

**52nd annual
Dierks
Pine Tree
Festival
Saturday,
Aug. 2**

Open house set Thursday for schools in Nashville

Open house will be held at each school. Classes in Nashville will begin Monday, Aug 4

Farmers' Market to be open this Friday

And be sure to mark your calendars — next week is National Farmers Market Week! Find us on Facebook for sponsor spotlights, market updates and a full list of weekly vendors.

Back to School
in Nashville.
See pages
1A, 5A,
1B-4B
of today's
issue.

Inside the News-Leader
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Nashville Superintendent Doug Graham

Nashville Junior High

See **NJHS** • Page 5A



NASHVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL. Principal Nathan Evans, Assistant Principal Mirando Serrano.

City has clean water audit; aldermen discuss pensions

1 Newer firemen are covered by
a different system.

Council members present for the meeting included: Lynn Dyer, Kathy Anderson Combs, Herbert Turley, Charles Pinkston, Kay Gathright, William Turley, Vivian Wright, Phil Jones, Brent Thompson. Joe Hoen and Freddie Horne.

Hotel locations considered

At the July 24 Developing Howard County board meeting, Director Vanessa Weeks said

One is near First State Bank and Roadmart. The other is across from the former Husqvar-

'Home of the Brave, Heart of a Scrapper'

Nashville schools will join the rest of the nation in celebrating America 250, the semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence.

The Bash will begin at 7:30 p.m., with the patriotic portion of the evening start-

"Home of the Brave" is a tribute - "not just to our nation, but to the brave hearts sitting in this room," Graham told the district's faculty and staff July 24. "As educators, you show courage every single day. The courage to face challenges head-on. The courage to try something new. The courage to stand in the gap for students who need

See Year • Page 5A



NASHVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. Assistant Principal Ben Wallis, secretary Heather Pennington, counselor Lakan McAdams, Principal Hannah Topor and secretary Tracy Morrow.

Nashville Primary School

and did a fantastic job. Previously she worked as

behavior in a positive and consistent way.

every student understands what's expected of them in all areas of the school—whether they're in the hallway, the restroom, on the playground, or getting ready to go home. We'll be teaching these expectations clearly, recognizing and rewarding students when they follow them, and making sure everyone understands the consequences when they don't—students, parents, and teachers alike.

We want to make sure

See **Primary** • Page 5A

ELBERTA ARTS CAMPER. Madelyn Teague, 7, of Nashville, was one of about a dozen young artists and youth instructors at the annual Elberta Art Camp in Nashville last week. The event is sponsored and organized by Cindy Petty.



OBITUARIES

Benjamin Thomas Stevens
Benjamin Thomas Stevens, 48, of Murfreesboro died Friday, July 18, 2025.
He was born March 10, 1977, in Texarkana, Texas, to Stevie and Jo Ann Cornish Stevens.
He was a member of First Christian Church, Murfreesboro.
Survivors include: his wife Breanna Pipkins Stevens; sons Brendan, Brandt,

and Cameron Stevens; sisters Sheryl (Darwin) Turner and Jennifer Stevens.
Online at latimerfuneralhome.
Frank J. Ross
Frank J. Ross, 70, died July 26, 2025.
He was born July 13, 1955, in San Antonio, Texas, the son of the late Benjamin Franklin Ross and Norma Jean Ross
Survivors include: his wife of 28 years, Latricia

Ross; three children, James (Kayla) Ross, Jennifer Rathner and Catherine Ross; a brother, Ben Ross; a sister, Barbra Walker; also grandchildren.
The family received friends Sunday, July 27, 2025 at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.
A graveside service was at 3 p.m. Monday, July 28, 2025, at the Delight Cemetery under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Find a financial advisor sharing your values

By Josh Tice
Edward Jones Investments
When it comes to managing your money, there's more to consider than just the bottom line. For many people, investing isn't only about building wealth or reaching goals — it's about making sure their dollars support charitable causes and principles that are in line with their closely held values.
Whether your focus is on protecting the planet, aligning with your faith or giving back to your community, a financial advisor who understands your values can help you build a portfolio that reflects what matters to you. Here's how to help find a good fit.
Know What You Stand For
Before you start searching for a financial advisor, take a moment to reflect on your own values. Are you passionate about sustainability? Do you want your investments to avoid companies that conflict with your faith? Is charitable giving a big part of your life and something you want to incorporate into your financial strategy?
Make a list of your top priorities. Understanding what drives you can help make it easier to find a financial advisor who shares and respects your vision.
Do Your Homework
Once you've clarified your goals, start looking for financial advisors who focus on values-based investing. Terms like "socially responsible investing" (SRI), "faith-based investing," "impact investing" or "ESG" (which stands for environmental, social, and governance) are good keywords to use during your search.
Browse financial advisor websites and

check their credentials. Some may highlight their experience with sustainable funds or philanthropic planning. Look for signs that they're comfortable helping clients invest with a conscience.
Ask the Right Questions
After narrowing your list, schedule a few introductory discussions, which can be done in person or remotely, depending on your preference. These chats are your chance to learn more about how the financial advisor works and whether they'll be a good fit.
Ask about their investment approach:
Do they offer portfolios with a focus on ESG or faith-based filters?
Have they worked with clients who have similar values to yours?
How do they assess charitable giving strategies or donor-advised funds?
Do they know the complex tax rules associated with charitable giving?
Listen closely to the questions they ask of you. Are they truly interested in what matters to you? Do they understand your values and priorities?
Also, consider their communication style. Will they keep you updated regularly? Are they open to collaboration when you want to adjust your plan?
Trust Your Instincts
Choosing a financial advisor is a personal decision. Beyond their professional qualifications, you want someone who listens well and respects your goals. Don't hesitate to meet with several financial advisors before making your choice. The right person will make you feel understood and supported, both financially and personally.



HOME MADE AND HEN MADE. At the Farmers' Market in Nashville, Friday, Jimmy and Dorothy Stokes of Dierks brought eggs -- sold out already -- and her multi-purpose handmade, heavy hand towels.

Corps of Engineers will draw down level of Millwood Lake until November 1

ASHDOWN -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District will begin lowering Millwood Lake on July 28, to improve shoreline vegetation and promote sediment compaction.
The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has requested that Millwood Lake be lowered 24 inches this summer to allow planting of Japanese millet. The Southwest Arkansas Water District, which owns the conservation pool rights, has approved the use of its storage to support the request.
The drawdown will expose a large area of shoreline for re-vegetation. Planting millet will help improve water quality, boost fish production and provide valuable habitat for wintering waterfowl. The lake will

be held near an elevation of 257.2 feet until Sept. 15, 2025, when it will be raised six inches. The lake will be raised to the top of its normal conservation pool of 259.2 feet on Nov. 1, 2025.
Boaters are encouraged to wear a life jacket and exercise caution during the drawdown as submerged stumps and shallow areas will be more prominent, especially in boat lanes.
For more information, contact the Millwood Tri-Lakes Project Office at 870-898-3343.



ANNUAL ROTARY PROJECT. Nashville Rotarian Andrea Rhodes was among club members who served chilled watermelon to senior citizens, last Wednesday. Club members provided the treat at both local nursing homes and to the senior citizens center. (Photo by Rotarian Carol Murray)

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church will host revival August 3-6

Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church will welcome members and visitors to revival, Aug. 3-6.
Services will be at 7 p.m. The church is located on Airport Highway 980 north of Nashville. The evangelist will be Bro. Bryan Sellers, and the pastor is Dr. Wayne Sewell.
The public is invited.

Nashville's City Sales and Use Tax For June 2025

Deposits.....	\$149,502.38
State Service Charge	4,485.07
Interest Earned (Act 513 of 1983)	483.20
Vending Decals Sold	38,40
Total Distributed	\$145,536.91

SOURCE: City Finance Officer Kimberly Green

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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



A ribbon cutting ceremony at Brentwood Melrose Apartments in Nashville. Apartment manager Denise Van Derziel in the middle, with Chamber of Commerce members Cary Lott, left and Rose Ray, 2004.

123 years ago: July 1902
Protesting his innocence to the last, and declaring that his conviction was the result of prejudice, jealousy and perjured testimony, Lathe Hembree was hanged at Centre Point Friday, July 25, for the murder of W. M. Willis, which crime was committed in Polk County in February, 1899.

The drop fell at 11:05, and twenty-two minutes later Hembree was pronounced dead by Drs. W. H. Simpson and O. W. Clark of Nashville. His neck was broken. The noose was adjusted by Sheriff Johnson of Polk County, and Sheriff C. C. C. Custer of Howard, sprung the trap.

Gov. Davis yesterday refused to grant pardons in twenty-five applications, among them were Henry Logan of Howard County for murder and Otis McClendon from Howard

County for selling liquor.

79 years ago: July 1946
(Adv.) Howard A.K. Williams Theatre, coolest spot in town. Tuesday only, Robert Lowery and Barbara Britton in “They Made me a Killer.”

President Truman approved a Selective Service recommendation that the acceptable draft age be extended through 29 years. Since V-J Day the limit has been 26. Although the present law permits a maximum of 44.

About 140,000 blacks have enlisted since last fall, representing about one of each five recruits. The army policy is to limit black soldiers to a ratio of one-in-ten, in line with the ratio in the civilian population.

(Adv.) Rich’s Taxi-Across town or across country.

63 years ago: July 1962
Edgar N. Langley, his

wife and their sons of Nashville, Arkansas, have returned home from Brazil where Mr. Langley served for two years as Agricultural Extension Adviser for the U. S. Agency for International Development.

The Brazil mission work is part of the United States participation in the Alliance for Progress in social and economic help for Latin American countries administered by AID.

(Adv.) Picnic in peace. Kill ticks and chiggers with Heptachlor. See your dealer today. Velsicol Chemical Corporation, Galena, Texas.

42 years ago: July 1983
At least 75 Murfreesboro residents were evacuated from their homes after flooding from a 8.93 inch rainfall. Volunteers filled sandbags at the Pike County Hospital while some 22 patients were moved into corridors.

Defendants receive court dates

There were no “not guilty” or “not true” pleas before Judge Tom Cooper last Wednesday during the regular day for criminal court in Howard County.

Trial and pretrial hearing dates were set for nine defendants who gave their pleas.

Latre Richards, 45, black male, Nashville, has an Aug. 6 date for his probation revocation hearing. He is charged with failure to meet the terms of his probation on an Oct. 2018 conviction for drug possession. He is also facing another matter and will have a bench trial that date.

Kartavious Eason, 27, black male, Nashville, has an Oct. 1 pretrial motions date on his charge of first degree criminal mischief. He also has an Aug. 20 date for motions on another felony charge.

Gerry Graham, 42, black male, Nashville, has a July 30 date for a probation revocation hearing after pleading not true to the charge. He

was convicted in May 2022 for possession with intent to deliver.

Brady O’Neal, 34, white male, Dierks, has a Nov. 5 date for motions on his four class D felony charges of battery, terroristic threatening and criminal mischief.

Heather Bailey, 41, white female, Ozark, has a Nov. 5 pretrial motions date. She is charged with theft of property.

Dennis Fox, 35, white male, Nashville, has a Nov. 5 motions date. He is held in jail with bond set at \$5,000. He is charged with possession of controlled substance.

Dillon Ray Schooley, 31, white male, Delight is charged with felony and misdemeanor drug possession charges. Motions will be heard Nov. 5.

Alisha Phillips, 46, white

female, Nashville, has a Nov. 5 motions date on her charge of theft of property -- stealing funds from accounts held by the Nashville Junior Auxiliary club.

Jason Stewart, 47, black male, Murfreesboro, has a Nov. 5 motions date. He faces two counts of a class C felony drug violation.

Dustie Faulkner, 24, white female, Hope, returned to the courtroom to hear pronouncement of her sentence on an earlier conviction for drug possession. She was sentenced to five years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC).

Jennifer Gibson, 46, white female, Dierks, was found fit to proceed with her trial for rape, class Y felony. A second exam was requested and her date for motions was set for Oct. 1.

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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 July 17-23, 2025, unless noted otherwise:

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

July 18. James David McIntosh, 75, Nashville, and Janice Kaye Berton, 65, Nashville.

July 23. Sean Michael Bradshaw II, 24, Hope, and Kristen Adrianna Baker, 26, Fulton.

Civil Court
CV25-82, July 17. Bettie Grantz vs. Misty Tomlinson. Automobile tort.

CV25-83, July 21. LVNV Funding, LLC, vs. Katrina Benson. Debt.

CV25-84, July 21. LVNV Funding, LLC, vs. Nachell Whitmore. Debt.

CV25-85, July 21. LVNV Funding, LLC, vs. Patricia Hill. Debt.

CV25-86, July 21. Capital One N.A. vs. Anna Rodriguez. Debt.

Domestic Relations Court
DR25-61, July 18. Alexis Baughn vs. Jace Amerson. Order of protection.

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

CR25-66, July 18. State of Arkansas vs. Brady Allen O’Neal, 34, white male, 116 Faulkner Rd., Dierks; 3rd degree domestic battery; 2nd degree domestic battery; terroristic threatening; 1st degree criminal mischief, all class D felony.

CR25-67, July 22. State of Arkansas vs. Alisha Phillips, 46, white female, 1045 Mission Dr., Nashville; theft of property, class C.

CR25-68, July 22. State of Arkansas vs. Dennis Shawn Fox, 55, white male, 612 W. Howard, Nashville; POCS, class D.

CR25-69, July 22. State

of Arkansas vs. Dillan Ray Schooley, 31, white male, 464 Bowen Rd., Delight; POCS with purpose of delivery, class A; PODP, class D; POCS, misdemeanor.

Land/Property Transactions
Quitclaim Deeds
July 17. Renda Cogburn; to Kayla Cogburn Chesshir; aggregate 8 a. in S15 T5S R28W; and Lots 6-7, part of Lot 8, Block 3, Old Nashville; and 10 ac. in S15 T5S R28W.

July 17. Renda Kay Cogburn; to Gary Brian Cogburn; 10 ac. in S15 T5S R28W with easements.

July 18. Doris Ann Castleberry, fka Doris Ann Millward; to Elizabeth Millward; 1 ac. in S25/S36 T8S R28W, Town of Center Point.

July 18. Doris Ann Castleberry, fka Doris Ann Millward; to Doris Michelle Price; aggregate 60 ac. in S36 T8S R28W.

Trustee’s Deed
July 23. James Wray and Lynna Wray, Co-Trustees of the James Wray and Lynna Wray Revocable Trust; to Robert J. Wray and Hannah Wray, husband and wife; 26.2 ac. in S36 T10S R28W. \$550,000.

Redemption Deeds
July 17. State of Arkansas; to Travis & Kimberly Garrison, Wickes; 11 ac. in S29 T5S R30, aka 1435 Hwy. 278, Wickes; delinquent taxes and penalties. \$1,234.94.

July 17. State of Arkansas; to Travis & Kimberly Garrison, Wickes; 10.15 ac. in S28 T5S R30W, aka 1507 Hwy. 278, Wickes; delinquent taxes and penalties. \$1,280.03.

July 17. State of Arkansas; to Travis & Kim Garrison, Wickes; 1 ac. in S28 T5S R30W; delinquent taxes and penalties. \$107.01.

July 21. State of Arkansas; to Dale Gathright, Jr.; 0.21 ac. aka 1952 Main, Saratoga; delinquent taxes and penalties. \$248.58.

July 22. State of Arkansas; to Shirley Faye Souder, Wil-

liamson, Ga.; 3.1 ac. in S35 T9S R27W; delinquent taxes and penalties. \$324.24.

July 22. State of Arkansas; to William C. and Shirley F. Souder, Williamson, Ga.; Lot 5, 824 S. Main, Coleman Addition, City of Nashville. \$412.95.

July 22. State of Arkansas; to William and Shirley Souder, Williamson, Ga.; Lot 4, 814 S. Main, Coleman Addition, City of Nashville; delinquent taxes and penalties. \$673.88.

July 23. State of Arkansas; to Shirley W. Souder/LE, Williamson, Ga.; aggregate 1 ac., 304 Washington St., S4 T11S R27W; delinquent taxes and penalties. \$597.20.

Beneficiary’s Deeds
July 17. Renda Kay Cogburn; to Gary Brian Cogburn and Kayla Cogburn Chesshir; property in S23 T9S R27W.

July 23. Kenneth Turner and Wilda Turner, husband and wife; to Krista Gregory and Douglas Gregory; 33.13 ac. in S31 T5S R28W.

Warranty Deeds
July 17. Kari Marie Richardson and Anna Marie Ray; to Gustavo Manuel Felix and Araceli Rocha Mayorga, husband and wife; 2 tracts, aggregate 1.33 ac., in S9 T10S R27W. \$75,000.

July 17. James L. Steely and wife Ruth Steely; to Justin Garner and Leann Watts; Lot 13, Block 3, City of Nashville. \$100,000.


July 18. (Corporate) Live Oak Properties, Inc.; to Matthew Smith and wife, Sarah Smith; Lot 1 and part of Lot 2, Block 21, New Nashville, Howard County. \$175,000.

July 21. Loyd Woodruff and wife, Denise Woodruff; to Slade Davan Furr and wife, Anna Claire Gunter; property in S33 T9S R27W. \$164,800.

July 22. (Special) Mortgage Research Center, LLC; to Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Lot 25, Toland Heights Subdivision, Nashville, aka 209 Clermont, Nashville.

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Nashville News-Leader

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Point of view

The third greatest

Proof was sought; proof is rendered, and more!

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and because I often write about being the #1 Fair Weather Razorback Football Fan, I feel that the musical side of me is crying out for attention.

In my old age I can no longer play instruments like Freddie Horne and Mark Keith and their bunch do.

I am addressing this musical issue because someone has challenged me to justify repeatedly referring to myself as the “Third Greatest Trombone Player in the History of the Scrapper Band.”

That is a lofty title deserving of proof in these days of misleading information on Facebook and other Social Media such as Fox News.

Proof you will get.

As both of my regular readers know, I am an extremely modest person, loathe to call attention to myself (at this point I am hoping you have forgotten all about that whole Mrs. Claus thing with the red dress and wig).

But I must admit to having a wee bit of musical talent. It wasn’t just a good sense of rhythm and a ‘musical ear’ and the ability to March In Step with the rest of the band that got me this title.

Some of the praise is due to the musical instrument which I purchased with my ‘Nashville News’ paperboy earnings.

It was a Stradivarius Trombone which some impoverished musician had abandoned in a Hot Springs pawn shop. It was hanging from the rafters along with some dusty banjos when I saw it. It had a silver-plated mouthpiece which was in a black velvet bag.

I unrolled my savings -- \$23.75 in quarters -- and took the instrument home where I sanitized the mouthpiece in my mother’s Maytag dishwasher.

If that trusty Maytag couldn’t rid the stainless steel mouthpiece of germs, pawnshop fungus and other hidden critters, NOTHING could get it operation room clean.

I immediately put the instrument to work amazing my fellow band members and the band director, and eventually I won a band scholarship worth \$100 to Texarkana Junior College. The rest is history.

The question often comes up: If you are the THIRD greatest trombone player in the history of the Scrapper Band, then WHO are the First and Second Greatest trombone players?

The reason I won’t put the limelight on them is because they might not be as modest as I.

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THE MUSIC GOES ON. One thing I’ve noticed on Social Media lately is lady piano players.

More ladies than menfolk for some reason which I’m about to get into.

If you’ve ever seen a piano -- in a fancy concert hall or in some little country church -- you’re bound to have noticed the three pedals down by the floor real near to where the player’s feet should be (unless you play like the late Jerry Lee Lewis with your two-tone shoes hammering the ivory keys).

Those pedals are:

- Sustain pedal which enables the recently played notes to hang around.

- Soft pedal. I’ll let you guess what this pedal does.
- Sostenuto pedal. I would explain this to you but I’m sure you wouldn’t understand.

Surely you realize that only bonafide pianists know what the pedals do when the pedals are pedaled.

Here’s the whole point of this Mine Creek Revelations musical gem: The reason that there are more women piano players than men piano players is that the women have an unfair advantage.

If they are wearing high heel shoes -- the height of the heel makes the resulting fulcrum with the pedal higher or more efficient than for a man’s foot even if he’s wearing two-tone shoes.

It’s what is commonly called High F.

It’s all very confusing, and that is why you never hear a pianist say “I am the third greatest piano player,” or “I am the third greatest MALE piano player in the history of the Coon Creek Missionary Mormon Church.”

I hope this clears things up so that I can go back to merely peeking out of my window on Main Street.

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ANIMAL CRACKERS. The bluebirds are gone again, and I sincerely hope that last batch of chicks is out in bird society by now -- catching their own nutritious bugs.

● ---- ● --- ●

MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening email: If Adam and Eve had been really smart, they’d have eaten the snake instead of the apple and saved us all a lot of trouble.

● ---- ● --- ●

WORD GAMES. I love oxymorons: Deafening silence.

● ---- ● --- ●

HE SAID: “Something is wrong with America. I wonder sometimes what people are thinking about or if they’re thinking at all.” Sen. Bob Dole, GOP from Kansas and WWII DAV

● ---- ● --- ●

SHE SAID: “Sometimes being a friend means mastering the art of timing. There is a time for silence. A time to let go and allow people to hurl themselves into their own destiny. And a time to prepare to pick up the pieces when it’s all over.” Octavia E. Butler, African-American science fiction writer

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SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Mine Creek Revelations



By Louie Graves

Love Thy Neighbor, and GET THE COVID VACCINE!

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



Even in summer, 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

State tourism shows steady growth; about 52 million visitors noted in 2024

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

Arkansas tourism continued to grow last year, generating \$17.4 billion to the state’s economy and supporting almost 72,000 jobs.

Every year the state Department of Parks Heritage and Tourism commissions an analysis of the economic impact of tourism. In 2024 about 52 million visitors were welcomed in Arkansas, an increase over 2023 of 2.6 percent.

Every day, visitor spending in Arkansas is about \$28.2 million, which supports 71,633 jobs directly. Visitor spending indirectly supports an additional 31,034 jobs, thus the visitor economy helps maintain one out of every 18 jobs in Arkansas.

Of the various spending categories within the tourism industry, food and beverage grew the most in 2024. It totaled about \$3 billion, which was 6.5 percent over the previous year.

Retail grew by 5.8 percent in 2024, while recreation grew by four percent. Short-term rentals grew 3.3 percent in 2024.

Arkansas tourism traditionally relied on outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing and camping. Marketing efforts were focused

on neighboring states, and on persuading Arkansas residents to remain in state for their vacations.

About 20 years ago advertising and promotion efforts broadened their appeal, to emphasize the availability of historic, cultural and artistic destinations. Marketing emphasized activities such as a spa day in Hot Springs, a visit to the presidential library in Little Rock, a weekend at the blues festival in Helena-West Helena, a day at the art gallery in Bentonville, opportunities for geocaching in state parks or an educational stroll through a Civil War battlefield.

Arkansas tourism campaigns targeted specific demographics, such as motorcyclists who want to ride along mountain highways or groups of senior citizens who charter buses. In addition to advertising in media that caters to sportsmen who like to hunt and fish, ads for Arkansas tourism were placed in media for bird watchers.

In recent years Arkansas tourism promoters have been getting back to basics, but with a modern twist. Recognizing the importance of outdoor activities, the state has created an Office of Outdoor Recreation. Within the annual economic

analysis is a separate measure of outdoor recreation as a component of the state’s overall tourism industry. It is huge and growing, and it is based on much more than hunting and fishing.

For example, in April the New York Times published an article on how Bentonville has become an “epicenter” for cycling. Growth in outdoor recreation has been boosted by more than building miles of trails. It also comprises manufacturing, warehousing and transportation of kayaks, bikes, fishing gear, boats, ammunition and hunting supplies.

Measured as a separate category within tourism, outdoor recreation contributed \$7.3 billion to the Arkansas economy last year, supporting 68,000 jobs. According to the Department of Parks Heritage and Tourism it represents 2.5 percent of the state’s gross domestic product (GDP), and has surpassed farming.

Arkansas tourism officials have broadened their efforts to appeal to a nationwide audience, and they use a dizzying array of digital media platforms to spread their message. One advantage they have is that Arkansas is a year-round destination, not just a seasonal one.

Arkansas has key role in military

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

As Chairman of the Senate Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee (MilCon-VA), I’m championing policies that strengthen our national defense while bettering the lives of veterans, service members and their loved ones. I am encouraged that my colleagues recently advanced my bipartisan legislation to the full Senate that demonstrates our commitment to those who have served.

The Natural State can be proud of its defense and national security footprint. In my MilCon-VA bill, we are supporting investments to ensure this continues. I am proud to lead efforts to make Arkansas an ideal location to train and equip our military and our allies.

The Fiscal Year 2026 MilCon-VA Appropriations Act secures critical funding for Arkansas defense and military priorities, such as support for the planning and construction of multiple Arkansas National Guard projects as well as the Red River Army Depot’s component rebuild shop to repair and extend the life of military equipment. I’m pleased to join the Arkansas Congressional Delegation in cham-

pioning efforts that ensure our state has a key role in defending American freedoms and interests.

This bill also delivers meaningful investments that will improve the lives of those who wear and have worn our nation’s uniform. The bill will improve military and family housing, women veterans’ health care, access to mental health care and suicide prevention services. It will also bolster telehealth, invest in medical innovation and provide funding to modernize and update VA hospital IT systems.

Every service member and veteran matters. Improving the policies and programs that help men and women who served in our nation’s uniform, along with their families, is part of our commitment – it’s a promise we must keep.

One of the ways we can do this is by advancing policies that address modern threats, including those that put our military facilities at increased risk.

The non-partisan Hudson Institute recently hosted an event that brought together experts in this area. I was pleased to participate and discuss how the U.S. and our allies must adapt to the emerging threat of weaponized drones.

I appreciated the opportunity to

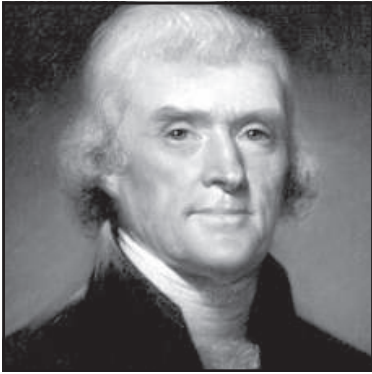
explore, in this setting, our future and highlight how Arkansas is already rising to the challenge.

In my role as MilCon-VA chair, I have engaged in discussions with senior defense officials about how we can work together to better secure our infrastructure. We have talked about what investments we need to make in our physical infrastructure to harden against attacks from drones, and we have discussed what types of technologies we need to develop in order to track and defeat them.

As we develop these new technologies, I have also made the case that Arkansas is an ideal place to manufacture.

Local, state and federal leaders, along with private businesses, have invested in making our state a premier location to do this type of work.

It’s important for Arkansas to remain at the forefront of defending our interests and advancing our nation’s military capabilities. I’m proud to support initiatives that impact these missions and look forward to supporting the MilCon-VA bill on the Senate floor to empower defense missions in our state and fulfill our commitment to those called to serve.



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

Letters policy

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

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

E-mail: jrs@nashvilleleader.com

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

Nashville News-Leader

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

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

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Primary

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For students who continue to struggle with making good choices, we’re committed to working with them one-on-one to help them succeed. We believe behavior is something that can be taught and learned, just like reading or math. Our goal is to help students understand the importance of good choices now, so they’re ready for success when they move on to elementary school.

One of the main tools we’ll be using is our new Behavior Matrix. It clearly lays out what we expect in each part of the school, using positive and student-friendly language. You’ll see it displayed in every classroom and around the building, and it’s also available in the online student handbook. We’re also working to make sure all adults use the same words and approach when addressing behavior so students get clear and consistent messages no matter who they’re with.

Alongside the matrix, we’ve introduced a Behavior Flow Chart, which is also in the handbook. It shows step-by-step how we handle behavior concerns, helping us stay consistent and keep parents in the loop.

Even though this initiative isn’t academic on the surface, we believe it will make our school feel calmer, more organized, and more focused—which definitely helps with learning.

On the academic front, we’re really excited to continue utilizing the programs that we have in place as we are seeing growth with both language arts and math. We are looking forward to continuing this progress because growth is what we are all about at Nashville Primary. We can’t wait to see what this year brings!

Building Improvements
-Eight of the entrances to our building have been carpeted. This not only improves the aesthetic look of the building, but also will help our tile floors look better throughout the year.

-Fencing on the Kindergarten/First grade Playground connects to the building, ensuring further safety for our students. (coming very soon)

-Kindergarten/First Grade Playground received updated boarder and rubber mulch last semester. This updated the look of the playground tremendously and increased student safety while at recess.

-SWEPCO Fulton Power Plant Team tore down the old basketball goals on the



Primary school secretaries Britney White and Sheila Robinson

2/3 playground and replaced them with new ones. They also power washed the court and painted new lines, as well as power washed the equipment.

Hybrid Calendar
From what I’ve seen and experienced, I truly feel like our hybrid calendar was a big success.

At first, I had a small concern...would students struggle to get back into the groove after each break? Would we lose time having to reteach expectations and routines? But after that first long break last year, it was clear there was nothing to worry about. Our students jumped right back into learning and didn’t skip a beat.

For our staff, the feedback I’ve heard has been really positive. The regular breaks gave them a chance to recharge mentally and physically. The team at Nashville Primary gives 110% every single day, and while they’d do that no matter what, having those built-in breaks gave them the rest and reset they deserve and need.

Even academically, several teachers mentioned they felt they were able to teach more thoroughly and really dive into the curriculum. This was great to hear and, honestly, a surprising benefit I had not considered.

I’m excited that we’re continuing with the hybrid calendar this year. With the few small tweaks based on what was learned, I think it’s going to be an even better experience for everyone.

What else is new?
We’re excited to share that the district is rolling out Apptegy Rooms to help make communication between teachers and parents easier than ever. All teachers, in every building, will be using it to send quick updates, share photos, chat directly, and more. If you have kids

in different schools, you’ll be able to easily switch between classrooms in the app.

At Nashville Primary, there’s an extra perk. For the past few years, many of our teachers have used ClassDojo not just to stay in touch, but also to share behavior updates throughout the day. Apptegy Rooms has that feature too! So now, in one place, you’ll get to see celebrations of good choices, quick updates when your child might need a little support, and simple ways to stay in touch with your child’s teacher.

We are always looking for ways to improve how we connect with families, and we really think this is a great step forward.

Anything else?
Mrs. Serrano and I are looking forward to what will be a milestone year for Nashville Primary. We are blessed to work alongside the best staff in the state and lucky to have the opportunity to educate amazing students every day.

Miranda Serrano – Assistant Principal

This year at Nashville Primary, I’m continuing in my role as assistant principal, supporting both students and staff as we work together to build a strong, safe, and engaging learning environment. One of my biggest focuses this year will be on reinforcing positive behavior expectations school-wide through our STARS Behavior Matrix, which highlights respect, responsibility, self-control, hard work, and kindness in every area of our campus.

A key change from last year is that we’ve streamlined behavior systems to better support both students and teachers.

I’m excited about the year ahead and proud to be part of a team that’s committed to helping every student grow!

NJHS

Continued
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Even without big program changes, we are focusing on enhancing what we already do. From academics to student support, we are always looking for ways to improve the experience for our students and families.

Building improvements
We have made some great updates at NJHS over the summer! One of the first things you will notice is the new window wrap on all our exterior doors. Not only does it look great, but it also adds an extra layer of safety. The film keeps people from seeing in from the outside, but we can still see out just fine. It is a simple upgrade that makes a big difference.

We also replaced all the benches in front of the school. Two of those were generously funded by our awesome PTO, who also helped replace all three benches outside the junior high gym. We are so thankful for their support!

Another big change: the old lockers are gone! That area got some much-needed attention with floor repairs,

Year

Continued
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“more than just a teacher - they need a hero.

“And then there’s the ‘Heart of a Scrapper,’” Graham said, “that relentless, fighting spirit that defines our school, our students and our staff. A Scrapper isn’t just a mascot - it’s a mindset. Scrappers fight hard and never give up. They show up with grit, grace and purpose. Whether it’s pushing through a tough day, finding a new way to reach a struggling student, or simply refusing to settle for less than your best - that’s Scrapper spirit.”

In other plans for 2025-26, Scrapper Gym will receive a facelift. Renovation of the facility began last week. “We want to keep it something we can be proud of,” Graham said.

The gym is used for a job fair, pep rallies and basket-

DHC

Continued
from page 1A

na property on South Fourth Street.

Weeks said DHC has paid the remainder of its share of the recent feasibility study to determine the viability of a 60-plus bed hotel in Nashville.

The study said the area

and while we were at it, we gave the hallway drywall a fresh coat of paint. It really brightened up the space and gave the building a clean, updated feel.

We are proud of how NJHS is looking and excited for students and families to see the improvements in person!

How did the hybrid calendar work out last year? What was the reaction from students and teachers?

Last year was our first experience with the hybrid calendar, and from what we saw, both teachers and students loved it. The adjusted schedule gave everyone more time to recharge throughout the year, which helped with energy, focus, and overall morale.

Even better, the newest version of the calendar for this year is shaping up to be the best of both worlds. It keeps the benefits we enjoyed last year while allowing for a longer summer to make it even more effective for students, staff, and families.

We are excited to see how it continues to support learning and balance throughout the year.

Other comments

At Nashville Junior High, we truly believe there is something special about our school. The traditions and culture are strong. We value hard work, strong relationships, and Scrapper pride.

As the new school year begins, our focus is on being even more present and intentional in everything we do. We are committed to creating a safe, supportive environment where every student feels seen, valued, and challenged to grow.

The staff at NJHS is excited to welcome everyone back and cannot wait to see the great things this year holds for our students, staff, and community.

It’s always a great day to be a Scrapper!

Assistant principal Ben Wallis
Plans for the year, your role at your school. Aspects of your job that have changed from last year.

As we start a new year, I am going to try to be more present in the halls and classrooms. There are not any new roles that I am going to have to do. My goal is to be more proficient in the already existing roles. I want to listen more, observe more, and respond with purpose.

ball practice, among other activities. “There are kids there every day. It’s not had any work done on it since the 1990s,” Graham said.

In other facilities improvements for the coming year, junior high and senior high were repainted. There’s new carpet at primary school. Restrooms were updated at elementary.

“We’re proud to be getting in better shape on every campus,” Graham said.

The district will begin looking at replacing the turf at Scrapper Stadium.

“It had an eight-year warranty, and it’s now in its tenth year. In the near future, we’ll have to take on the project” of replacing the turf. Graham is looking at several options.

Graham is reconsidering the construction of restrooms on the visitors side of the stadium. The estimated price has dropped from \$370,000 to the \$270,000 to \$300,000 range, according to Graham.

The district is also looking

at building its own softball field. Currently, the Scraperettes play at the Nashville City Park. “It’s something worth discussing,” Graham said. The district has about \$7 million in its building fund.

As the new year begins, the district’s classified personnel will receive a \$2 per hour raise.

“It’s time to get them some type of relief,” Graham said. “We can never do enough, but I’m proud to get that done.”

Academically, this year’s third graders will have to meet state-required scores on the ATLAS test in order to move on to fourth grade. “We’re showing progress,” Graham said of last year’s test scores.

Enrollment numbers are uncertain, Graham said. “We’ll know more after Meet the Teacher” open house and registration Thursday, July 31.

The 2024-25 academic year ended with about 1,850 students.

could support the facility.

In other business, the board appointed a finance committee to deal with DHC’s portion of Howard County’s one-cent sales tax starting in January 2025.

The committee members include Kelly Chambers,

Charlie Smith and County Judge Brent Pinkerton.

They will make quarterly reports to the Quorum Court.

Developing Howard County’s annual meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Oct. 23 at UA-Cossatot.

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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The Hickory House
815 S. Main St. • Nashville
870-200-9722

Weyerhaeuser Dierks Lumber attended the annual Dierks Children’s Health Fair, sponsored by Walker Health Clinic. The Fair provides free back to school resources for local students, ranging from school supplies, health physicals and haircuts. Weyerhaeuser is proud to support the development of today’s youth so they can contribute to the success of the community.

REVIVIAL
at
**Pleasant Valley
Missionary Baptist Church**
Hwy. 980 N • Nashville
August 3 - 6 at 7:00 p.m. nightly
Evangelist: Bro. Bryan Sellers
Pastor: Dr. Wayne Sewell
Everyone is Welcome

Community rallies to support spay & neuter clinics in Southwest Arkansas

Special to The Nashville News-Leader

The Nashville community came together in a powerful show of support last Saturday night, July 26, at Mingling for Mutts, an event sponsored by SWA Paws, a local nonprofit dedicated to reducing shelter overcrowding and improving animal welfare in Southwest Arkansas.

The fundraiser raised enough money to launch low-cost spay and neuter clinics and support other key initiatives planned by the organization.

Hosted by Dr. John and Gail Hearnberger, the evening drew a large crowd and an outpouring of donations, exceeding initial expectations, to help create a brighter future for the region's animals.

SWA Paws President Deb Young addressed attendees, acknowledging the organization's founders, board members, and committee members who have worked tirelessly to build the foundation for this nonprofit.

Formed in response to the alarming euthanasia rates at the Nashville Animal Control Shelter, SWA Paws is dedicated to reducing those numbers and ultimately moving toward a no-kill status for the region.

The event was attended by several local leaders and officials, including State Rep. Dolly Henley, City Councilwoman Kay Gathright, Howard County Economic

Development Director Vanessa Weeks and Nashville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tim Pinkerton, among others.

While Mayor Larry Dunaway, Animal Control Officer Seaborn Gregory, and City Attorney Aaron Brasel were unable to attend, SWA Paws expressed gratitude for their ongoing collaboration to improve shelter operations, explore legal solutions, and reduce euthanasia rates.

Additionally, Nashville native Erica Linville, associate attorney at Mitchell, Williams Law Firm in Little Rock, is partnering with SWA Paws to help the organization achieve its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

SWA Paws was founded after Best Friends Animal Society reported that the Nashville Animal Shelter had an 82% euthanasia rate in 2024, one of the highest in Arkansas. Of the 1,016 animals taken in, only 182 left the shelter alive through adoption, rescue, or return to owner—an average of 2.28 animals euthanized per day.

The shelter serves as a regional facility, accepting animals not only from Nashville but also from Dierks, Murfreesboro, Prescott, Delight, Mineral Springs and Old Washington. SWA Paws is currently seeking volunteers from these communities to support ongoing efforts.

In July, SWA Paws took further action to reduce euthanasia rates by sponsoring adoption fees for all qualifying animals, making it more

affordable for local families to adopt pets in need. As a result, six dogs and six cats have already found loving homes, and six puppies were successfully placed with a rescue group.

Despite this progress, the Nashville Animal Shelter remains at capacity. As of this month, there are still 17 adult dogs and 17 adult cats available for adoption—not including the many puppies and kittens currently housed at the shelter.

SWA Paws is urging the public to consider adoption. Every adoption not only saves a life but also creates space for another animal in need. With community support, we can reduce overcrowding and move closer to our goal of becoming a no-kill shelter.

One of the organization's top priorities is launching recurring low-cost spay and neuter clinics across Southwest Arkansas. These clinics aim to tackle overpopulation at its root, reducing shelter intake numbers and easing the burden on staff.

Licensed veterinary professionals will provide services at reduced rates, making them accessible to pet owners who might otherwise struggle to afford these procedures. The goal is to begin these clinics by the end of the year.

By funding the clinics directly, SWA Paws ensures this effort will move forward without additional financial burden on the city or taxpayers. This initiative



BIG TURNOUT FOR SWA PAWS. 'Mingling for Mutts' had a big crowd for its fundraiser July 26 including (from left) Terry Young, Shirley Wright, Deb Young and Cheryl Power. Photos Courtesy of Jenna Millwood Pope

Animal Shelter into a model of compassion and progress.

The SWA Paws Board of Directors includes: Deb Young, President; Gail Hearnberger, Vice President; Nikki Ray, Treasurer; Jenna Millwood Pope, Secretary; Terry Young; Dr. John Hearnberger; Gayle Castleberry; Marlin Masey; and Jodi King. Committee Members Include: Roger Stivers, Linda Stivers, Sheila Kreul, Adrienne Pickett, Rhonda

Kwok, Brenda Watson, Kay Walden, Whitney Turley, Elizabeth Overton, Jessica Delozier, Lynn Wrinkle, Fran Strawn and Leah Hainen.

SWA Paws also extends heartfelt thanks to the many friends and supporters who volunteered their time to make the event a success—your help truly made a difference. For more information: Follow SWA Paws on Facebook or email southwestarkansaspaws@gmail.com.

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
Hwy. 371
Nashville

(870) 845-3122

Facts About The **BIBLE** *BY JOHN LEHTI*

A MESSAGE WITH GOOD-BAD TIDINGS!

AHIMAAZ WAS A SON OF ZADOK, THE HIGH PRIEST, IN KING DAVID'S REIGN. HE AND JONATHAN, THE SON OF THE OTHER HIGH PRIEST, ABIATHAR, HAD BEEN MAINTAINING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN KING DAVID'S LOYAL FORCES IN JERUSALEM AND PRINCE ABSALOM'S REBEL FORCES, ENSCONCED DEEP WITHIN THE FORESTS OF EPHRAIM (II SAM.15:27,36; -17:20). WHEN ABSALOM'S POORLY DISCIPLINED AND BADLY LED TROOPS WENT DOWN IN A ROUT BEFORE KING DAVID'S SKILLFUL VETERANS AND ABSALOM, HIMSELF, WAS KILLED, AHIMAAZ BEGGED JOAB, DAVID'S COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, FOR THE HONOR OF RUNNING AHEAD OF THE RETURNING VICTORIOUS TROOPS TO TELL THE KING OF THE VICTORY. (II SAM.18:19) BUT JOAB REFUSED AHIMAAZ BECAUSE KING DAVID'S SON WAS KILLED IN THE BATTLE! INSTEAD, JOAB TOLD AN ETHIOPIAN TO RUN AND "...TELL THE KING WHAT THOU HAST SEEN!" PERHAPS JOAB, A WISE VETERAN, KNEW THAT BEARERS OF BAD TIDINGS WERE OFTEN KILLED ON THE SPOT—AND AHIMAAZ WAS THE SON OF THE HIGH PRIEST, WHEREAS THE ETHIOPIAN WAS A NOBODY, SO...! NEVERTHELESS AHIMAAZ WAS THE FASTER OF THE TWO BECAUSE AFTER PESTERING JOAB UNTIL HE GOT HIS PERMISSION TO RUN, AHIMAAZ STILL GOT THERE FIRST! BUT HE ONLY TOLD KING DAVID OF THE VICTORY—LEAVING IT TO THE ETHIOPIAN TO TELL THE BAD NEWS! (II SAM. 18:32) LATER IN HIS CAREER, AHIMAAZ WAS THE TAX COLLECTOR FOR KING SOLOMON AND MARRIED ONE OF SOLOMON'S DAUGHTERS, BASMATH. (I KINGS 4:15).

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ETHIOPIAN RUNNER—OR "THE CUSH"—A SLANG EXPRESSION USED TO DENOTE AN ETHIOPIAN IN THOSE DAYS—THE BIBLE DOES NOT RECORD!!

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

HOLLY CREEK Missionary Baptist Church
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Sun. School 10:00 a.m.
Sun. Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.
Sun. Evening 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday WOW 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Bro. Brian Finn
Radio Program: 9:45 Sunday Morning • B99.5 FM
Visit us at: www.hollycreekmbc.net

Immanuel Baptist Church
Immanuel St. • Nashville • 845-3414
www.myimmanuel.com
Pastor: Paul Herndon

Sunday: Sunday School - 9:55 a.m.
Worship (KMTB-fm) - 10:55 a.m.
Worship - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: GROW - 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Youth - 5:30 p.m.

Be our Guest at Cross Point Cowboy Church

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Wednesday Bible Study for all ages at 6:30 p.m.
Hwy 371 W. of Nashville
"Pointing People to the Cross"
Pastor Don Jones

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

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

Minister: Jim Pinson

First United Methodist Church
1403 W. Sunset St. • Nashville
870-845-3030
nashvillefumc.org
Pastor: Pam Estes
Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:50 a.m.
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To Advertise your Church or Business
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at 870-845-0600

MINERAL SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST
318 Bridgeman Dr. • Mineral Springs
870-287-5652

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

Howard County District Court

July 24, 2025
BF=Bond Forfeited
Howard County
Aguirre, Adrian L., 20, Ozan, guilty of speeding, fined \$230
Armstrong, Lowanda J., 52, Nashville, guilty of speeding, fined \$240
Bunch, Fred Lee, 22, Nashville, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,110, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course
Conway, Zachary, 37, Mineral Springs, \$230 BF, speeding
Finley, Lance Todd, 43, Mineral Springs, guilty of speeding, fined \$240
Gomez, Venustiano, 69, De Queen, \$230 BF, speeding
Hernandez-Escobar, Diane, 30, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$225 owed
Herrera Zepeda, Joaquin, 31, no address listed, \$230 BF, speeding; \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license; \$185 BF, no vehicle license
Jackson, Trevion O., 31, Texarkana, Texas, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$845 owed; guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months
Johnson, Jamarcus, 34, Mineral Springs, \$445 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license
Jones, Nathaniel Hugh, 33, Houghton, La., \$45 BF, no seat belt
Moore, Melishia C., 17, Washington, \$290 BF, speeding
Owens, James E., 42, Texarkana, Texas, \$230 BF, speeding
Pastor, Daniel, 56, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license; \$240 BF, speeding
Penney, John R., 41, Nashville, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,110, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course
Ragland, Teresa Ann, 51, Texarkana, guilty of fictitious vehicle tag/license, fined \$245; guilty of expired vehicle tags/no vehicle tags,

fined \$195; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345
Rodriguez, Isaac Aguiar, 36, De Queen, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license
Rupert, Crystal N., 40, Homer, La., \$240 BF, speeding
Samuels, Korneisha S., 22, Hope, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345
San Juan, Allan, 19, De Queen, \$195 BF, tinted windows
Seavers, Blake A., 37, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$4,37 owed; committed to jail-suspended conditions
Shuffit, Tyler Scott, 28, Nashville, guilty of violation of ignition/interlock device, fined \$345
Simmons, Coulter Lee, 19, Lockesburg, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$95; guilty of speeding, fined \$250
Smith, Curtis W., 45, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$710 owed
Sutton, Bobby Paul, 63, Bismarck, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Wilkinson, Conner Lee, 32, Grapevine, Texas, \$250 BF, speeding
Woods, Angela Christine, 31, Nashville, \$220 BF, drinking in public

City of Nashville
Anderson, Davario, 36, Nashville, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$560
Bell, Lyrika D., 26, Stamps, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months
Finley, Jamar M., 47, Nashville, \$195 BF, expired vehicle tags/no tags
Gillock, Russell Wade, 35, Paradise, Texas, guilty of fictitious vehicle tag/license, fined \$95; guilty of no trailer license or tags, fined \$95
Gulley, Jeremy, 37, Ashdown, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,492 owed; guilty of failure to appear,

fined \$245
Huffman, Billy, 45, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$2,738 owed; committed to jail-suspended conditions; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445
Jackson, Willie C. Jr., 49, Texarkana, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445
Jacoby, Tyler Lee, 18, Nashville, careless or prohibited driving, under advisement for six months to dismiss, fined \$345
James, Jason A., 25, Nashville, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$560
Johnson, Tammy L., 54, Nashville, \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$245 BF, failure to appear
Jones, Taci D., 52, Murfreesboro, \$240 BF, speeding
Lamphier, Caleb Johnson, 28, Murfreesboro, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,050 owed
Lanier, Owen, 36, Ben Lomond, no contest, possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license license suspended for six months
Linder, Lenora Frances, 51, Siloam Springs, \$210 BF, spilling load
Lloyd, Jacob Hurtson, 28, Hope, \$45 BF, no seat belt
McDuffie, Antonio D., 18, Ashdown, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months
McGhee, Timothy O., 33, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Morrison, Nadorian, 24, Nashville, \$445 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license
Padilla, Francisco R., 54, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license
Payton, Lee, 52, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Perez, Jessica Cassandra, 21, Murfreesboro, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,160 owed; committed to jail-suspended conditions
Rhodes, Mark D., 73, Nashville, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$195; guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,515 owed

Ross, Teresa G., 61, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Sanchez, Juan, 19, Nashville, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$195
Sanders, Taveon, 18, Murfreesboro, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months
Smith, Lynsey Jordon, 31, Nashville, no contest, unauthorized use of vehicle, fined \$410
Stewart, Jamarcus, 32, Nashville, guilty of second-degree terroristic threatening, fined \$5120
City of Dierks
Hill, Lucky, 32, Benton, La., \$270 BF, speeding
Nieto, Silvia, 33, Gilliam, \$195 BF, expired vehicle tags/no tags
Rucker, Cora D., 65, Decatur, Ill., \$240 BF, speeding
City of Mineral Springs
Cruz Hernandez, Octavio, 23, Pleasanton, Calif., \$345 BF, careless or prohibited driving
Morrison, Ashawntiara, 28, Texarkana, guilty of running stop sign or light, fined \$195; guilty of driving on restricted license, fined \$295
Pierce, Johnny, 30, Ozan, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of illegal use of ATV, fined \$195
Bench Trials
Howard County
McDowell, Demetrius L., 46, Nashville, guilty of theft of property, fined \$660
Shelton, Larry Don, 73, Nashville, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,110, credited for time served, license suspended and must compete DWI educational course
Spence, John James, 39, Emerson, guilty of speeding, fined \$230
Tippen, Bobby Joe, 56, Magnolia, guilty of unsafe vehicle, fined \$345; guilty of drink left of center, fined \$195
City of Nashville
Williams, Brandon J., 38, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,030 owed; committed to jail for 30 days
City of Mineral Springs
Stewart, Vonderek Latrell, 20, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,695 owed; guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$270

Theft charge filed after Junior Auxiliary funds come up short

A former member of the Nashville chapter of Junior Auxiliary has been charged in Howard County Circuit Court with theft after the organization's funds allegedly come up \$10,500 short.

Alisha Phillips, 46, of Nashville, was charged July 22 with felony theft of property. She was jailed on the charge July 17 and was released on her own recognizance that same day. Phillips pleaded innocent to the charge Wednesday, July 23 and a Nov. 5 pretrial date was set.

According to case information, former JA president Amanda Puryear filed a theft of property report on June 4 concerning the group's PayPal and savings accounts. She reported that Phillips, who was the JA's secretary at the time, was the only person with access to the funds.

Nashville Police Chief Amy Marion investigated the case and confirmed the JA's accounts were short \$10,500 short. Chief Marion interviewed Phillips on June 4 and was allegedly confessed to taking the funds to pay off personal debts.

The Nashville chapter of Junior Auxiliary is in its 73rd year and is affiliated with the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, which is made up of nearly 100 chapters throughout the state, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

The organization's goal is to help children and families in Nashville and surrounding communities. The JAs host multiple projects each year to achieve that goal.

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First Baptist Church
Family Activities Building - Nashville

Friday, Aug. 1 - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 2 - 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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I like to stop and listen to all the...

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Sizzling Summer Sounds

Do you ever stop to listen to all the sounds being made around you? You may hear them, but do you know what is making each one?

Find a piece of paper and a pencil. Listen to all the sounds in your house. List them and write what you think is making each sound.

Next, open a window or sit in the yard. Listen to all the noises in your neighborhood. Before you start to write, guess how many different sounds there are. Write your list and then count the number of sounds you heard. Were you close in your guess?

Read each clue. Write a word in the crossword that describes a sound that the clue might make. Try to finish the puzzle without looking at the word bank.

Follow the dots to see what was left behind at the pond.

How many toes does a frog have?

ACROSS

- crickets
- motorboats
- children
- fires
- fans
- air conditioners
- geese
- cannons
- birds
- firecrackers
- ducks

DOWN

- steaks
- motorcycles
- waves
- thunder
- bullfrogs
- snakes
- cows
- saws
- brakes
- dogs

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Sand Sculpture

Crrrrsh... pat, pat, pat. Crrrrsh... pat, pat, pat. Splash, pat, pat, splash. Someone is busy building something. What do you think it is?

Follow the dots to find out.

Hey, this would do nicely as a summer home for me.

It's summer and it's sizzling in the city. Can you find and circle the words in bold italics that can be heard?

- fans **whirring**
- music **pulsing**
- cross walk signal **beeping**
- subway train **rumbling**
- dogs **barking**
- cat **caterwauling**
- people **talking**
- child **yelling**
- basketballs **echoing**
- ice cream truck **singing**

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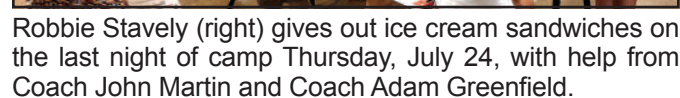
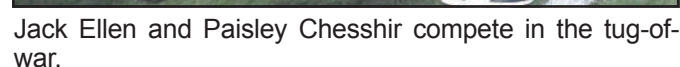
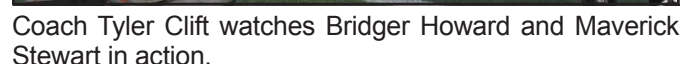
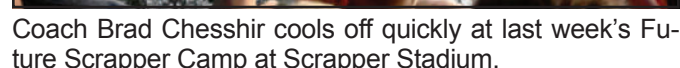
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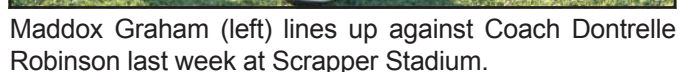
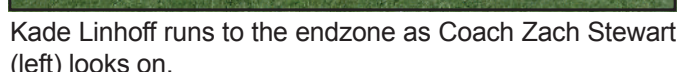
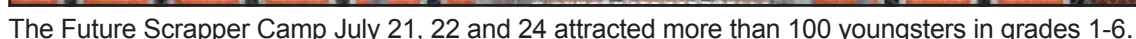
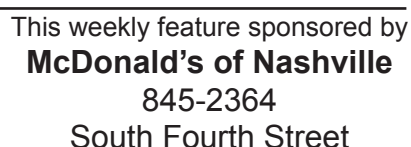
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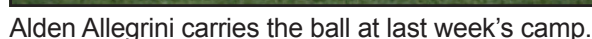
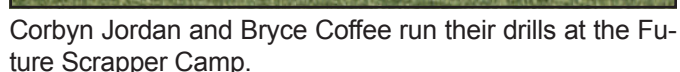
Jason Lenderman, CPA

High school athletes across Arkansas are preparing for their seasons. Tennis, golf and cross country teams will open in early August. Football workouts will continue until the opening of fall camp Aug. 4. Arkansas Activities Association benefit games will be played the week of Aug. 18-22, with season openers for many teams set for Aug. 29.



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FIND NEW ROADS

Q & A

Nashville High School

Principal Ashley Riggs
Nashville High School
Enrollment for 2025-26

by grade
10th Grade---133
11th Grade---123
12th Grade---165
Total---421

New faculty and staff
Tessa Dean---High School

Math
Bravyn Bell---Agri Teach-

er
Cristal Perez---High
School Secretary/Registrar
Michael Blackwood--
Special Education Para-

professional
Erica Hawthorne---Spe-

cial Education Paraprofes-

sional
New and revised pro-

grams on your campus for

2025-26

**New math curriculum

for Geometry and Algebra

II---Envision.

1. Strong Visual and Con-

ceptual Learning Approach

enVision is designed to

build deep understanding

through visual models and

real-world problem contexts.

Dynamic tools like Geo-

Gebra, visual animations,

and diagram-based activities

help students "see" the math

and make connections.

2. Built-In Differentiation

and Support for All Learners

enVision offers adaptive

practice, intervention re-

sources, and extension ac-

tivities to meet the needs of

all students.

Includes ELL support,

vocabulary scaffolding, and

tools to accommodate di-

verse learning styles.

3. Integrated Digital Plat-

form (Savvas Realize™)

One of the most robust

platforms for interactive les-

sons, assessments, and data

tracking.

Teachers can customize

assignments, auto-grade as-

sessments, and view student

progress in real-time.

Students get access to

interactive practice, step-by-

step tutorials, and personal-

ized learning pathways.

4. Emphasis on Math-

ematical Thinking and Rea-

soning

enVision emphasizes

problem-solving, reasoning,

and communication—not

just procedural fluency.

Geometry includes a

strong proof and logic com-

ponent, while Algebra II

integrates modeling and

higher-order reasoning.

5. Alignment to Standards

and College Readiness

Fully aligned with Com-

mon Core State Standards

(CCSS) and many state-

specific standards.

Prepares students for

ACT/SAT and college-level

math with a focus on func-

tion-based algebra, statistics,

and modeling.

6. Teacher Support and

Professional Resources

enVision offers ready-

made lesson plans, pacing

guides, differentiated in-

struction tips, and profes-

sional development videos.

Teachers can focus more

on instruction rather than

planning from scratch.

7. Research-Based and

Classroom-Tested

Backed by research in

cognitive science and best

practices in math education.

Proven track record in

districts across the country

for improving student en-

gagement and achievement.

8. Assessment and Data-

Driven Instruction

Formative, summative,

and benchmark assessments

are built into every unit.

Teachers can use data

from Savvas Realize to iden-

tify learning gaps and assign

targeted practice.

**Building improve-

ments

New High School Sign

Paint main building and

old gym

Remodel of old gym foyer

and old gym bathrooms

New Intercom System

New Hallpass system for

guest entry

New Carpet in East/

Scrap media room

Resurfaced floors

How did the hybrid cal-

endar work out last year?

What was the reaction from

students and teachers?

The Hybrid Calendar

was great! The vast major-

ity of students, parents and

teachers really loved it. They

enjoyed the breaks.

What else is new for the

coming year?

"Bell to Bell, No Cell."

Absolutely no cell phones

or electronic devices can be

used during the school day.

This is state law. Students

are only allowed to use their

school issued devices during

class time.

Rooms communication

platform for faculty, students

and parents.

Please add anything you

would like to say about

your school and the new

year.

We are very excited about

our new staff. There is such a

positive energy in the build-

ing. I truly believe this will

be the best year yet.

Assistant principal Eric

Perez

Plans for the year, your

role at your school. As-

ppects of your job that have

changed from last year.

This year we have some

new policies coming into

See NHS • Page 4B



Nashville High School Principal Ashley Riggs (above) and Assistant Principal Eric Perez (left) address the faculty during the back-to-school meeting July 25 in the school cafeteria. Open house will be Thursday, July 31, from 12 noon until 6 p.m. on each campus. The first day of school will be Monday, Aug. 4.



Nashville High School counselor Beverly Tedford, secretary Kelly Davis, career coach Natalie Sherman and secretary Cristal Perez.

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Nashville students top state testing average; district to participate in America 250 initiative

By Kim Slayton
Curriculum coordinator
Nashville

Our district is proud to participate in America 250, a nationwide initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

This year’s theme, "Home of the Brave, Heart of a Scrapper," will guide a series of learning experiences and celebrations throughout the 2025–2026 school year. Through the Arkansas Department of Education’s online platform america250.ade.arkansas.gov, students and teachers will explore monthly spotlights that highlight Arkansas’s contributions to the American story.

In alignment with the Arkansas LEARNS Act, all students scoring a Level 1 in reading on the ATLAS

Summative Assessment will receive a minimum of 90 minutes of individualized academic intervention per week. Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, our K–3 classrooms will implement Lexia Core5, a personalized, adaptive literacy program designed to accelerate reading development for students at all proficiency levels.

Lexia Core5 identifies a student’s risk level and predicts the likelihood of reaching end-of-year grade-level benchmarks. Teachers receive daily, data-driven action plans, allowing them to monitor progress and adjust instruction accordingly.

Each student receives a tailored learning path, and teachers are equipped with resources to deliver effective one-on-one interventions. Initial teacher training was

held in July, and ongoing professional development will continue throughout the school year to support full implementation.

Our high school has adopted the enVision® Mathematics curriculum by Savvas for Algebra II and Geometry courses.

Teachers received training in July, with ongoing support planned for the academic year.

This program offers both print and digital formats and includes instructional videos, interactive practice problems, embedded assessments, and the MathXL® platform to automatically assign intervention or enrichment based on student performance. Data presented at the Arkansas Department of Education’s SUMMIT Conference revealed notable gains in student achievement among districts using enVision over the past three years, and we anticipate similar success for our students.

We are proud to report strong academic growth as reflected in the 2025 ATLAS Summative Assessment data:

- Math: Students in grades 3–8 demonstrated significant growth, with each grade scoring above the state average. Notably, 7th grade outperformed the state average by 16 points.
- ELA: Grades 3, 7, 9, and 10 exceeded the state average, with 10th grade scoring 11 points higher than the state average.
- Science: Grades 3, 4, and 7 performed above the state average, with 4th grade scoring 11 points above the state average.

To guide instructional planning for 2025–2026,



Kim Slayton

district administrators, De Queen-Mena Co-op specialists, and classroom teachers will meet over three days in August to conduct in-depth analysis of the ATLAS summative data along with Achievement Level Descriptors. These insights will be used to refine lesson planning, strengthen alignment with High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM), and reinforce evidence-based teaching strategies. Our commitment remains focused on creating a learning environment where all students grow and succeed academically.



James “Bunch” Nichols

From air conditioners to athletics Short summer to be followed by busy year

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

The summer went quickly for James “Bunch” Nichols, director of transportation, facilities and athletics for the Nashville School District.

From late May and early June through July, Nichols and his staff made sure buses are ready to roll on Aug. 4, checked out air conditioners on all four campuses, took care of maintenance issues and prepared for the start of the fall sports season.

In transportation, the district will run the same bus routes as in 2024-25, Nichols said.

“We haul a huge number of kids on buses every day.

We want to get off to a good start.”

Last year, between 850 and 900 students rode buses daily.

“I appreciate the school board and Mr. [Doug] Graham for the opportunity to have good buses. We’re getting ready to purchase another one,” Nichols said.

Bus mechanic Kelsey Willard “is unbelievable. This year, he’s getting diagnostic software for buses so we’ll be able to do more work on them in-house,” according to Nichols.

Thad Wright helps get the vehicles for inspection.

Bus drivers “are the key,” Nichols said. Nashville drivers will receive a \$2 per hour raise for the coming year.

Nationwide, finding drivers is a problem in any state, according to Nichols. Anyone interested in becoming a bus driver is asked to contact Nichols at 870-845-3425.

Nichols reminds motorists to “be aware of flashing red lights on the buses. More people run the lights. We’ve had some close calls,” he said. “We want to get kids to school and home safely. Safety first is our main goal. As Johnny Wilson says, ‘We carry the world’s most precious cargo.’”

All Nashville buses are equipped with cameras. “We’re able to watch every kid on the bus and watch drivers. If somebody runs

the lights, we turn them in.”

Along with transportation, Nichols oversees the district’s facilities program. “We did a lot of work in a short time during the summer,” he said.

“Boomer Brown and his crew do a fantastic job” taking care of floors on each campus, according to Nichols.

Some of the district’s custodians also help with floors during the summer.

The district’s mowing team of Kasen Willard, Thad Wright and Mark Higgins mowed, ran WeedEaters, sprayed and took care of numerous other tasks.

See **Busy** • Page 4B



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Joe F. Chaney, OD

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A NEW START

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We wish each and every one of you a successful and enjoyable year.

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our sincere best wishes to all
who are headed back to school.

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~Look both ways before crossing the street

~Always walk to & from school with other students along main streets

Be safe & have a great year!

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**SCHOOL
SAFETY**

The best way to have a successful school year is to be safe in and outside of school. Start by following these important safety tips:

- Never go anywhere with a stranger.
- Don’t walk anywhere alone. Always go with a buddy.
- Know your home address and phone number.
- Let your parents know if you go somewhere after school.
- Tell your parents or teachers if someone is bothering you.
- Don’t run in the school hallways.
- Learn fire drill procedures at school and at home.
- Don’t pet or bother unfamiliar animals.

And

- Remember to social distance
- Wash your hands regularly

The City of Nashville
“Sharing the hometown feeling”

Q & A

Nashville Elementary School

Principal Tyra Hughes
Nashville Elementary School
Enrollment for 2025-26 by grade
4th Grade 158
5th Grade 125
6th Grade 129
Total 412
New faculty and staff
Jessie Dugger 5th Grade Science
Kaylynn Sharp 6th Grade Science
Macy Evans 6th grade Math
Lori Chambers Art
Blaine Erwin Special Ed Aide
Courtney Kessler Special Ed Aide
Sandra Pinkerstaff Vision Specialist
Transfer
Jami Branch 6th Grade ELA

Kaylee Marshall Computer Lab
Deidra Murphy from 6th grade ELA to Special Ed
New and revised programs on your campus for 2025-26: (these are across the district)
Streamlining Communication with Thrillshare
We're excited to announce that the district is moving to a single, unified communication platform: Thrillshare, which is integrated with our existing Apptegy system used for our district-wide website.

This transition is designed to simplify communication between schools and families. With Thrillshare, parents will only need one app to receive updates and messages from the district, schools, and teachers. Whether it's classroom announcements, school events, emergency notifications, or direct communication with teachers, everything will now be conveniently housed in one place.

By consolidating multiple tools into one platform, we're making it easier for parents to stay informed, connected, and engaged in their child's education. We look forward to a smoother, more efficient communication experience for everyone involved.

More information will be shared in the coming weeks to help families get started with the new system.

Important Reminder for Parents:
To ensure you continue receiving school messages—especially ALL Calls and emergency notifications—it is essential that we have your most current phone number on file.
If your phone number changes during the school year, please contact the school office immediately to update your information in our system. Without an updated number in our records, you may miss out on critical communications from both the school and district.
We appreciate your support in helping us maintain strong, consistent communication for the benefit of every student and family.
We are pleased to introduce the Lightspeed Parent Portal, a new tool designed to help families stay informed and involved in their child's digital learning experience.
Lightspeed is the same trusted system we use to filter and monitor student internet activity on school devices. With the Parent Portal, families will now have secure access to:
Weekly email reports summarizing their child's online activity.
Insight into websites visited, apps used, and time spent online during school hours.
Custom controls to pause internet access on school devices during evenings or weekends (optional feature depending on district settings).
This portal is part of our ongoing commitment to digital safety and transparency, giving parents a window into their student's online habits while fostering conversations around responsible technology use.
Families will receive instructions soon on how to activate their account and begin receiving weekly updates. We're excited to partner with you in keeping students safe, focused, and supported in every aspect of their learning—both in the classroom and online.
How did the hybrid calendar work out last year? What was the reaction from

students and teachers?
The shift to a hybrid calendar has proven to be a positive change for both our staff and students. The regular breaks throughout the year offered valuable opportunities for rest, reflection, and rejuvenation.
Many families were able to take advantage of off-season travel, spending quality time together and creating meaningful memories. These pauses didn't just benefit personal schedules—they also helped support academic success.
Each time our students and teachers returned from a break, they came back energized and ready to dive back into learning. The refreshed mindset was evident in classrooms, creating a more focused, motivated, and balanced environment.
Overall, the hybrid calendar has brought a renewed rhythm to our school year—one that supports both well-being and academic growth.
What else is new for the coming year?
Campus Improvements at NES
Nashville Elementary School has seen several exciting campus upgrades over the summer, all designed to create a safer, more inviting environment for our students and staff. These improvements reflect our continued commitment to maintaining a high-quality facility that supports learning, safety, and school pride.
Recent building and campus enhancements include:
Front Drive Sealed and Repainted: The main drive has been resealed and freshly painted, improving both appearance and traffic safety for families and visitors.
Restroom Renovations: New stalls were installed in the 4th grade and 5th/6th grade restrooms, modernizing the facilities and enhancing comfort and privacy for students.
PE Room Repainted: The physical education room received a fresh coat of paint, creating a brighter and more energetic space for student fitness and activities.
Updated Doors and Windows: All exterior doors across the building were wrapped for added dura-

bility and appearance, and the front office windows were updated to create a more polished and secure entrance.
New Playground Fencing: Additional fencing was installed around the 4th grade playground, increasing safety and providing a more secure space for outdoor play.
These improvements are a result of collaboration between our school team, district leadership, and facility services. We thank our community partners, school board and Mr. Graham for their continued support as we work together to provide a top-tier learning environment for every Scrapper student.
Please add anything you would like to say about your school and the new year.
We are excited to begin another incredible year at NES! This year, we're thrilled to welcome several new faces to our Scrapper family. Together, we believe in putting our students first and working as a team to help each of them reach their full potential.
At NES, we are the heartbeat of the school—dedicated, determined, and ready to face each day with purpose. As members of the NES Team, we stand united in our mission to reach our students and continue moving forward, no matter the challenges.
We lead by example, showing our students what it means to persevere and rise above adversity. That's what being a Scrapper is all about. We hustle. We overcome. And most importantly, we find a way—every single day.
Looking forward to a great school year!
Assistant principal Michael Coffee
Plans for the year, your role at your school. Aspects of your job that have changed from last year.
To assist Mrs. Hughes in helping the elementary school be the best it can be. Enforcing student handbook, help with improving student attendance rates, and helping teachers in any way possible.




Nashville Elementary School Assistant Principal Michael Coffee, Principal Tyra Hughes



Nashville Elementary secretaries Reba Coulter and Alison Liggins

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Q & A

NSD assistant superintendent

Tate Gordon
Assistant superintendent

How did the hybrid calendar work out in 2024-25?

The implementation of the Nashville School District Hybrid Calendar for the 2024-25 school year brought many positive outcomes, and concerns were addressed prior to its launch. We also learned valuable lessons that guided adjustments to this year’s calendar.

As promised, we offered enrichment opportunities on scheduled student and staff no-school days throughout the year, provided transportation for any student who needed it, and ensured that every student attending enrichment days received meals.

The overall feedback from students, teachers, parents and community stakeholders was that the calendar was a success.

For the 2025-26 school year, we have made a few adjustments to address the areas where stakeholders suggested improvements. These changes still allow students and staff to enjoy additional breaks during the

school year. As a district, we believe these updates were necessary and will make this year’s calendar even better than last year’s.

What changes are coming for 2025-26? How will federal budget cuts affect the school?

As we prepare for the 2025–26 school year, I want to take a moment to address an issue that will could likely affect schools across Arkansas, including here in our own district.

Proposed federal budget cuts are targeting several key areas of public education—Title I funding, support for English learners, teacher training, and even civil rights enforcement. These programs are not extras—they are essential. They ensure that every child, no matter their background or need, has access to a quality education.

For many Arkansas districts, federal funding makes up nearly 20% of our total education budget. The loss of these funds could deeply impact services for some of our most vulnerable students and could force many districts to make difficult

decisions about staffing, programming, and student support.

The Nashville School District is committed to doing everything we can to protect learning opportunities for every student who enters our doors.

We’ve already begun adjusting our plans for the year ahead and exploring alternative funding options to minimize any disruption that may be caused by the loss of some federal funding that the district receives annually.

I pledge to continue my advocacy and commitment to the continued success for the students in the Nashville School District.

How has your job changed since you became assistant superintendent?

Since the Sanders–Oliva administration assumed office, assistant superintendents in Arkansas have shifted from traditional administrative support roles to key implementers of state reform, performing high-level work in personnel oversight, policy compliance, programmatic execution, and strategic coordination

with the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

These reforms have added depth and breadth to my job responsibilities, especially in rural school district as we continue to adapt to the LEARNS ACT mandates.

As the Nashville School District Assistant Superintendent, I have more involvement to help coordinating district use of these newly allocated funds, ensuring compliance with spending expectations, and collaborating with regional co-ops under new accountability standards.

How are things going with carrying out the LEARNS Act?

No longer are district administrators just supporting the district’s operations—they are now critical drivers of education reform execution in our state. Our work bridges daily school operations with evolving state mandates.

In this new era, we must be:

- Strategic planners
- Policy interpreters
- Compliance managers
- Staff developers



Tate Gordon

- Community communicators

As we move into the 2025–26 school year, these roles will continue to expand—especially as additional state-led reforms in higher education and workforce pathways come online. The work of our administrators, including assistant superintendents will be central to our ability to adapt quickly, remain compliant, and put students first. This is exactly what we plan to do as we begin the new school year in the Nashville School District.

I look forward to serving our students, staff, and community as I embrace the changes and challenges that all educators will face as we begin another school year.

Go Scrap!

Busy

Continued from page 2B

Wednesday, July 23, “They mowed until midnight” getting campuses ready for teachers to return the next day.

Chad Westfall, Jeremy Busby and the rest of the staff “do a good job” every day for the district, Nichols said.

In athletics, “I’m looking forward to football, maybe more than in a long time,” Nichols said.

The return of football alumnus Brad Chesshir as head coach “makes it feel like Scrapper football. He knows how to get the kids excited. It’s going to be a fun season.”

Chesshir and Todd Ledford are the only additions to the football coaching staff, Nichols said.

Chesshir also serves as assistant athletic director.

“He’s been a tremendous help all the way through” since he was hired in December, Nichols said.

Chesshir played and coached on state championship teams at Nashville.

Tennis, golf and cross country seasons will begin before the first football game.

Coach Maddie McRae’s tennis teams “have grown so much. It’s unreal what she and [Coach Terri] McJunkins do with the kids.”

Coach Aaron Worthen’s golfers will start their season

in August. “They’ve been in the top five in the state for many years. We look forward to another big season,” Nichols said.

Worthen also coaches Scrapper basketball and is an assistant baseball coach.

Cross country under Coach Mikayla Clift “is on the rise. She makes running fun,” Nichols said, “and gives the kids a chance to be successful.”

Basketball season will get underway later in the fall. Coach Paul Dean and Coach Magen Scrivner will lead the Scrapperettes, who have finished among the top four teams in the state the past four seasons.

Several players competed on travel teams during the summer.

For the spring semester, Scrapper Coach Ahren Turner “has a passion for soccer. He loves helping the kids.”

Scrapperette Coach Clarissa Brizo “does an unreal job” with soccer.

Kirby Adcock and Paul Morrow will coach boys track during the spring, with Scrivner and Dean coaching girls track.

In baseball, Zack Stewart’s Scrappers look to build on last year’s success, as will Coach Boomer Brown’s Scrapperette softball team.

Nichols encourages fans to “come support these kids. They want to see the stands full. They play for this community and give everything they have” in every sport.

“That makes Nashville a special place.”

NHS

Continued from page 1B

play such as Artificial Intelligence and a no-cell-phones-allowed policy which has changed our discipline consequences for that.

I plan to get a good understanding of those things as we try to maneuver our way through implementing them.

Both of them will take some getting used to.

We have been in a world with no smart devices before but it was easier for the students to not have them when they weren’t available.

The availability of those electronic devices in today’s world is what makes it difficult for students to come to terms with this new policy because we are so reliant on our smart devices.

Apart from those things I plan on building closer relationships with our staff as I will be going into my second full year in my current role.

Last year was mainly about getting the essential duties as an assistant principal done and memorized. Creating checklists and shared calendars have

been critical in helping learn what is expected of this role.

This year I hope to be a visible presence in the classrooms and collaborate with our teachers, even if it is just to be an open ear and not give input regarding content.

We do have a few newer and younger faces around campus so I plan to visit with them and make sure they are connected to resources within our district and educational cooperative so that they feel supported and valued.

One major aspect of my job that has changed has been in the use of weapons detectors that we now use at two entrances to our campuses and at extracurricular events.

We introduced those devices in the spring semester but this year we’ll start using them at football games and from day one on the high school campus.

I will be making sure that process is more of an asset and not a detriment in terms of time entering the building and morale with the students.

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- 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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Alayna Scott, the Nashville School District’s Teacher of the Year for 2024-25, speaks to the faculty and staff during their general meeting July 24. Scott taught at elementary school last year. She transferred to junior high for 2025-26.

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BACK TO SCHOOL: Parents should model healthy screen time habits, encourage off-screen activities

By Rebekah Hall
U of A System Division of Agriculture

Excess screen time harms children and adolescents’ social skills, but it also affects their behavior similarly to dementia, presenting as distractibility and memory deficit. To help combat this, an extension expert says parents should limit screen time, encourage children’s off-screen interests and closely monitor online activities.

Brittney Schrick, extension associate professor and family life specialist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said junior high and high school students are expected to manage study materials in a way that is not developmentally appropriate.

“They’re being expected to constantly multi-task in way that’s not really even possible for adults, but especially not for a developing brain,” Schrick said. “They’re learning that that’s how you function in the world, and then the same adults who are asking them to do these things get frustrated when they get distracted.”

For example, if a student is working on algebra homework, they may be using a paper worksheet, but their textbook is an eBook, so they have that open in a browser for reference. Often, they use their phone as a calculator, and they are using another internet tab to review their teacher’s notes. Then, the moment a notification pops up on their phone, the distraction loop begins.

No going back
“Unless you’re somebody who has an excellent ability to delay gratification, or you are exceptionally strong-willed for a kid, you’re going to go check that notification, and then scroll on your phone,” Schrick said. “There’s no scenario in which we can ‘go back’ to the old ways. All the money that used to be spent on textbooks is now being spent on eBooks and other programs. But it’s not developmentally appropriate for kids to manage things that way.”

Schrack said that in addition to phone and screen use eating up time that children used to spend outside, doing physical activity or socializing with friends, the impact is “even deeper than that.”

“A lot of the effects of screen time look similar to the effects of dementia, at least behaviorally,” Schrick

said. “This presents as distractibility, executive function loss, or lack of executive function development, and memory deficit, especially short term and working memory.”

According to a [study by the Centers for Disease Control](#) over a two-and-a-half-year period, approximately one half of teenagers had four or more hours of daily screen time, and these youth were more likely to recently experience a higher rate of anxiety or depression.

Related to schoolwork, Schrick said students are “missing out on aspects of memorization, such as their multiplication tables, and improving handwriting, making sure that you can communicate in more than one way.”

“It’s just like anything else: there are pros and cons, but we do have to acknowledge that it’s not going anywhere,” Schrick said. “If parents are able to at least provide encouragement and opportunities for their kids to explore academic topics or their own curiosity about different things without it being entirely on a screen, they’re probably going to be doing more good for them than they realize.”

Schrack said it’s important for parents to actively engage with their kids, including while they are using their devices.

“You don’t necessarily have to wrestle it from their hands, but ask them about what they’re watching or doing,” she said. “Find out what they’re playing in Roblox, or what they’re building in Minecraft. Who is this influencer, and what are they talking about? That way, you’re going to get a window into what they’re doing.”

Implementing changes, modeling good behavior

For parents with younger children who want to raise them away from screens as much as possible, Schrick said implementing this lifestyle as early as possible is key.

“It is much easier to start out that way than it is to take it away,” she said. “If you already have a lifestyle as a family that really lends itself to having limited access to screens, it’s going to be simpler.”

Schrack said it is critical for parents to model healthy screen and phone use.

“You have to do it. If you are sitting there on your phone telling your kids to

get off their phones, what’s the point?” she said. “Modeling is absolutely crucial, and that includes alternate activities. What else are you going to be doing in the time you are not spending on your phone?”

“By doing this, you are teaching kids how to spend their time,” Schrick said. “If you want them to spend their time in other ways that being on screens, you need to teach them to do that.”

For parents with older children who want to intervene and change their access to screens and phone habits, it’s important for both parents — or both households, if families are co-parenting — to first be on the same page about their own expectations and values.

“Parents need to have that conversation with each other when they are both calm, because if you try to talk about it when somebody is mad, or is saying ‘See, I told you this was going to happen!’ then it’s going to go badly,” Schrick said. “It will end up being a power struggle, not only with the kids but between the grownups.”

In addition to approaching the change as a united front, parents should be prepared for pushback from the child — stick to it anyway, Schrick said.

Use available parental tools, resources

Schrack said the Cooperative Extension Service plans to launch a new program for parents, Smart Phone Smarts, over the next year. In the meantime, she suggested the program [Wait Until 8th](#), which encourages parents to wait until after eighth grade to give their child a smartphone. The program includes educational resources and guides for recruiting other families to delay the smartphone.

Schrack also recommended using parental controls whenever they are available, including options such as setting screen limits on certain apps or setting up devices to only be used during certain hours of the day.

“It also comes down to building a trusting relationship with your kids and being somebody who they feel comfortable coming and talking to, and to where they feel a little guilty about going behind your back,” Schrick said.

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State service charge.....	119,180.50
Interest earned	2,066.43
Vending decals	155.66
Amount distributed	<u>\$622,391.72</u>

Hospital tax collected: \$226,324.25

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Nashville City Treasurer #1	73,517.77
Nashville City Treasurer #2	18,379.44
Tollette City Treasurer #1.....	3,274.93
Tollette City Treasurer #2.....	818.74
Howard County (Jail).....	56,581.07
Cossatot Community College UofA	56,581.07
Howard County Road	68,465.52
Howard County Landfill	45,643.68
Howard County General fund	28,527.30
Total Distributed	<u>\$622,391.72</u>

SOURCE: Howard County Treasurer Sheri Mixon

‘Native Warm Season Grasses’ program Aug. 14 in Hope

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission along with the Cooperative Extension Service will host a program on “Native Warm Season Grasses for Forage and Wildlife” in Hope at Hempstead Hall on Thursday, Aug. 14 at 6 p.m.

This program is for livestock producers, landowners and those interested in improving wildlife habitat on their property.

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U of A Extension Forage Specialist, Dr. Jonathan Kubesch, will be the main speaker along with AGFC’s Quail and Grassland Habitat Specialist Clint Johnson, and the USDA NRCS State Grazing Lands Specialist Jeremy Huff, as speakers. A free meal will be provided.

Pre-registration is required at <https://ar-events.s3licensing.com/eventprofile/124>

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Pike County Quorum Court to go after grant for Meals on Wheels, gets update on flood damaged roads, possible bridge replacement

By PJ Tracy
Murfreesboro Diamond

The Pike County Quorum Court met for their July meeting on Monday night, approving a resolution for the county to seek a grant to fund the county's Meals on Wheels program.

Operated by the senior citizen's center in Murfreesboro and Glenwood, the program has faced cuts from diminishing funding sources.

Pike County will seek a \$144,000 grant from the Arkansas Community Assistance Grant Program overseen by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

The grant, if approved, would require a 20% match (\$36,000) over a two year period, which is what the county will already give to the two centers for fuel for the

program.

"The funding will support the critical issue of food insecurity among the elderly in the county ... these funds will directly support the expansion and enhancement of the Meals on Wheels program in Pike County ... increasing meal delivery capacity, extend service areas to reach underserved rural areas ... and ensure nutritious meals are available to those who might otherwise go without."

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard said the plan to demolish the old log cabin located by the tennis courts had been put on hold during the road repairs from April's flooding, but needed to be accomplished before the fall rains. Amity resident Joe May has asked for any salvageable wood for his museum efforts, but it was noted that much

of it was termite infested and beginning to collapse.

In a flood damage report, Howard told the court that four roads -- Chaney, John Hale, East Farm and Shawmut were mostly complete and that paperwork would be submitted for slightly more than \$177,000 in equipment, labor and materials from FEMA after the area was classified a disaster from April flooding.

Howard also said FEMA had approved the replacement of the Strawberry Road bridge, a \$435,000 project that would be 90% reimbursed, but he was waiting on written confirmation before forging ahead.

Karen Barlow was again named administrator of the latest round of Historic Preservation Grant funds for the Pike County Court-

house. Howard said the county was awarded approximately \$200,000 that would go toward plumbing and replacing windows.

A log discussion was held after Howard presented a plan to change leadership positions in both the road and landfill departments. He said no details about the people would be given as a personnel matter, but that the role of landfill foreman would be changing to a combined position with a road employee in a role of supervisor. He said the plan was implemented over the last week and things were going smoothly.

The major discussion of the issue came from several justices of the peace who wanted the salaries to remain "net neutral" despite the plan in front of them that seemingly called for around

\$3,000 in raises.

The was little discussion of them disagreeing with the plan after John Plyler said that "it's not our job to determine how the judge runs his departments ... only the finances." The motion passed 6-3 if a plan to make the move can be accomplished with no new money, and will be presented at the August meeting.

Treasurer Loletia Rather presented the court with the following opening and closing figures for county accounts through June:

County General	\$1,533,962.45 / \$1,589,817.66
County Road	\$522,703.98 / \$559,161.80
County Landfill	\$394,414.22 / 413,542.15
All County Accounts	\$7,075,884.01 / \$7,193,411.59

South Pike County School's new sports complex goes over \$1.8M price tags

By John Balch
News-Leader staff

South Pike County School District Superintendent Tanya Wilcher reported last week the district is "getting closer to wrapping up" the completion of the sports complex project that started in mid-February 2024.

The project officially started in December 2023 when SPCSD board members approved a resolution authorizing the district to issue second-lien bonds "in an estimated amount of \$1,830,000 for the purposes of constructing athletic facilities" with any remaining funds to be used for other construction, renovation and equipment purchases.

Wilcher said work on complex perimeter fence was done and the parking lot extension was underway last week to complete the project.

The project's original price tag was estimated at \$1.750 million in 2023, but Wilcher said during last week's July board meeting that the project went over the \$1.822 million secured by the bond issue by approximately \$512,823.

The amount to pay off the project from the district's general building fund was approved by the board last week, as was \$26,250 for track improvements from the same account.

The complex includes baseball and softball fields located on the

27-acre tract purchased by the district in 2007 for \$48,000. The land adjoins the campus and is north of the visitors' side of Rattler Stadium.

In other sports-related news, the district will be increasing gate costs at Rattler Stadium to \$7. Wilcher said the increase is consistent with other districts facing rising costs. She added that there are plans to offer special ticket packages for both junior and senior high games.

Also, Wilcher said the district's coaching duties have been set for the school year and include:

Jay Turley, head football coach and athletic director

Chuck Lowery, football as-

sistant coach, head track coach, youth sports coordinator

Kevin Bright, football assistant coach, head boys basketball coach

Blevin Boyd, head girls basketball coach, offseason (boys and girls)

Marc McRae, head baseball coach

Traci Jones, head softball coach

Jordan Shanks, head cross country coach, assistant track coach

Jonathan Bennet, football assistant coach, strength and conditioning

Buddy Ray, assistant football coach

In other July business, the board approved a "board to

board" transfer of a student from a Nashville third-grader; approved student handbook changes, as presented; and accepted a student accident plan bid from EBI Players Health for the 2025-2026 school year.

Also, the board approved a \$762,500 building fund transfer to keep the district operating fund's ending balance at a percentage specified by the state to avoid fiscal distress.

After a short closed executive session, the board voted to hire Ed Jones and Breanna Stevens as custodians for the new school year and to allow employee Beck Avery to work extra days before school starts cleaning floors.

Pike County EQ board meeting this Friday

The Pike County Equalization Board will meet in session at the Pike County Courthouse on August 1st, 2025.

Anyone wishing to meet with the Equalization Board at the next meeting should contact the Pike County Clerk's office before the deadline of Aug. 18. You may schedule an appointment by calling 870-285-2743 and a date will be given at that time.

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Beautiful brick home with 3BR, 2 1/2 bath-room on 0.52 acres. The great room is accented with wood beam ceilings and offers a wood burning fireplace. Kitchen offers plenty of counter and cabinet space. You have a formal dining area and also a breakfast nook area as well. All the bedrooms are spacious and have large closet space. The primary bedroom offer a spacious room with a cozy fireplace (gas logs). The home has e-low glass windows, 2 car covered carport, circle driveway and landscaped yard. **\$275,000.**

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Kristi "Noelle" Couch, 870-557-7193
DeAnn Simmons, 870-557-4968
Allana O'Neal, 870-557-7162

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARSAILE FRANCIS GATHRIGHT
a/k/a PETE GATHRIGHT, DECEASED NO. 31PR-23-28

Last known address: 114 Ridgeway Drive, Nashville, Howard County, Arkansas 71852

Date of Death: March 7, 2023

The undersigned was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of the above-named decedent on April 29, 2023.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published the 30th day of July, 2025.

RHONDA KAY MOSES, Personal Representative
214 Barton Bethel Road
Nashville, Arkansas 71852
(BA: 6, 7)

PUBLIC NOTICE

2003 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS
VIN#2MEFM75W43X711905

2010 NISSAN FRONTIER
VIN#1N6AD0ER1AC429712

2003 COLEMAN POPUP CAMPER
VIN#4CE653G1537239125

1999 DODGE RAM 3500
VIN#157MC3364XJ557203

ARE BEING HELD AT BYPASS DIESEL & WRECKER SERVICE, INC. 9224 HWY 278 WEST NASHVILLE, AR 71852, 870-845-1597, DUE TO ABANDONMENT. VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CLAIMED WITHIN 10 DAYS. FAILURE TO RECLAIM VEHICLES WAVES ALL RIGHTS, TITLE, & INTEREST IN ABOVE VEHICLES. VEHICLES MAY BE RECLAIMED DURING BUSINESS HOURS BY PROVIDING OWNERSHIP, AND BY PAYING ALL CHARGES AGAINST VEHICLES.
(BD: 6)



COMPLETELY UPDATED - MOVE IN READY

3 bed, 2 full baths with approx. 1804 Sq. Ft. of living space. Wood burning fireplace. New roof, central A/C & heat. New appliances. Fenced back yard.

Located at 814 W. Oak St. - Nashville

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Dale Bennett 870-557-6597 • Carolyn Reed 870-200-0201
Robert Crocker 870-285-5779
Melinda Bennett 870-451-2226

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VIOLET H. STAGGS, DECEASED

§
§
§

NO.31PR-25-34

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Name of Decedent: Violet H. Staggs

Last known address: 2571 Hwy. 980, Nashville, AR 71852

Date of Death: January 15, 2024

On June 18, 2025, an affidavit for collection of small estate by distribute was filed with respect to the estate of Violet H. Staggs, deceased, with the clerk of the probate division of the circuit court of Howard County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. § 28-41-101.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributee or her attorney within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit of the estate.


The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the distributee or distributee's attorney is: Chad Staggs, c/o George M. Matteson, 1206 North State Line Avenue, Texarkana, Arkansas 71854.

This notice first published the 23rd day of July, 2025.

/s/ Chad Staggs
c/o George Matteson
Moore, Giles & Matteson, LLP
1206 Stateline Avenue
Texarkana, Arkansas 71854
george@mgmlawllp.com
870-774-5191
(MGM: 5, 6)

MILLWOOD CORPORATION

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Matt Tolleit (870) 703-6939
Jason Porter (870) 703-1039
Johnny Porter (870) 703-1628

P.O. Box 1316 Hope, AR 71802

NASHVILLE NEWS-LEADER CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS SERVICES

MINI STORAGE IN MURFREESBORO. 870-845-6304. (gs:4-tf)

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 202 W. Howard St. Mon., Wed. & Fri. 8 to 9 p.m. Elizabeth 870-949-5833, Warren 870-557-0446, Chad 430-200-7150.

MEDICAL
Electric wheel chair. Portable, light weight, like new,

low \$ or perhaps free to senior, 888-442-3390. (WG)

FOR RENT

Small Furnished apartment for rent. 87-557-7868. (pd. 3 - 5)

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August activities at Cossatot River State Park - Natural Area

Saturday, August 2
Micro Hike
9a.m. Waterleaf Trailhead
Have you ever imagined the world from the perspective of a bug? Join a park interpreter as we slow down and observe the smaller elements in the landscape– you never know what you might find! This is a 0.5-mile round trip hike rated easy to moderate.

Saturday, August 2
Crafty Tracks
1p.m. Visitor Center
Join a park interpreter to create your own animal track soap! We'll discuss different tracks you may find in the park and how to identify them. All supplies provided.

Sunday, August 3
Trailside Talks & Treats
9-11a.m. Cossatot Falls
Thirsty on the River Corridor trail? Take a break and stop by the Falls Day-Use area along the trail to chat with a park interpreter and enjoy a treat! This is a come & go station.

Every Sunday
Critter Feeding
3p.m. Visitor Center
Stop by the center to join park interpreters in feeding our resident critters– snakes, frogs and more!

Saturday, August 9
Birding Hike
9a.m. River Corridor Trailhead at Brushy Creek
Bring your binoculars and rise with the birds for an early birding hike! Join a park interpreter and identify common species of birds at Cossatot and sharpen your birding skills. All levels of experience are welcome. This is a 2-mile round trip hike rated moderate.

Saturday, August 9
River Rock Identification
Swim Adventure
2p.m. Sandbar Day-Use Area
The Cossatot River is lined with sand, pebbles and large boulders. Have you ever wondered what kind of rocks and minerals they were made of? Join park interpreters on a swimming adventure and identify the various rocks and minerals the Cossatot consists of! All supplies provided. Dress water ready.

Sunday, August 10
Technology in Nature
9a.m. Visitor Center
Have you wished you could identify any plant or animal at the push of a button? Join a park interpreter for a short information session followed by a walk around the visitor center. We will discuss popular nature identification apps and how you can utilize them on the trail! Please bring your smartphone or tablet that is able to take photos and connect to Wi-Fi.

Sunday, August 10
S'mores Station
1-3p.m. Cossatot Falls
Celebrate National S'mores Day at Cossatot River State Park! Stop by the Falls to

craft your own tasty campfire treat with a park interpreter. This is a come & go station.

Saturday, August 16
Mammals of Cossatot River
9-11a.m. Cossatot Falls
Are you ready to discover the wild side of Cossatot River State Park? Stop by the Falls to investigate the diverse wildlife of the area with a park interpreter! This is a come & go station.

Saturday, August 16
Owl Pellet Dissection
3p.m. Visitor Center
Join the park interpreters in the classroom as we investigate the life of an owl. Explore the various species of owls found in Arkansas, their diet and how they play a key role in the ecosystem. This is a fascinating hands-on activity for all ages!

Sunday, August 17
Track Identification Station
11a.m.-1p.m. Sandbar
Cossatot is home to many species of birds and mammals, but how do we know who has passed through? Stop by to learn about the differences in animal footprints, and how to become a track detective. This is a come & go station.

Saturday, August 23
Reptile Residents
10a.m. Visitor Center
Discover your inner herpetologist and get ready for a memorable experience with reptiles! Explore snakes, turtles and other species with a park interpreter and enjoy an up close and personal look at some of our reptile friends!

Saturday, August 23
River Safari
2p.m. Brushy Creek Rec. Area
Explore the underwater world of the Cossatot River with a park interpreter! Snorkel in search of macroinvertebrates and learn how to assess water health based on our finds. All supplies provided. Dress water ready!

Sunday, August 24
Bird Feeder Fun
1p.m. Visitor Center Amp.
Saturday, August 30
Mammals of Cossatot River
9-11a.m. Cossatot Falls
Saturday, August 30
Tree Identification
1p.m. Brushy Creek Rec. Area
Sunday, August 31
Watercolor Fish
10a.m. Visitor Center
Join a park interpreter to discover the life cycle of Cossatot fishes from egg to adult. Learn about common species in the river and leave with your own fish watercolor painting! All supplies provided.

For More Information about these programs, please call Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area: (870) 385-2201. Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area, 1980 Hwy 278 W, Wickes, AR 71973.



Photo Courtesy of UBF social media

THE DIRT IS GONNA FLY IN DIERKS. The Ultimate Bullfighters will headline this year Dierks Pine Tree Festival Saturday night at 8:00. Tickets are \$15 for 13 and up, \$10 ages 6-12, and 5 and under free. Prior to the bullfighters, the annual Mutton Bustin’ event for young sheep riders with a weigh limit of 60 pounds will be held at 6:00. Registration for the event starts at 5:00 with no early registrations and a \$20 cost per rider. Also Saturday night, lucky ticket holders will be entered into a drawing for \$500 cash, two nights stay at Thigpen’s Hideaway, a custom fire pit and two kids’ bikes.

Mineral Springs man charged with Murfreesboro break-in

A Mineral Springs man is facing three felony charges in Pike County after he was allegedly caught in process of burglarizing a Murfreesboro home.

Timothy Leon Spencer, 36, was charged July 24 with residential burglary, theft of property and possession of firearm by a certain person as well as a misdemeanor theft charge. He pleaded innocent to the charges Monday, July 28 and a Sept. 29 pretrial date was set. Spencer is currently being held in the county jail on \$30,000 bond.

According to case information, the Murfreesboro Police Department was dispatched to a home on Worrell Street the night of July 15. The responding officer found the homeowner with her juvenile son and Spencer standing under the carport.


The homeowner told the officer when she arrived at the home they allegedly found a truck parked under their carport. Thinking the vehicle belonged to a visiting friend, the son went inside to tell the truck owner to move so his mother could park in the carport. The son reportedly found Spencer in the kitchen “holding a black handgun in his hand

by the barrel,” according to case information. Spencer is said to have dropped the handgun and claim he was in the wrong house.

The mother stated the gun belonged in the home and it was apparent Spencer had taken off his shoes in the master bedroom and was actually wearing the mother’s shoes at the time of the incident.


Spencer is also accused of eating and drinking from the refrigerator.

The felony firearm charge against Spencer is due to his status as a convicted felon with a history of multiple felony offenses.



Saluting both the City of Dierks and the Timber Industry as a whole for past, present and future success!

See you at the
52nd Annual Pine Tree Festival



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Welcome to the

52ND ANNUAL DIERKS PINE TREE FESTIVAL!

Welcome to the

52nd Annual Pine Tree Festival

Aug. 2nd

I proudly support our area’s timber industry and those who work to make it an important part of our community.

Hope everyone enjoys their weekend at the Pine Tree Festival.

DISTRICT 4

HICKEY

SENATE

LOGGING COMPETITIONS

Saturday, August 2nd

FIFTY SECOND ANNUAL

2025

PINE TREE

Festival

DIERKS, ARKANSAS

LOADER COMPETITION

Sponsored by:
Suttle Equipment

Starts at 7 am

CASH PRIZES for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners

CROSSCUT SAW & CHAIN SAW COMPETITION

Sponsored by: Baker's Saw Shop

Starts at 1 pm PRIZES FOR WINNERS!

GUESS THE LOAD WEIGHT

Enter your guesses between 10:30 am & 5 pm

Winner announced at UBF Bull Fighting 8pm



KEEPING THE TRADITION GOING. The loader competition will get the Dierks Pine Tree Festival off to an early start this Saturday at 7 a.m. at the Dierks City Park with the crosscut saw and chainsaw contest set for the heat of the day at 1 p.m. *Graphic Courtesy of Dierks Chamber of Commerce*

Nevada County incident results in shooting, pursuit, exchange of gunfire with troopers

WILLISVILLE, Ark. – The Arkansas State Police (ASP) and the Nevada County Sheriff’s Office (NCSO) have arrested and charged Daniel Wallace, 35, of Rosston, following a series of events on July 22, which included a shooting, a high-speed pursuit, and an exchange of gunfire. Wallace has been booked into the Nevada County Detention Center, according to information from the ASP.

Wallace faces felony charges of two counts of criminal attempt to commit capital murder, two counts of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, first-degree battery, two counts of possession of a firearm by certain persons, seven counts of unlawful discharge of a firearm from a vehicle, felony fleeing, and second-degree

criminal mischief.

The incident began around 5 p.m. on July 22 when the NCSO responded to reports of a shooting at a residence on Arkansas Highway 200 in the Morris community. Deputies arrived to find a 47-year-old male victim from Rosston suffering from life-threatening injuries. The victim was immediately airlifted to a hospital in Louisiana for emergency care, where he remains hospitalized.

A Be On the Look Out (BOLO) alert was issued for Wallace, who was identified as the suspect and last seen driving a white 2012 Chevy Tahoe. Approximately an hour later, at 6 p.m., ASP troopers located Wallace at a convenience store in Waldo, leading to a high-speed pursuit northbound on

U.S. Highway 371. During the pursuit, Wallace fired multiple shots at law enforcement officers.

A tactical vehicle intervention (TVI) was conducted by an ASP Trooper, bringing Wallace’s vehicle to a stop. This led to a shootout during which two ASP vehicles were disabled.

Despite the exchange, Wallace’s vehicle remained operational, and the pursuit continued on U.S. Highway 371 North until Troopers managed to return fire in Willisville, injuring Wallace and forcing his vehicle to crash into a tree.

He was apprehended at 6:29 p.m. after a brief standoff and airlifted to UAMS in Little Rock for treatment before being transferred on July 24, to the Nevada County Detention Center.

Arkansas sales tax holiday this weekend

The Arkansas sales tax holiday is this weekend - Saturday, Aug. 2 through Sunday, Aug. 3. Consumers will not have to pay sales tax on any articles of clothing that cost less than \$100.

The exempted items include pants, shirts, dresses and shoes. Also free from sales tax are bathing suits, baby blankets, underwear, raincoats, uniforms, hats and caps, aprons, neckties, scarves and steel-toes boots.

Diapers, even disposal diapers, are included on the list of exempt items. However, sports equipment will not be exempt, so you will pay sales tax on cleats, baseball gloves, goggles, life preservers, shin guards and shoulder pads.

Accessories are also on the list of exempted items, as long as they cost less than \$50. The list of articles is extensive, and includes handbags and purses, sunglasses, jewelry, hair notions, wallets, watches and wigs.

More than 65 categories of cosmetics are exempt from the sales tax, such as mascara, many types of hair products, fingernail polish and fingernail remover, bath salts, artificial eyelashes, perfume and stretch mark cream.

School supplies will be exempt from the sales tax. Officially the first weekend of August is called the sales tax holiday, but many people refer to it as the “Back to School” sales tax holiday. That’s because the legislature intentionally scheduled it for early August, to benefit families with children going to school.

School supplies include pens, pencils and paper as well as art supplies.

Thanks to Act 944 of 2021 some electronic and computer equipment were added to the list of tax exempt items.

Laptops, desktops, tablets, printers, keyboards, calculators, cell phones, e-readers and monitors are exempt from the sales tax. However, video games, stereos and televisions are not included.

The sales tax exemption applies to single articles, and is not based on the overall cost of everything you buy. For example, you can buy three shirts \$25 each and a pair of pants for \$50 and you will not be charged the sales tax, even though the total is \$125. Because each item is less than \$100, the exemption is applied.

However, if you buy a pair of shoes for \$120, you will have to pay the sales tax on the full amount of the purchase.

When you take advantage of a sale that allows you to buy one item and get another for a reduced price, the holiday exemption applies only to the items costing less than \$100. For example, a store may offer a pair of jeans for \$120 and you can get a second pair for half price, or \$60. The sales tax exemption will apply only to the second pair.

The exemption applies to all sales taxes, not just state sales taxes. That means exempt items are free of all city, county and local sales taxes.

All retailers have to participate.

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a proud supporter of the Timber Industry, wishes the City of Dierks the best of success on the

52nd Annual Pine Tree Festival

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Wilkerson Funeral Home says

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52nd Annual

Pine Tree Festival

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Welcome

to

Dierks, Arkansas and the 52nd Annual Pine Tree Festival!

We hope you have a wonderful time and enjoy the festival!

Mayor Ronnie Cogburn and
The City of Dierks



Welcome to Dierks!

We salute the Arkansas timber industry and the Dierks Pine Tree Festival.



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52nd Pine Tree Festival

AUGUST 2, 2025
DIERKS CITY PARK

FIFTY SECOND ANNUAL

2025

PINE TREE

Festival

DIERKS, ARKANSAS

ULTIMATE BULL FIGHTING

Mutton Bustin' 6 PM
Registration starts at 5 PM

Bull Fighting 8 PM
Tickets: \$15 ages 13 & up | \$10 ages 12-6
ages 5 & under free



Ironhorse Clash in the Pines Arm Wrestling Tournament

weigh-ins: 10am | competition 12pm

Parade 10 AM
on Main Street

Rusty Relics Antique Tractor Show
Antique Car Show 11 AM

Arts, Crafts & Food Vendors
Logging Competitions start at 8 AM
Loader Competition 7 am | Saw Competitions 1 pm

KIDS EVENTS

Bounce houses 10 am – 8 pm \$10 armbands
Laser Tag 10 am – 5 pm
Sawdust Scramble starts at 1 pm

Baking Competition 9 AM
Dierks Community Building
Cornhole Tournament 12 PM

Mini Train Rides 11 am – 2 pm
Kid's Games starts at 1:30 pm



Sponsors:





FOR MORE INFO
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