake Don!” he said with pride.

Why would you spend so much money doing all of this, I ask?

“You’re gonna spend your money somewhere,” he says,

grinning, “and I’m spending my kids’ inheritance.”

Don is often at the pond before daylight and after dark, several times a week. He used to take two-week fishing trips to Canada, but not anymore. “When I bought this in 2010, I felt like this is where I need to be. I just couldn’t be away from this place for two weeks.”

Dr. Don stays active. “I have friends who retire, and it’s sad. I read their Facebook pages, and it’s all about their cat, their dog, or sitting on a beach.”

He’s not real good at sitting and doing nothing. He’s either practicing dentistry or working and fishing at Lake Don.

And what are your plans for the future?

“I hope in 20 years to be doing the same thing I am now—spending time out here and singing in the choir at church!”

Another passion of his, but we’ll leave that story for another day.

Meet the Howard County Farm Family of the Year.

See section B of today’s issue for a story and pictures.



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After the storm:

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





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Home&Heart BEWARE of the 9 Major Food Allergens

By Angie Freel
Howard County Family & Consumer Science

Last week, Howard County 4-H participated in the district 4-H O-Rama Contest held in Malvern (and did an outstanding job). One of our members was conducting a food demonstration as his competitive activity. This 4-H member happens to have a serious allergic reaction to peanuts and noticed that another contestant who went before him was demonstrating a recipe containing peanut butter. His anxiety level rose substantially, but he made sure that the table was thoroughly cleaned before he started his demonstration. Luckily, he is old enough to watch for potential allergens in his environment, but for those of us who do not have allergens, it easily slips our minds.

A food allergy is a reaction of the body's immune system to a specific protein in a food. Each year 3.4 million patients visit emer-

gency rooms with a food allergy related illness. There is no cure for food allergies and the only way to protect against an allergy attack is to avoid the allergen entirely. Symptoms include hives, itching, rashes, swelling of tongue or lips, wheezing, nasal congestion, trouble breathing, abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting. Fortunately for most people, food allergens are mild. However, some food allergies can cause severe symptoms such as shock, a drop in blood pressure, irregular pulse, and a loss of consciousness.

The FDA has identified 9 major food allergens that account for 90% of all food allergies.

- Milk
- Eggs
- Wheat
- Soy
- Sesame
- Tree Nuts
- Peanuts
- Fish
- Shellfish

The presence of these

allergens in a food must be identified on food labels on one of two ways. 1) Include the name of the allergen source in the ingredient list. It must be clear to the customer what the source is by using the common name of the ingredient in parentheses. For example, whey as an ingredient, would be identified in the ingredient list as "whey (milk)."

2) Manufacturers must place the word "Contains" followed by the name of the allergen food source(s) immediately after or adjacent to the list of ingredients. There are specific rules for the size of the font, plus it must list all the major allergens in the food, even if they are also

identified in the ingredient list. Since there are several types of tree nuts, fish, and shellfish, it is required the specific type of allergen be stated. This means it is not adequate to say, "contains tree nuts" and instead the specific type of nut must be stated. For example, "Contains almonds."

Recipe of the Week – this brownie mix can be prepared and stored in the pantry until you're ready to use some of it to whip up a batch of delicious brownies.

You'll get several batches of brownies from this one recipe. This week's recipe was contributed by Brenda Henderson from Montgomery County and comes from

the Simply Delicious cookbook published many years ago by the Arkansas Family and Consumer Science Agents.

Brownie Mix
6 cups flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
4 teaspoons salt
8 cups sugar
1 (8-ounce) can unsweetened cocoa
2 cups vegetable shortening

To Use: Combine 2 ½ cups Brownie Mix, 2 eggs (beaten), 1 teaspoon vanilla. Beat until smooth. Add ½ cup chopped nuts (optional). Pour into greased and floured 8-inch square pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to

35 minutes. Yields 16 two-inch squares.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's mission is to strengthen agriculture, communities, and families by connecting trusted research to the adoption of best practices. Through the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, the Division of Agriculture conducts research and extension work within the nation's historic land grant education system.

The Division of Agriculture is one of 20 entities within the University of Arkansas System. It has offices in all 75 counties in Arkansas and faculty on three campuses.

Watermelon webinar part of ‘Grow Your Own Groceries’ series

As part of the “Grow Your Own Groceries” series, the University of Arkansas Extension Service will host a Zoom meeting featuring watermelons on Tuesday, July 15. Set for 12-1 p.m., participants of

the free virtual meeting can learn how to grow healthy, nutritious watermelons in their own backyard and get some tips for new ways to cook and prepare your harvest.

For more information, call the Pike

County Extension Service at (870) 285-2161 or visit uaex.uada.edu.

To register for the webinar, please visit uada.zoom.us/joining/register/oT9QRxvFR7yBBMYsiGzJzA.

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Pastors: Lankford & Mary Alice Moore

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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, ABRAHAM'S STEWARD, HAD RETURNED FROM HIS SEARCH FOR A BRIDE FOR ISAAC WITH REBEKAH, DAUGHTER OF BETHUEL. ISAAC, ON AN EVENING STROLL, IS THE FIRST TO SEE THE CARAVAN...

IT IS ELIEZER! RETURNED AT LAST WITH MY BRIDE!

AND REBEKAH APPROACHES ISAAC, HER FACE COVERED WITH A VEIL, AS IS THE PROPER CUSTOM OF THE DAY.

HAPPINESS FILLS ELIEZER, FOR HE SUCCESSFULLY HAS ACCOMPLISHED THE MISSION WITH WHICH HE WAS CHARGED.

AND NOW ABRAHAM MAY FINISH HIS REMAINING YEARS IN PEACE AND CONTENTMENT, FOR HE IS ASSURED THAT HIS FAMILY LINE WILL CONTINUE AND BECOME A MIGHTY NATION, AS GOD HAS PROMISED, NOW THAT HIS SON ISAAC HAS A WIFE, WHO WILL GIVE HIM LOVE AND COMFORT THROUGH THE YEARS, ALL OF WHICH HAS BEEN RECORDED IN GENESIS CHAPTER 24.

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Worship - 6:00 p.m.

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Minister: Jim Pinson

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870-287-5652

Sunday Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.

Obituaries

Continued from Page 2A



Donna Jean Steed
Deana Jean Steed, age 49, a resident of Mineral Springs, Ark., passed away on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at her home.

She was born on Jan. 26, 1976, in Texarkana, Texas. She worked at Pop's Bait Shop, was a member of New Mt. Zion Church, and a member of the Glory Bee Ministry soup kitchen. She took a lot of pride in helping with and delivering meals for the ministry. She loved her boys and her grandchildren. She would lend a hand

to anyone in need, and she loved the beach.

Ms. Steed was preceded in death by her father, Royce Gene Steed.

Ms. Steed is survived by two sons and daughter-in-law, Garrett Lanicek (Tabitha) of Glenwood, and Royce Gene Lanicek of Mineral Springs, her mother, Judy K. Steed of Mineral Springs; three beautiful granddaughters who are specially loved; one brother and sister-in-law, Chris and (Amanda) Steed of Fort Smith, Ark., and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and special friends.

Memorial services for Deana will be held at 12:00 p.m., Saturday, June 28, 2025, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Mineral Springs, Ark.

Cremation arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home in De Queen.

You may leave a condolence online at www.wilkersonfuneralhomes.com.



CLERK OF THE YEAR. Penny Lamb, Recorder/Treasurer for the City of Murfreesboro, was recently awarded the Municipal Clerk of the Year for the state of Arkansas by the state's City Clerks Recorder/Treasurer Association. Lamb said the award was given on a nomination basis in which eight other nominees were considered. Lamb was nominated for the award by North Little Rock Clerk Diane Whitby, a 30-plus year clerk. In May, Lamb also earned her Master Municipal Clerk certification from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Lamb has been in the position since December 2008 when she was appointed by Mayor Jim O'Neal (in a previous term as mayor).



Hayden Linville
Feral Swine Technician
for Mine Creek
Conservation District
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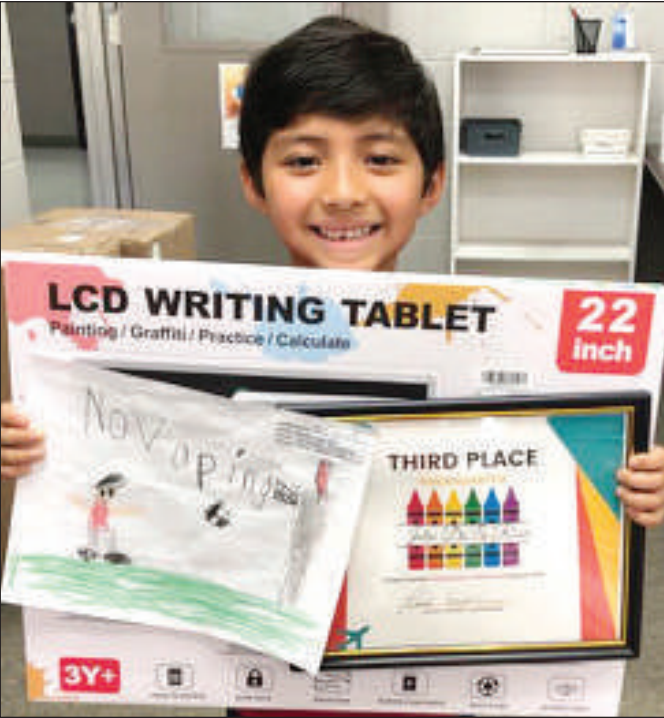
Schedule



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JUNE 16 & 17	SOCCER CAMP/K-4TH GRADE 5:30-7:30 NPR SOCCER COMPLEX
JUNE 19 & 20	SOCCER CAMP/5TH-8TH GRADE 5:30-7:30 NPR SOCCER COMPLEX
JUNE 23 & 24	FOOTBALL CAMP/K-2ND GRADE 5:30-7:30 SCRAPPER STADIUM
JUNE 26 & 27	FOOTBALL CAMP/3RD-6TH GRADE 5:30-7:30 SCRAPPER STADIUM
JULY 14 & 15	BASKETBALL CAMP/K-2ND GRADE 5:30-7:30 WHITE SIDE GYM
JULY 17 & 18	BASKETBALL CAMP/3RD-6TH GRADE 5:30-7:30 WHITE SIDE GYM
JULY 28 & 29	BASEBALL CAMP/K-4TH GRADE 5:30-7:30 NPR BASEBALL COMPLEX
JULY 31/AUG 1	BASEBALL CAMP/5TH-8TH GRADE 5:30-7:30 NPR BASEBALL COMPLEX

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YOUNG ARTISTS. Valeria Ruiz (at right) and Julio De La Rosa, students at Nashville Primary School, each earned third place in their respective grade levels in the Project Prevent State of Arkansas Drawing Contest. Their artwork stood out among entries from across the state, and both were awarded LCD drawing tablets for their achievements.



Nashville man charged with sex crime against child

A charge of rape was filed June 9 in Howard County against Alexis Garcia, 25, of Nashville, following an investigation last month involving a young girl.

Garcia is accused of having sexual intercourse with a 10-year-old girl, who told officials it had been happening since she was seven years old.

On May 29, during an interview requiring an interpreter, Garcia allegedly admitted to the crime with the latest incident taking place just eight days prior to the interview.

Garcia remains in county custody, as of Tuesday morning, in lieu \$250,000 bond. He is also ordered to refrain from contact with his alleged victim.

Dierks man charged
A Dierks man remains in county custody this week after being charged with felony terroristic threatening and first-degree criminal mischief.


Phillip Lain Janes, 33, was charged June 11 with allegedly firing shotgun rounds into a family home and vehicle. The incident occurred on May 26 around 3 a.m.

The family was apparently warned by a Janes family member with a phone call. They said Janes had gathered his turkey vest and youth model 20-gage shotgun and had left their home and was headed their way.

While still on that phone call, Janes allegedly drove up to the home's driveway and fired the gun twice. Investigators recovered two spent 20-gauge shells from the scene and evidence from damage to the home and vehicle.

Janes was later apprehended in Antlers, Okla., by Tribal Police and faces charges in that state, too.


We going to decorate our bikes in...



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...red, white and blue and join in the parade.



Kids: color stuff in!


Let Freedom Ring...



The Liberty Bell is a symbol of the United States. For many years, it rang for freedom. The bell no longer tolls, but the ideals for which it stands still ring true for all Americans. Do you know other symbols of America?

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:


- our national bird; white feathers on its head; lives near bodies of water
- Archibald Willard's dad was model for The _____ of '76 painting
- South Dakota mountain with carved faces of four U.S. Presidents
- first President; Commander-in Chief of the Continental Army during war
- describes basic U.S. laws and rights
- Pledge of _____**; to show devotion to country
- _____ ; credited with sewing the first American flag after George Washington visit (according to legend)
- national anthem, The _____ - **Banner**; based on poem written about a British attack on Fort McHenry
- _____ is a symbol of the U.S. in human form; wears a red, white and blue suit and a top hat
- Statue of _____**; a giant, copper gift from France; has greeted millions of people coming to America
- colors on U.S. flag and many symbols of patriotism
- classic American pastry with fruit, cinnamon and sugar
- Declaration of _____**; declared that the 13 colonies were now a new nation no longer controlled by British
- nickname given to U.S. flag




15. _____ of U.S. has eagle holding 13 arrows in one talon, olive branch in the other

16. Maryland & Virginia donated land for our national capitol, _____


Happy 4th of July!



Oooo... Ahhh...



Spirit



Bald Eagle

red, white and blue

4th of July

Help **Pinch** with his packed schedule! First, he has to decorate his bike; then ride to the parade; after the parade, he'll stop by a picnic; and finally end his day at the fireworks!



Start

End



The Great Seal

Ask a grownup to help you use your computer to find "The Great Seal of the United States of America" so you can see the details of our government's seal. The seal, which has two sides, is stamped onto very important papers and items to show that they are approved by the government.

Pop Quiz!

Circle the correct answer: T = True F = False

The Great Seal of the United States of America:

- assures people that the U.S. stands by items it is printed on T F
- is on the one-dollar bill T F
- is on our country's flag T F
- has 13 stripes (up and down), olives, leaves and arrows T F
- has the Liberty Bell hanging from one wing of the eagle T F

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LOCAL PEACHES AT THE MARKET. Deb Wroblewski served up peaches and plums from Jamison Orchard, last Friday at the Howard County Farmers' Market in Nashville.

Kirby man being held on \$100K bond for threats

A Kirby man is being held on \$100,000 bond after being charged in Pike County with felony terrorist threatening.

Nathan Peek, 46, was charged June 20 with two counts of first-degree terrorist threatening and being a felon in possession of firearms. Peek pleaded innocent to the charges Monday and a public defender was appointed for an Aug. 25 pretrial date. Peek remains in county custody, as of Tuesday morning.

Peek was on arrested June 13 after the Pike County Sheriff's Department received a call about Peek

allegedly being on their property and being mad about someone pushing the road across his father's land. The caller said they urged Peek to leave multiple times and that when he did he went to his father's home nearby. A neighbor reportedly saw Peek later exit the home with a gun, which he placed into his car, according to case information.

The caller allegedly saw Peek driving by his home slowly before a neighbor reported seeing Peek walking across the yard with a gun and later making threats about shooting everyone. He also said he would have

a shootout with the police.

Peek was taken into custody and was found to have shotgun shells in his pocket that matched the gun he had hidden under his bed.

Also on June 20 in Pike County Circuit Court, David Robert Rhodes, 46, of Nashville, was charged with felony possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Rhodes pleaded innocent to the charges Monday and he was ordered to hire an attorney and report back to court Aug. 25.

Rhodes was arrested in Glenwood during a traffic stop by the Arkansas State

Police. He was found to be in possession of approximately 0.87 grams of meth and a glass pipe.

David Edwards, 19, of Glenwood, was charged June 20 with two counts of felony criminal trespass. He pleaded innocent to the charges Monday and a public defender was appointed for a July 17 pretrial date. He remains in county custody on \$5,000 bond, as of Tuesday morning.

Edwards was arrested by the Glenwood Police Department on June 6 following several criminal trespass warnings involving the Opal Street Trailer Park.

Manslaughter charge expected for Pike County man

A Pike City man is expected to be charged with manslaughter following a state police investigation of a shooting last week that killed a Delight man.

Gage King, 23, made a first appearance Monday in Pike County on the charge of manslaughter in the death of Daniel Cain Lamb, 44. King has been released from county custody on \$50,000 bond following his arrest the morning of June 18. He is set to hire an attorney and return to court for formal arraignment on July 28.

According to case information, a special agent with the Arkansas State Police Criminal Investigation Division was notified of a shooting on June 18 that occurred at 220 Pike City Road. The agent first arrived at approximately 12:46 a.m. at the intersection of Pike City Road and Highway 26 where he observed paramedics and officers with the Pike County Sheriff's Department also at the intersection. He was informed Lamb had allegedly been shot in the chest by King at 220 Pike City Road. Lamb was ultimately pronounced dead at the scene.

Lamb had apparently gotten to the intersection in a vehicle driven by Melissa Campbell, 52, of Delight, who reported she had driven to the intersection to meet first responders following the shooting. Officers then went to the Pike City home and took King into custody.

Campbell told investigators that she and Lamb went to the home to confront King regarding a prior incident. She said King came out holding a gun and Lamb got out and started to approach King when he fired a round from a .22 caliber rifle.

Lamb was able to get back into the vehicle. Campbell said King pointed the gun at her vehicle so she allegedly drove forward and hit King before fleeing the residence.

King told the ASP agent that Campbell and Lamb had come to the home and made threats towards him.

King also said he went inside and retrieved the rifle and that when Lamb began approaching he told him multiple times to stop before he fired the shot.

Fireworks, live music planned in Murfreesboro

Murfreesboro Rehab and Nursing has invited the public to their annual Fourth of July celebration.

The independence festivities will begin at 7 p.m. with the band Silver Smoke, followed by a fireworks display starting between 9 and 9:30 p.m. as full darkness allows.

The nursing facility will offer cold bottled water to any attendee.

The public is reminded to bring their own lawn chairs.

There will be no parking at the Gypsy Underground Flea Market or at the front or side of the nursing home, and West 13th Street between the nursing home and the Gypsy will be blocked off during the show.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF TO PERSON OF: CASE NO. 31PR-25-31
Josiah Hubbard and Elizabeth Parnell, Minor
Warning Order
TO: Daniel Parnell, putative father, and all other possible putative fathers

Shall take notice that on May 15, 2025 a Petition for Appointment of a Guardian of the Person was filed on behalf of Brandon and Carrie Smith in the Circuit Court of Howard County, Arkansas to obtain a guardianship of the minor child Elizabeth Parnell whose date of birth is September 3, 2024.

Daniel Parnell, putative father and all other possible putative fathers shall take notice that unless you appear and defend or otherwise respond within thirty (30) days from the first date of publication of this notice, an order may be entered and granted, or you will be otherwise barred from asserting your interest in this matter.

Jessica R. Hostetler, Howard County Deputy Clerk
DATE: June 12, 2025
(TLF: 52, 1)

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Property is located on 1108 N. 14th St., Nashville
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Reduced Price



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Pike County District Court

June 3, 2025
BF=Bond Forfeited
Pike County
Abbott, James, 64, Story, \$455 BF, overweight
Ashcroft, Anders Kody 34, Vandervoort, \$135 BF, speeding
Berry, Kristie Mae, 23, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Broach, Mary Lynn, 62, Vandervoort, \$135 BF, speeding
Brown, Nathaniel W., 19, Shady Point, Okla., \$185 BF, speeding
Cogburn, Jacob Dempsey, 20, Glenwood, \$185 BF, speeding
Cox, David Ray, 76, Cad-do Gap, \$135 BF, speeding
Edwards, Faith Marie, 23, Hampton, \$125 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Edwards, Gavin James, 26, San Antonio, Texas, \$135 BF, speeding
Gills, Garrett J., 33, Nashville, \$185 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Gonzalez, Rubio, 57, Cad-do Gap, \$125 BF, speeding
Harr, Ashlie Kay, 28, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Hartley, Lillian, 24, Jes-sieville, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,375 owed
Holder, Brach Jordan, 23, Amity, \$125 BF, speeding
Hon, Alyssa Nicole, 20, Benton, \$135 BF, speeding
Hudson, Dee Diana, 52, Benton, guilty of speeding, fined \$135
Jannipalli, Balateja, 29, Denton, Texas, \$135 BF, speeding
Lamb, Daniel C., 44, De-light, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$125; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of failure to pres-ent insurance, fined \$70
Lamb, Danny Ray, 65, Okolona, \$125 BF, no vehicle license
Lingenfelter, Michael Joe, 62, Carthage, Mo., \$125 BF, improper passing
Lingo, Joshua Dylan, 24, Delight, \$185 BF, speeding
Marschall, Nicholas An-drew, 32, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Maxwell, Hunter Cole, 22, Hot Springs, \$135 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Myrkle, Austin E., 19, Murfreesboro, guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45; minor in possession of alcohol, under advisement for one year to dismiss; guilty of disorderly conduct, fined \$220
Peace, Jenna Wade, 34, Maud, Texas, \$135 BF, speed-ing
Ratliff, Khristian Leeroy, 25, Newhope, guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45; guilty of no proof of liability insur-ance, fined \$315; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Reeves, Kitty, 43, Little Rock, \$125 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Robinson, Noah Daniel, 24, Knobel, \$225 BF, careless prohibited driving with ac-cident
Shaw, Steven Michael, 67, Oak Hills, Calif., \$125 BF, speeding
Short, Traci Jomarlena, 41, Lockesburg, \$185 BF, speeding
Sindle, Tyler Jay S., 33, Mountain Home, \$450 BF, possessing instrument of crime
Spears, Bobby A. Jr., 42, Norman, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,265 owed
Stangler, Heather Gail, 46, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Suggs, Jeffrey Irwin, 55, Boyd, Texas, \$135 BF, speed-ing; \$205 BF, failure to ap-pear
Thompson, Blakly Lee, 16, Arkadelphia, guilty of careless prohibited driving, fined \$445
Torres, Eduardo Mon-terry, 48, no address listed, \$125 BF, no driver’s license; \$135 BF, speeding
Unfred, Laura A., 62, Weston, Mo., \$135 BF, speed-ing
Vazquez, Ernest, 27, Kirby, \$125 BF, no driver’s license
Wakeman, Cody Ray, 30, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325
City of Murfreesboro
Austin, Tonya M., 49, De Queen, guilty of failure to pay, \$795 owed
Cummins, Diana J., 49, Oklahoma City, Okla., \$145 BF, no child restraint device
Fant, Dalleigh Faye, 17, Lockesburg, \$205 BF, speed-ing
Floyd, Isabella, 31, Mur-freesboro, guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$145; guilty no proof of liability insurance, fined \$335; guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,095 and license suspended for six months; guilty of posses-sion of drug paraphernalia, fined \$620
Lugo, Neftali Jr., 33, Seabrook, Texas, guilty of fleeing, fined \$600
Nance, Jaymie Ann, 38, Houston, Texas, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,095 and license suspended for six months; guilty of posses-sion of drug paraphernalia, fined \$620
Taylor, Richard K., 40, Murfreesboro, guilty of fail-ure to pay, \$915 owed
City of Glenwood
Bell, Jeffrhey Todd, 38, Cove, \$145 BF, speeding
Boyd, Kolton Lee, 17, Kir-by, \$145 BF, defective lights; \$145 BF, improper muffler
Boyett, Amber Grace, 41, Amity, \$335 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Carter, Katlyn Leeann, 29, White Hall, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125; guilty of speed-ing, fined \$205
Cogburn, Sandy R., 49, Glenwood, guilty of posses-sion of controlled substance, fined \$1,095 and license suspended for six months; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$265
Colula, Jorge FJ, 56, Glen-wood, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Daiz, Santiago Hurta-do, 20, Glenwood, \$145 BF, \$335
Hernandez, Rocio, 32, Hot Springs, \$145 BF, speed-ing
Jackson, Wyatt Cole, 23, London, \$145 BF, speeding
King, Joseph Lee, 45, Ato-ka, Tenn., \$145 BF, speeding; \$225 BF, failure to appear
Lopez, Santiago Rojas, 25, Caddo Gap, \$145 BF, no driver’s license
Montes, Bryan, 22, Little Rock, \$155 BF, speeding
Pena, Jose, 37, no address listed, guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$145
Pulido, Sergio I., 27, De Queen, \$155 BF, speeding
Purcell, Michael L., 79, Glenwood, \$205 BF, speed-ing
Ratliff, Khristian Leeroy, 25, Newhope, guilty of ex-pired vehicle license / tags, fined \$145; guilty of failure to register within 30 days, fined \$145; guilty of no proof of li-ability insurance, fined \$335
Rubio, Ciro, 56, Caddo Gap, \$145 BF, no driver’s license
Ruis, Molly Raylene, 32, Norman, guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$210; guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$210



STAND UP SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE. The Nashville Chamber of Commerce's 2025 edition Stand Up for America will take place July 4 at the Nashville City Park. Shirts for the event are now available at the chamber office on Main Street or online at its website and Facebook page for \$20. Here, young Jagger Berruquin, son of chamber member Susie Berruquin, shows off this year's event shirt.

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Fishing at Tooth Acres, Lake Don

News-Leader photos/DON HALL



Dr. Don Sitzes hauled in this 7.4-pounder during a recent outing at his 25-acre pond. “A kiss on the head of each fish, and back into the pond they go,” he said.



Dr. Don Sitzes and Jaree Hall try their luck at Tooth Acres, Lake Don.



Lake Don. (Related story, page 1A)



Senior Karstyn Scrivner (24) moves the ball during Scrapperette summer drills last week at Scrapper Arena.



The ball drops into the hands of senior Sofia McCauley (right) June 17 at Scrapper Arena.



Future Scrapperette Lola Dean (left) controls the ball last week.

News-Leader photos/
JOHN R. SCHIRMER

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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.

SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Area athletes

Athletes at all Arkansas high schools, including Nashville, Mineral Springs, Murfreesboro and Dierks, are mid-way through the first of two dead weeks required by the Arkansas Activities Association. Dead weeks include June 23-27 and June 30-July 4. Summer workouts will resume July 7 for participants in football, basketball, golf, tennis, cross country, cheer and other sports.

This weekly feature sponsored by McDonald's of Nashville
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Shipping Department Sets New Record!

We're proud to give a huge shoutout to our Shipping Department at Weyerhaeuser Dierks Lumber for breaking a major milestone a new single-day volume record of 2,351,013 BF!

This isn't just a number it represents an incredible amount of coordination, hard work, and commitment to doing things the right way safely, with everyone staying focused on our top priority: making sure every team member goes home the same way they came in. Breaking records like this doesn't happen by accident. It takes dedication, communication, and a team that shows up and gives 100% every day and that's exactly what this crew continues to do. To the entire Shipping crew: congratulations on this incredible accomplishment! Your efforts, attitude, and attention to safety are setting the bar for excellence. Let's keep raising that bar — safely, together.

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2025
**Howard County
Farm Family**

Nashville News-Leader

**Jared & Cathren Smith
Dierks, Arkansas**



Since 1947, the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year Program has served as a vehicle to recognize outstanding farm families throughout the state. The objectives of the Farm Family of the Year program are:

- To give recognition and encouragement to farm families who are doing an outstanding job on their farm and in their community.
- To gain recognition of the importance of agriculture in the community and state.
- To disseminate information on improved farm practices and management.

News-Photo by
JOHN BALCH
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FARM LIFE: PLAIN AND SIMPLE. Howard County's Farm of the Year is Jared, Cathren, Clara and Cooper Smith. The family has also been named the Arkansas Farm Family program's West Central District farm of the year.

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***Congratulates our customers,
the Jared Smith family, on being chosen
2025 Howard County Farm Family
and West Central District Farm Family***



From left to right:
Randy and Tammy
Allen, Cooper,
Jared, Cathren
and Clara Smith;
Kaitlin Miller, Vice
President/Dierks
Branch Manager;
Ethan White,
Chief Lending
Officer



Cooper, Jared, Clara & Cathren

A Simple Life: Family, Farm, Cows & Chickens

Meet Howard County’s Farm Family of the Year

By John Balch
News-Leader staff

The Howard County Farm Family of the Year tradition continues this year on the cattle and chicken farms just west of Dierks, owned and operated by the Jared and Cathren Smith family.

The Smith family has also been recognized as the West Central District Farm Family of the Year by the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year program, which consists of eight districts statewide.

The Smith family is rounded out by kids Clara, 14, and Cooper, 15, with an assist from Cathren’s parents, Tammy and Randy Allen.

This is Cathren’s second go-round as Farm Family of the Year. Her family, including older brother, Justin, earned the Howard County honor in 1992 when she was just a toddler.

Jared, 39, is an Ozan boy raised by Debbie and Doyle Smith, and grew up row-cropping and working cattle over in Hempstead County. He graduated from Nash-

ville High School in 2003. Cathren, 35, is a 2008 graduate of Dierks High Schools, where both kids attend.

Soon after marrying in 2008, Jared and Cathren bought their first small herd of cattle and 70 acres. Ten years later, they bought more property and decided to get into the chicken business with four broiler houses. The farm is called Sand Field Farms, named for an actual area on the property that collects sand during heavy rains.

The family just added four new mega poultry houses on the lower portion of the farm for Tyson Foods. The family uses the poultry giant’s complex in Broken Bow, Okla.

Jared said the Oklahoma complex produces 13 million pounds of breast meat a week and the mega-houses are required for contracts.

When farm family judges came for their recent visit to Dierks, loose-ends were being tied up to open the four new houses and chickens were due to arrive in a few

days - 35,000 per house. The judges, along with several people there in support of the Smith family, were afforded a chance to step into one of the massive, unused, clean, fresh and fully-automated houses.

“This doesn’t smell right,” someone joked with Cathren responding, “You need to get some pictures. You’ll never see it this clean again.”

The newer section of the property where the giant broiler houses are located is called Rock Creek Farms.

The new houses are the furthestest thing from what Cathren family’s laying houses were growing up when virtually ever chore was carried out by hand. Back then, there was no high-tech gadgetry warning of outages and the main piece of equipment was a wheelbarrow.

“We don’t work like that anymore,” Jared said, but there is still plenty of work to be done, getting ready

News-Photos by
JOHN BALCH
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Congratulations
to the
Smith Family
on this great honor
from
the Nashville
News-Leader



We would like to salute
**Jared, Cathren,
Cooper & Clara
Smith**
on this well deserved
honor and achievement.

**Howard County Fair
Association**



Tyson Representative Brent Young with Jared, Cooper, Cathren and Clara Smith



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The Jared Smith Family
2025 Howard County &
West Central District Farm Family!





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MOTORING AROUND THE FARM. Cooper Smith (at left) at the wheel of his his side-by-side headed to check on cattle while his mom and farm family judges (at right) get around with a little more style and some A/C. The Smith's farming operation occupies 250 acres just west of Dierks off Highway 70.

More Farm Family

to receive chickens and then preparing for their departure - and everything in between. The farm is 250 acres, after all.

When asked if they have any employees, Jared chuckled and turned to his kids, "Them."

Cathren and the kids are certainly up to the task, particularly Cooper. When asked what his future plans are, he quickly said, "This."

Cooper has already gotten into the cow-calf game with six head. He prefers the red variety of Angus with the rest of the family's 65-head herd black Angus. He hopes to get to 10-15 head while he is still in school, pay them off and start saving heifers. He's going to be a 10th grader come August.

He expects his herd to be at 25-30 before he graduates.

Later as he rattles through a field in a side-by-side proudly cobbled together with with after-market parts, Cooper said cows and cattle are certainly in his future. He has been showing animals at the county fair since he was five or six. He was "the little kid with a big bull."

"That's when I fell in love with it, right there," Cooper said, plus, "I really like the idea of working on my own piece of land."

Clara is also a veteran on the farm, too. Like Cooper, she has maintain show animals since she was young and will show this year. But, she may have other plans, according to her dad.

"She posted on Facebook the other day that she is definitely going to college," Jared laughed. However,

"Our farm is our happy place and there's nothing else we would rather do than to continue our families' legacies,"

Clara plans to attend Southern Arkansas University, a college known for its agricultural studies programs.

"Yep, we may lose her for a while, maybe she'll come back."

Sand Field and Rock Creek farms work in conjunction with the Allen farm across the highway. Hay work is shared and cattle vaccinations are strictly scheduled and implemented.

"We stay on a strict sched-

ule in case our cattle get together, they're all covered," said Jared.

The main concern among the cattle is respiratory issues that are magnified during transport. One issue is covid, which Jared said has been around for decades in the cattle industry.

"We've been vaccinating for covid for 30 years. It's just a different strain from the human version but it does the same thing: attack the respiratory system."

Cooper agrees with his dad that cows and chicken go together just right to help complete their farm.

"The chicken farms add a kind of diversification that makes it all tie together," Jared said.

The start of school soon will mean less time on the farm for Cooper and Clara.

Cooper will be involved in FFA, FCCLA, baseball and football while Clara is a junior high cheerleader who also is involved in FFA, FCCLA and FBCLA.

During the recent visit to the farm, the kids were actually off from their chores and were itching to get back to a church summer camp in

Hot Springs where Cathren also volunteers. The family attends the De Queen First Assembly of God where Cathren is leader of the women's ministry and Jared is an usher and part of the church's security team.

Cathren said her and Jared chose "a simple life" where they could be at home with family and support themselves by being a family farm. That mission has been accomplished and then some.

"Our farm is our happy place and there's nothing else we would rather do than to continue our families' legacies," so says Cathren.

We Salute the

Jared Smith Family

on this Great Honor as


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and
West Central District Farm Family

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Congratulations to
Jared and Cathren Smith
Howard County and
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Clara, Cathren, Cooper and Jared Smith



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2025 Howard County Farm Family and
West Central District Farm Family

Farm Bureau Agent Cheyne Manning, Clara, Cooper,
Cathren and Jared Smith



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Howard County Farm Family of the Year



HOWARD COUNTY
FARM FAMILY
OF THE YEAR

... in their comfortable home north of Dierks, from left, Tammy, Cathren, Justin and
Randy Allen. The annual farm family award is sponsored by the 'Nashville News,'
AP&L and various agri agencies.

BACK IN 1992. The Randy and Tammy Allen family, including son Justin and daughter Cathren were named Howard County's Farm Family of the Year.



COWBOY HAT STAYS ON. Cooper, who is also wearing spurs, and Clara dig into the big spread set up to help celebrate the Smith family's farm family accomplishment.

Congratulations
to our customers,
Jared and Cathren Smith,
on being chosen
Howard County Farm Family &
West Central District Farm Family



Cooper and Clara Smith with their dad's Ram truck



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1983 Renny Chesshir
1984 Delmar Henderson
1985 W.T. Strasner
1986 James Sharp
1987 Elton (Bud) Shaw
1988 Bill Signer (District)
1989 Gary Bearden (District)
1990 Ray Rogers
1991 Phil Efird
1992 Randy Allen
1993 Alan Green
1994 Scott Kitchens
1995 David Simmons
1996 Odell Wesson
1997 Kerry Smith
1998 Ron Alexander
1999 Joey Jamison
2000 Robert Stuart
2001 Arian Stanley (District)
2002 Bruce Flemons (District)
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2005 Kirk Bell (District)
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Howard
County's
Farm
Families
of the
Year


We salute the
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Farm Family of the Year


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Congratulations to our kids and grandkids on being recognized for their hardwork and dedication to their family and farm!

We love you and are proud of you.
Dad and Mom
Justin and Lauren
Lucas and Scarlett

Congratulations to the Smith Family.

Howard County Farm Family & West Central District Farm Family

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HICKEY
SENATE



YOU'LL NEVER SEE IT THIS CLEAN AGAIN. The Smith family in one of the four new poultry houses just completed on their farm. The big houses are under contract with Tyson's Broken Bow, Okla., processing complex.



SPECIAL KEEPSAKE. Cathren and her mom and dad, Tammy and Randy Allen, with one of the old coops from their family's laying operation that has been preserved and is on display at the Smith farm.



We salute our friends Jared and Cathren Smith on being selected Howard County Farm Family



Cooper, Jared, Cathren Smith, Reliable Poultry's Stan Rucker and Clara Smith



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