

THE NASHVILLE News-LEADER



Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 ♦ Vol. 24, Issue 15 ♦ 16 pages, 2 sections ♦ \$1

Leader Board

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OPINION 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

County EHC to conduct benefit sale Oct. 3 and 4

The Howard County Extension Homemakers' annual benefit yard sale will be held Friday, Oct. 3 (8-5:00) and Saturday, Oct. 4 (8-12:00) at the Extension House behind the Howard County Courthouse.

All proceeds raised will go toward new equipment for the house, including a new

heat/air unit. Donations are also

being sought for the

sale. For more information or to donate, contact Tina Conzel, (870) 451-2345.

Church to mark centennial on Oct. 5

Immanuel Baptist Church of Nashville will celebrate its 100-year anniversary Sunday, Oct. 5, at 10 a.m.

The service will include special guests former staff, special music by Measure of Grace, and a catered meal.

"It will be a day of friendship, fellowship and worship," the church said.

The public is invited to attend.

Farmers' Market fall schedule begins Friday

By Melanie Schwartz

The Howard County Farmers Market kicks off its fall schedule this Friday, Oct. 3, with new hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shoppers can now enjoy a later start and stay through lunchtime, making the market a perfect Friday outing.

This week's vendors are expected to bring farm-fresh eggs, local honey, plenty of hot peppers, early fall greens, baked goods, jams, handmade crafts, and more. We're also excited to welcome back the Glory2God food truck, serving up breakfast and lunch items.

Join us each Friday this fall at 110 S. Washington St. in Nashville to shop local and celebrate the season with your community!

Inside the News-Leader Obituaries, 2A Early Files, 3A Opinion, 4A Sports, 7A-12A Trends, B Classifieds, 5B



A 'Scrapper moment'

Nashville defeats top-ranked Arkadelphia 24-23

By John R. Schirmer News-Leader staff

ARKADELPHIA - Amidst the cheers, hugs and tears Friday night at Badger Stadium, Scrapper Coach Brad Chesshir looked into the crowd and found Doug Graham.

"This is a Scrapper moment," he told the superintendent in the wake of Nashville's 24-23 win over the top-ranked Arkadelphia

Graham has a penchant for calling big events "Scrapper moments," especially when they reflect student accomplishments and community support.

Friday night met those qualifications.

The Scrappers entered the game 1-2 after the non-conference portion of their schedule. The defending Class 4A champion Badgers came in 3-0 and sat atop the current 4A rankings.

When the game was over, Nashville had rolled up 307 yards of total offense on a stellar defensive unit from Arkadelphia.

"We've seen a lot of lows the last few weeks," Chesshir said, "but our community, parents, students,

faculty and staff didn't give up. Everybody is still all in, and they proved that Friday night. We're very appreciative of them being there. I can't say enough about the support."

Fans saw "a great game between two very good football teams who battled and battled. We knew Arkadelphia's defense was very good. We were able to move the ball," Chesshir said, while noting that the Scrappers "have to eliminate negative plays."

Nashville recorded "a lot of explosive plays of 20 yards or more. We had more Friday night than we'd had all year," according to Chesshir.

However, several Scrapper drives stalled on third down or in the red zone. "I'm not happy with third down. We've got to do a better job of that as coaches" to ensure that the team converts on those plays.

"I'm not happy with our red zone offense. We have to do a better job there," Chesshir said.

The Scrappers also "have to

See **Delph** • Page 7A



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON

SLIPPING AWAY. Tucker Dixon gets past the Arkadelphia defender for a big gain in Nashville's 24-23 road win Friday night, Sept. 26.



TOP AWARDS. The Scrapper band picked up a host of awards during the Bryant Invitational competition Sept. 27. Honors include first overall band in 4A, first division overall in color quard and percussion; first in 4A for general effort, visual and percussion. The band will compete at Lake Hamilton Oct. 4. Jacob Happy is the director; Klaire Hendry is drum major.

River Ranch Hunt set Oct.

is coming up Saturday, Oct. 4.

The hunt will bring together a collaboration of Arkansas Game Wardens, local law enforcement, students and conservation agencies to foster wildlife education, ethical hunting practices and community engagement.

Participants will hunt across the scenic River Ranch private land.

The event, sanctioned by the National Wild Turkey Federation

The River Ranch Mentor Hunt (NWTF), provides a unique and supervised hunting experience for

the region's young hunters. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) supports the event, which includes hunting and fishing.

The event also serves as an educational opportunity, with state biologists on hand to perform data sampling, allowing students to learn about wildlife conservation firsthand.

Last year's hunt "was one of the most gratifying days of my career," said Captain Nate Hellums of the Arkansas Game Wardens. "It was incredible to see the excitement on the faces of these young hunters as they learned valuable skills and created lifelong memories. They are the future of our conservation efforts, and this was a day they'll never forget."

See Hunt • Page 5A

Animal control officer abruptly resigns; shelter services on hold

By John Balch

News-Leader staff

Animal control services for six area southwest Arkansas towns are currently on hold following the abrupt resignation of Nashville Animal Control Officer Seborn Gregory, who has been with the service since it began in 1998.

As of Sept. 24, the day after Gregory submitted his resignation to Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway, no animals have been taken in at the shelter, and it will remain that way until further

Nashville Animal Control also has contracts for services in Dierks, Murfreesboro, Mineral Springs, Washington and Prescott.

Mayor Dunaway notified the mayors of those cities about Gregory's resignation via email which stated work was underway to take care of and get the remaining animals at the shelter "adopted out as quickly as pos-

See Shelter • Page 5A

From class experiment to widely known winery

By Don Hall

News-Leader staff

In a recent article we highlighted downtown Sulfur Springs, Texas, with its beautiful old courthouse, its many shops and restaurants, and, of course, the high-tech air-conditioned outhouses made of one-way mirrors and stainless steel fixtures.

Today, we go to nearby Greenville, with a downtown that's interesting, but for an entirely different reason.

While looking around in downtown Greenville at noon, we saw a winery. Not exactly what we expected to find directly across the street from the courthouse, but

speakers.

there it was. We decided to step

What we found was impressive. A large, open room built inside an old Kress department store, with soft lighting, loads of seating, and the soft sound of classic jazz coming from hidden

Bob Landon

There was a bar with one employee and only two gentlemen seated at one of the many tables. A few minutes after we sat down, one of the men left and the other approached us.

'Is this your first time here?" he asked. "I thought it must be, the way you looked around and took

everything in when you first stepped inside. My name's Bob Landon, and I'm the owner."

Sometimes a story you could never have anticipated falls right into your lap.

Bob has a passion for wine that began when he was a 12-year old

seventh-grader in Missouri. His science teacher had all of the students make a small amount of wine as a lab experiment, and then the teacher did something

that would get him jailed today.

He let them drink the result. See Landon • Page 5A



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

NHS HOMECOMING. Maid of Honor Elli Wallis and Queen Jayla Hendrix are reigning over Homecoming activities this week at Nashville High School. The Homecoming ceremony and pep rally will be Friday, Oct. 3, at 2 p.m. in Scrapper Arena. Homecoming royalty will be introduced at 6:15 p.m. Friday at Scrapper Stadium before the 7 p.m. game against Fountain Lake.

Obituaries



Hazel "Mrs. Red" Romie went to her eternal home on

Aug. 21, 2025, surrounded Jeffrey Romie (Wife Melissa by her family.

She was a loving wife, mother mother-in-law, sister, Meems, and friend. She was an active member of Grace Country Church in Lockes-

She was preceded in death by her parents, John David and Olma Brent Champion, her sister Janelle Cross, two precious angel Westerfield. She leaves beof 40 years, Jeff Romie, son 2025, at 3 p.m.

Romie), daughter Brittany Bennett (husband Justin Bennett); grandkids: Gabriel Hanson, Aslynn Miller, Marleigh Reese, and Havyn Romie; siblings: Marilyn Morgan, Russell Champion, Keith Champion, and Bobby (Gnome) Champion; along with a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Celebration of life service babies and her niece Robin will be held at Grace Country Church in Lockesburg, hind her loving husband Ark., on Saturday Oct. 4,

<u>FINANCIAL FOCUS</u>
By Josh Tice, Edward Jones Investments

When investing, one of the best abilities is durability

You've probably heard about "genius" investors or those who got in on the "ground floor" of a company that grew to be a huge success. These stories may be interesting, but they are also rare — and sometimes not even true.

The truth is that successful investing isn't glamorous, and it isn't necessarily quick. Instead, a well-founded investing strategy is a durable one — one that can withstand the test of time.

Here are some actions that can help you build durability.

Take your time: Most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Despite stories about fortunes made on one or two trades, you're more likely to be successful making money over time. You'll want to own a well-diversified portfolio of quality investments — and plan to own those investments for the long term.

A long-term perspective can help you ignore the constant noise in the markets and stay invested. When you hear about the latest "hot" investment tip, especially if it's already performed well, the best advice is this: Ignore it. Although it may be tempting to buy a popular investment, it may not fit with the rest of your portfolio, it may have already peaked and it may be riskier than you expect. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Invest in quality: When building your investment portfolio, quality should be a top priority. For stocks, quality is frequently measured by the steadiness of earnings and dividend growth over time. For bonds, one measure of quality is an investment-grade credit rating, which indicates that the borrower has a good track record of making its promised interest and principal payments and the bond has a relatively low risk of default.

Quality investments are more likely to overcome temporary challenges, which is why a good track record can be an indication of quality. Don't reach for yield by looking for investments offering the highest dividend or interest rate without considering the risk. Remember, there is no perfect investment — a higher rate generally means higher risk.

Stick to your strategy: Building a long-term strategy can anchor your decisions and provide a roadmap for your investment choices. Your strategy should consider your goals, tolerance for risk and the time needed to save toward each goal.

Within that strategy, you can be flexible. Buy and hold, for example, doesn't mean buy and forget. Over time, your goals may change, or you may choose to hold more conservative investments. But it's important to make changes for the right reasons, not simply because stocks or your other investments may have dropped in price.

Perhaps one of the biggest mistakes you can make is trying to time the markets, moving in and out in response to short-term declines or the latest prediction. This often results in getting into and out of the market at the wrong times, costing time and money — and resulting in lower returns over time.

Remember that investments don't all move up or down at the same time but portfolio diversification can help smooth the ups and downs of the market. A long-term perspective can help you see past short-term fluctuations in some investments.

Successful investing isn't about making dramatic moves or chasing the latest trends. It's about developing a durable strategy personalized for your life, then sticking with it through market ups and downs. In investing, as in life, slow and steady could help win the race.

Frequent entrant overcomes upsets to win weekly football contest

With some upsets in the college ranks, Pete Walker of Nashville was correct on only six on 10 picks and won the week's newspaper contest.

He wins a combo meal at Starz. None of the entries picked Nashville's upset win over Arkadelphia.

Scores of the games in the contest: Dierks 47, Lafayette County 15

Gurdon 48, Murfreesboro 22 Spring Hill 16, Mineral Springs 6 Harding 24, Ouachita Baptist 7 Southern Arkansas 24, Henderson 21 UA-Monticello 31, Arkansas Tech 24 Ole Mss 24, Louisiana State 19 Alabama 24, Georgia 21 Notre Dame 56, Arkansas 13 Nashville 24, Arkadelphia 23

COUNTY'S NEW GAME WARDEN. TraeMichael Samuel was among cadets who recently completed 18 weeks of training and received their work assignments. The new officer for Howard County is shown here presented with his badge and diploma by Lt. Col. Joe Williams, interim Chief of Enforcement for the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. The badging ceremony took place in the sanctuary of Antioch Baptist Church in Conway. Photo furnished by Arkansas Game & Fish







Sunday dinner is a fund-raiser for MS community project, Oct. 5

Sunday dinner will be traded for a \$10 donation on Oct. 5 at Mineral Springs Town

The dinner is a fund-raiser to help fund the Mineral Springs Fall Festival. All proceeds will go to the festival.

Hours for the Sunday dinner are from

noon until all dinners are gone. Participants can get a to-go dinner, or eat at the Town

The menu includes chicken with dressing; turkey; green beans; corn; rolls;. cranberry sauce/gravy; tea or water.

The public is invited.



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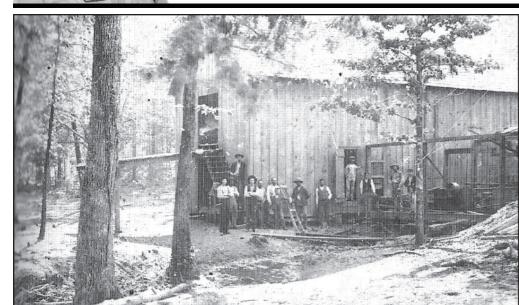
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THE CECIL "BIRDDOG", HARRIS MEMORIAL

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



Cotton gin and sawmill at Blue Bayou

A white man named Anderson met a horrible death at a gin at Spring Hill, six miles from Hope, last Saturday. One of his arms was caught in the gin saws and he was drawn into the machinery; his arm being cut off and his ribs on one side being sawed out. His death was instantaneous.

Last Monday Ada Singleton swore out a warrant against Minnie Langford, charging her with grand larceny. The woman is charged by Ada with stealing two silk skirts and three silk handkerchiefs valued at \$10.

Otis McClendon, who was recently convicted in the Howard Circuit Court for the illegal sale of wine, and fined \$100, has been pardoned by Gov. Davis, the pardon arriving in the mail Saturday.

123 years ago: October wounds; and Burfon Oakley, Calvin Oakley and Earl Robinson are out on \$150 cash bond each as a result of a gang fight at Mineral Springs Saturday night. Shuffield was cut and beaten over the head severely.

Henry Lawson, age 18, was fatally wounded and Sonny Jones, 16, a member of the Nashville High School Scrapper football team, was badly bruised when a lumber truck driven by Albert Powell struck them as they were repairing an automobile on the side of Highway 4 near Mine Creek bridge here Saturday night.

Powell was arrested on a charge of manslaughter and was released Sunday on \$1,000 bond, pending preliminary hearing Tuesday afternoon.

63 years ago: October

A bus bearing ten Nash-79 years ago: October ville college students slammed into steel rail-Clyde Shuffield is in Citty ings of a bridge near Min-Hospital recovering from eral Springs early Monday

morning, seriously injuring the driver, Tommy Calbaniss, 18 years of age, and a 1962 graduate of Nashville High. Nine classmates suffered cuts and bruises.

Students in the bus included Leo Hughes, Jerry Bowden, David Wilson, Brenda Bratton, Margaret Spurgeon, Peggy Icenhower, Martha Jewell, Monte Turbow and Eugene Taylor.

43 years ago: October

"I would have shot him," Louise Dillard said emphatically Monday morning. "I'm

The man she would've shot Sunday night had sneaked up behind her, pushed her into her car and grabbed the night's gate receipts of the Howard Auto Theatre.

She reached for her .22 pistol, but the white male robber was even quicker. He whipped it out of her hand, fled the outdoor theatre on foot and was not found in the ensuing police search.

Public Record of Howard County

were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Sept. 18-24, 2025, unless noted otherwise, include the following:

Marriage Licenses

(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office) No marriage licenses issued during the period.

Civil Court

CV25-105, Sept. 17. Capital One vs. Darryl Jordan.

CV25-106, Sept. 17. Sallie Mae Bank vs. Trevon Lee, Debra A. Thompson. Debt.

Domestic Relations Court

DR25-75, Sept. 17. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Alex Nolan. Support.

Criminal Court

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

CR25-84, Sept. 23. State of Arkansas vs. El Mark Shabazz-Goodspeed, 46, black male, Texarkana, Ark.; POCS with intent to deliver, class D felony.

CR25-85, Sept. 23. State Leslie Honolka; 1.475 ac.

Items or documents that of Arkansas vs. Demario Laquinn Scoggins, 37, black male, 619 McCrary St., Mineral Springs; POCS, misdemeanor; felon with firearm, class B felony.

CR25-86, Sept. 23. State of Arkansas vs. James Younger, 44, white male, 184 Blue Bayou South, Nashville; furnishing prohibited articles, class B; POCS, misdemeanor.

> Land/Property **Transactions Quitclaim Deeds**

Sept. 19. Jessica Gonzalez Reyes and Mercedes Rendon-Felix; to Jessic Gonzalez Reuves and Jonathan Daniel Gonzalez Perez, Joint Tenants; Lots 5-6, Block 2, SREDC Addition, town of Nashville.

Sept. 23. Jeremy Lee and wife, Jeanie Lee; to Jeremy Lee and wife, Jeanie Lee, and Brandi Squires, Joint Tenants; Lot 1 and part of Lot 2, Block 6, Greenwood Addition, City of Nashville.

Sept. 24. Benjamin Honolka; Andrea Farrington (fka Andrea Gautney) and husband Paul Farrington and Beau Honolka and Kristi Cox and husband Paul Cox; to Tom Honolka and wife

plus access road easement, S20 T9S R27W.

Redemption Deeds

Sept. 19. State of Arkansas; Tom Warren Leonard Fox, Valley Village, Calif.; 0.11 ac. in S17 T10S R27W, aka 219 North Loop. City of Mineral Springs; delinquent taxes and penalties of \$1,335.05.

Sept. 22. State of Arkansas; to Vicente A. Ramirez, De Queen; Lot 12, part of Lot 13, Block 3, Holly Addition, aka 608 Allen St., City of Dierks; delinquent taxes and penalties of \$742.03.

Warranty Deeds

Sept. 23. (Special) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; to Jeremy Lee and wife, Jeanie Lee; Lot 1 and part of Lot 2, Block 6, Greenwood Addition, City of Nashville. \$168,300.

Sept. 23. (Special) Gloria Gary Futrell Revocable Trust; to Hughes Family Revocable Trust; 11.75 ac. in S18 T9S R27W. \$58,750.

Sept. 24. Tom Honolka and wife, Leslie Honlka; to Allen Vinyard and wife, Andrea Vinyard; 1.475 ac. plus access road easement, \$20 T9S R27W. \$56,000.

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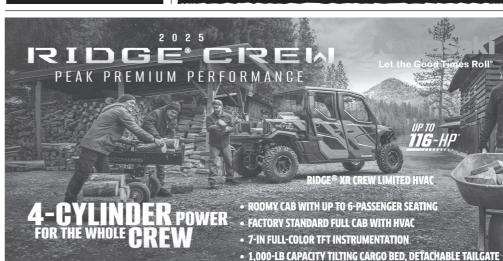
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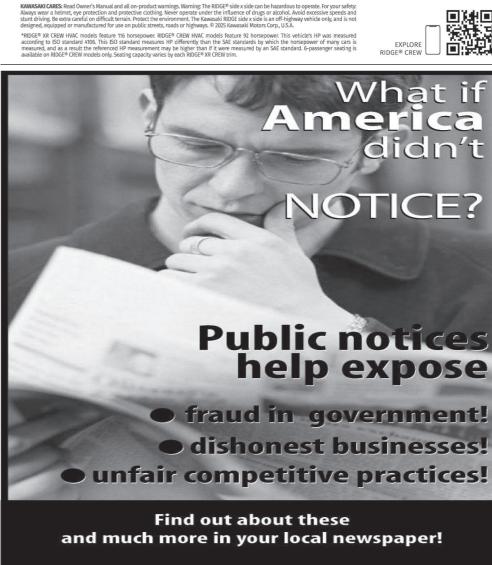
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Court dates set for four defendants Trial dates were set for is charged with three counts stance with enhanced penal-

four defendants who gave "not guilty" pleas during last Wednesday's regular day for criminal court in

Howard County. The presiding judge was Judge Tom Cooper.

In addition to the not guilty pleas, a failure to appear warrant was ordered for Demario Scoggins, 37, black male, Nashville, who missed his assigned court appearance date. He is charged with felon with firearm and with a misdemeanor drug possession charge. Also, a bond hearing was held for Brandon Bruno, 45, white male, Prairieville, La., who was being held on charges of weapons possession during a controlled substance offense, class Y felony; a class D charge of possession; and misdemeanor charges of resisting arrest and possession of controlled substance. His bond was reduced to \$75,000.

Not guilty pleas

Dates for jury trials and for pretrial motions were set

Angel Yanez, 32, white male, Gurdon, is charged with theft of property and with breaking or entering, both felony offenses. Pretrial motions will be heard Nov. 19.

A Jan. 14, 2026, date was set for pretrial motions for James Younger, 44, white male, Nashville, who is charged with furnishing prohibited articles along with a misdemeanor drug possession charge.

El Malik Shabazz-Goodspeed, 46, black male, Texarkana, Ark., has a Nov. 19 date for pretrial motions. He is charged with possession of controlled substance with purpose of delivery.

Edward Walker, 66, black male, Nashville, has a Nov. 5 date for pretrial motions. He

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of delivery of controlled subties for habitual offender. UNITED STATES

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in the October 1, 2025 issue of this public

Sam Mully Business Manager

Nashville News-Leader

Point of view

Nation goes nuts HoHum; Just another

shooting in a church

Mine Creek

Revelations

Louie Graves

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and --- HoHum --- is America getting to the point where there is an acceptable church, school, mall, bar or grocery store shootout

The shooter always seems to kill himself before we can ask "Why?"

Is all of the anger between left and right

a part of the same mental illness? Disagreeing with me is your right and

privilege. So, you might not like this:

I am fearful that when the President sends troops to 'maintain order' in some towns it

is just a run-up to him declaring martial law and establishing himself as Beloved Leader for Life.

I voted for him the first time he ran.

I think it is wrong for any President to use the military against civil-

I believe that when the cameras aren't rolling Republican and Democrat legislators are not so far apart on some issues. I hope and pray that they get together off-camera and brainstorm about the shootings which have become so common-place in our country.

And I want to have a strong Congress not afraid to act as a check against whoever is President.

NATURALLY the #1 Fair Weather Razorback Football Fan has an opinion on the recent dismissal of Head Coach Sam Pittman and a whole bunch of defense coaches.

Hate to cheer someone else's misfortune.

It is interesting to note that another former Razorback coach who was invited to leave Fayetteville -- Burt Bulimia -- is having a good year as head coach at Illinois.

I do not want him back, however.

I really liked Coach Pittman and I am so sorry he went out under a cloud like this.

Reserved for my anger are the sportswriters and podcasters who convince me every year that the Hogs have recruited a busload of future All Americans who will bring a national championship to Fayetteville.



ROUND 'N ROUND. I drove through school traffic one day recently, and I gave thanks once again that Mayor Dunaway put the skids to some engineer's plan to put in a Traffic Circle on North 8th Street near the Primary School.

If the traffic engineer had been successful I would have had to move to Midway, McNab or some other place that is not likely to get a Traffic Circle.

I had a bad experience at a Traffic Circle once.

Got stuck in one in Alexandria, La., for several days. Finally, a member of the Louisiana National Guard shot out one of my tires. My buggy and I were towed to safety on the side of the road.

I had gone around and around and around so many times that I was dizzy and couldn't sit up straight for two days.

THE GOOD EARTH. Popping up in unsuspected places everywhere are some red flowers which I once erroneously called Snapdragons. I got some heat from both of my regular readers, and I was gently corrected by my late buddy Jimmy Dale who said the flower species was correctly called Spider Lily and/or Magic Lily.

Then I was further corrected. The flowers are sometimes called

Naked Ladies. A lady reader told me this. I blushed.

Just my luck. My empty head would probably stupidly write something like "There are a bunch of Naked Ladies in my side yard."

AND MORE GOOD EARTH. I have managed to get up and moving for pre-dawn walks after a couple of months of extreme laziness. I walk in the dark so I can marvel at the night sky. In those precious

minutes my neighborhood also has a heavenly smell. Something is

And as a bonus I get to listen to the birds waking up. The melodious tweets are probably from Mockingbirds, but maybe

It's an opportunity to thank the Almighty for sights, sounds and

smells.

MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: "Dust -- mud with the juice squeezed out."

WORD GAMES. I love oxymorons: "His recent newspaper column

went over like a Lead Balloon."

HE SAID: "I didn't want to be short. I've tried to pretend that being a short guy didn't matter. I tried to make up for being short by affecting a strut, by adopting the voice of a much bigger man, by spending more money than I made, by tipping double or triple at bars and restaurants, by dating tall, beautiful women." Mickey Rooney, short actor

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, author

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Nashville News-Leader

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

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Embracing Local Journalism

for a Better Future

National Newspaper Week October 5-11, 2025

_ocal newspapers keep communities strong

By Dean Ridings

America's Newspapers

Strong communities don't just happen. They rely on connectionresidents knowing what's going on, businesses reaching the customers who keep them open, and citizens having the facts to make good decisions. Local newspapers provide that connection in ways no other source can.

In today's fractured media environment, trust is the rarest commodity. Confidence in "the media" is low. Only 18% of Americans say they trust news on social platforms, and fewer than one in four trust cable networks. But nearly two-thirds say they trust their local newspaper—more than double the confidence placed in most other outlets.

In an era when anyone can post anything online, that clarity makes newspapers stand apart. Newspapers provide the facts that keep civic life running: city budgets, school board debates, and local elections that rarely make national headlines but matter most to daily life.

They also highlight the stories that make a community feel connected: high school sports, neighborhood events, new restaurants, and profiles of people who make a difference.

evolved to meet readers where they are—on websites, mobile apps, and email newsletters. What hasn't changed are the standards. Accuracy, ethics, and accountability still guide the work. That combination of modern delivery and traditional integrity is why people continue to turn to their local paper.

The same trust strengthens the local economy. Research shows consumers act on newspaper ads more than on ads delivered by TV, radio, or digital platforms. People see local business advertising as part of the same reliable package as the news. For a small business competing with national chains and online platforms, no other channel delivers the same impact. When residents trust the paper, they trust the businesses that support it.

The absence of a local paper leaves a mark. Voter turnout declines. Fewer residents attend public meetings. Government oversight weakens and borrowing costs rise. Small businesses lose their most effective way to reach local customers. And without a trusted source tying things together, misinformation and partisan spin spread faster, fueling confusion and division.

The opposite is true when news-Your local newspapers have papers are strong. Residents are

better informed, more engaged, and more connected to each other. Businesses grow because they can reach customers in a trusted environment. Communities share a common set of facts that helps debate happen on the issues—not on whether the information is real.

But this role depends on support. Subscriptions, advertising, and community engagement make it possible for newspapers to continue earning the trust that communities depend on. A strong local newspaper doesn't solve every challenge a town faces, but it makes civic life, local culture, and the local economy all work better. Healthy communities are stronger when their local newspaper is strong. Supporting the paper is one of the most direct ways residents and businesses can invest in their own future.

About America's Newspapers America's Newspapers is a national trade association representing nearly 1,700 members across the country. Our mission is to educate the public

about the value of newspapers, protect the First Amendment, advocate for newspapers' interests at the federal and state levels, and provide resources to help newspapers grow audience and revenue. We are committed to ensuring that newspapers continue to play a vital role in informing, connecting,

and strengthening local communities. State releases school report cards;

results align with new ATLAS tests

The state Department of Education has released letter grades for all public schools in Arkansas. They can be found on the Department's web site.

The Internet address for the school report cards is quite lengthy. Perhaps the simplest way to access them is to conduct a search for "Arkansas school letter grades 2025."

Here is the address of the web page: https://dese.ade.arkansas. gov/Offices/public-school-ac-countability/school-performance/ school-letter-grade.

The letter grades were given to 1,032 schools in Arkansas and 352, about a third, were given a "C" while 291 received a "B.'

A total of 122 schools received an "A," 137 received a "D" and 130 received an "F."

The grades of elementary and middle schools were based on three categories. The first is the percentages of students who scored at proficient or better on standardized tests in English, math and science. The second category measured how much students' test scores had improved in those three subjects. The third category mea-

the bottom fourth of the rankings.

Those three categories were also used to grade high schools, along with a fourth category that measured the percentage of graduates and the percentage of graduates who went on to college, the military or employment. When an official of the Education Department appeared before a legislative committee in August, she was asked if the diversity of the population within a school district affected how its grades were calculated. The official said it did not.

Department officials were careful to ensure that measures of student growth did not correlate to any particular demographic, she said. It should fairly allow districts to demonstrate academic growth no matter what the socio-economic breakdown of their student popu-

Two-thirds of elementary and middle school ratings will be based on the extent to which students are meeting their individualized growth targets each year. More than a third of high school ratings will be based on individual student growth.

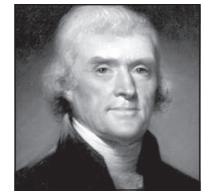
By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr. sured improvement by students at The formula for calculating this year's school letter grades is new, and education officials say it allows parents to better draw comparisons among different public schools.

One reason the Education Department devised a new system of letter grades for schools is that students are taking different stan-

dardized tests than previously. Also, the Education Secretary said some superintendents had concerns that the old system of school report cards did not accurately reflect what was being achieved in their schools.

Letter grades enhance school choice for parents by allowing them to compare schools. They also enable educators to identify areas that need support, with the ultimate goal of not having a school that fails.

Since the spring of 2024 students have been taking the Arkansas Teaching, Learning & Assessment System (ATLAS). Earlier this year the legislature approved Act 474 instructing educators to change the accountability system so that it aligns with the LEARNS Act and with new standardized testing.



"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.

Continued from page 1A

"I loved it," Bob says. "I went home and asked my dad if I could start making wine. He thought about it for a minute, then said, 'Yes, but you have to make it in the garage.'

Here's the surprising part – Bob's dad is a Southern Baptist pastor in Missouri. His brother is also a preacher, and Bob's an ordained Southern Baptist deacon himself.

The Bible doesn't prohibit alcohol; not at all," he says.

Bob never stopped making wine as he got his undergrad and graduate degrees, began a professional life, married, and started a family.

He became a corporate CPA and traveled the world. "I had the chance to drink a lot of good wine in a lot of countries," he says with a grin.

Bob was transferred to Texas 30 years ago. He and his wife, also a CPA, decided to stay in their adopted state of Texas when the company tried to move him back to Kansas City

He left the corporate world and started the first Landon Winery in downtown McKinney, Texas, 20 years ago. Since then, he's opened the winery in Greenville—the largest, with 50,000 square feet—as well as Landon wineries in Wylie, Grapevine, Dallas, Dennison, Gainesville and another in Grapevine under a different name.

"A few months ago I bought another winery. I've never done that before. It's cheaper for me to go start my own. I can buy the buildings, I can build them out the way I like them. But he had a nice building that I wanted, so I bought another winery. It wasn't very expensive, but we're not calling it Landon,"

It's called Red Dirt Cellars, and it's his second winery in Grapevine, which, incidentally, is a great name for a winery town. "I have a whole bunch of new brands, and new products and I run them through

that location for testing." There's no such thing as a tasting room license in Texas, so all eight Landon-owned locations have to be involved in production. "A barrel here, a tank there, small stuff, and we hand bottle. Here [Greenville] is where all of the big stuff

happens," Bob says. And big stuff definitely happens in Greenville. Most



Jaree Hall of Nashville in front of barrels of wine

of the bottling is done here. When we walked in, we had to step around a tanker truck that was pumping wine into the bottling area. A tanker truck. Full of wine.

"We have 2,000 bottles on display in here," Bob states with a smile, "and another 70,000 in the back." There are also 600 barrels of wine in the barrel room, tanks where wine that's brought in is stored, like from the tanker outside, and the bottling plant.

Last year Landon sold, in the eight wineries, 360,000 bottles of wine. This year will surpass that. The tanker truck was full of wine being pumped into vats to be bottled for an order of 40,000 bottles for a new customer.

The new customer is setting up a wine club, where people join and the corporation or sports star or celebrity has a company that sends club members a set number of bottles of different wines each month or two at a good price.

Fox News has just started a wine club, and of 1,000 wineries in Texas, only one made the cut. Landon.

The Wall Street Journal Wine Club also decided to have just one Texas wine in its lineup. Landon won.

Landon Winery also made the cut in international competitions. One of his wines recently won #1 in the world, a feat that landed him on the cover of Forbes magazine.

Head winemaker Jason Dodson apologetically interrupts us. "Try this," he says to Bob, "and see what you

Bob takes a sip of a Cabernet Sauvignon-Barbera blend. "I think it needs a little more Cab," he says.

Jason smiles and looks at us. "Is this a great job, or what?"

Where do the all of these grapes come from, we ask?

We have 200 acres in Terry County, in west Texas," Bob tells us. "We also have some growers that grow grapes for us west of Amarillo."

How can they grow them in West Texas? "Grapes don't like rain; it needs to be arid," he says. "They like sandy, rocky soil. When you go to Napa Valley in California in the summertime, everything looks green, but it's just the vines. All of the grass is dead. Grapes don't like rain. When it rains, they mold and

There's a show vineyard outside the door to the winery in Greenville, two rows of grapevines about 40 feet long. "I spent \$10,000 dollars

digging out the dirt and bringing in sand and rock just for that little vineyard," he says with a smile. Bob does every-

thing in a big way.
So how did a Southern Baptist preacher's kid end up being on the Board of Directors of the Texas Wine & Grape Growers Association, and being one of the biggest wine producers in a state that's $\frac{1}{4}$ 3 in the nation in wine production?

"Well," he says, as the grin comes back. "The name of my corporation that owns all of the wineries? First Miracle,



The Nashville Global Methodist Church held groundbreaking services Sunday, Sept. 28, for its new building to be constructed off South Fourth Street in Nashville.



Hunt Continued from page 1A

About a dozen young fishermen will also partici-

pate in the event, according to Michael Howard, who works with Coach Jimi Easterling and the Nashville High School fishing team. They will fish for about

four hours, Howard said. The youth will be learn-

ing about fish management, Howard said. Some have never ridden

in a boat before and will learn about safety on the water. Last year's event saw

the anglers catch more than 70 fish. "I expect to do that again," Howard said.

"The fish we catch are put in the Game and Fish Commission tank and relocated to a lake" as part of conservation efforts.

Anyone interested in sponsoring one of the fishermen may contact Howard. The cost is \$100 per per-

Proceeds from the week-

end help support wildlife officers, Howard said, along with promoting G&FC work on area lakes.

"The event teaches kids about safety and conservation," Howard said. "It's been a good project. I hope to continue it."

The hunting and fishing activities also reinforce the importance of mentorship, with game wardens and local law enforcement guiding the youth through each step of the process, instilling the values of safe, ethical hunting and a respect for nature.

The River Ranch Mentor Hunt would not be possible without the support of numerous sponsors, state agencies, volunteers, and donors.

Sponsors include the fol-

Conservationist - York Gary, Weyerhaeuser and Futrell Marine

Sportsman - DDK Forestry and Real Estate, First State Bank, State Rep. Dolly Henley, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Diamond Bank, Red River Credit Union and Bumper to Bumper.

Hunter - Farmers Bank and Trust, Lawrence Termite and Pest Control, Bank of Delight, Farm Bureau and R & J Supply.

Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation support the event.

Bladesmiths Jerry Fisk, J.R. Cook and Ricardo Vilar collaborated to produce a knife that will be auctioned off during the event.

Last year's River Ranch Mentor Hunt raised about \$16,800 and was the largest in the state, according to organizers.

Shelter Continued

from page 1A

Dunaway also informed the cities, "I will ask that you hold payment to the City of Nashville beginning with the October payment until we are able to resume normal operations."

The current annual contract amounts paid to Nashville by the cities include the following:

Nashville \$57,644 Prescott \$43,042 Murfreesboro \$20,750 Mineral Springs \$15,060 Dierks \$12,714 Washington \$3,150

The city contracts help fund the two-person animal control operation, including the salary of Gregory and longtime co-employee Su-

zanne Gathright, who was hired soon after Gregory in January 1998 and will remain with the shelter "at this point in time," said the Mayor Dunaway added

that he "hates the way it happened" with Gregory's departure and noted that Gregory had been "involved in every nut and screw" during construction of the shelter, its completion and operation, and was also nearing the retirement mark of his career. "He's always been there for us."

The City of Nashville is currently advertising for the open position.

Interested applicants may call the Mayor's Office at

(870) 845-7400. Gregory's resignation came on the heels of a Nashville City Council meeting held Monday, Sept. 22

when about 30 members of Southwest Arkansas PAWS showed up with offers to volunteer at the pound and a list of recommendations on how to cut down on or slow the pound's current euthanasia rate.

SWA PAWS is a new organization in Nashville that formed after its members learned that more than 82 percent of the animals that had been taken in at Nashville Animal Control during 2024 had been euthanized.

Mayor Dunaway said any work currently taking place at the shelter is being handled by Gaithright and several SWA PAWS volunteers.

SWA PAWS, which encourages people to "adopt rather than shop" for their pets, is also currently fundraising to provide free or low cost spay or neuter clinics.



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

A tanker of wine is parked beside Landon Winery in Greenville, Texas. Landon has received a number of national and international honors and iproduces the only Texas wine to be included in the Wall Street Journal Wine Club lineup. One of the wines recently was named number one in the world, leading to recognition in Forbes magazine.



UCTOBER 15th **Personal & Real Estate**

Personal Property and Real Estate Taxes must be paid on or before October 15, 2025,

in order to avoid a penalty.

The Howard County Collector's Office WILL NOT BE OPEN ON SATURDAY'S Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **MONDAY - FRIDAY** PHONE: 870-845-7508

There will be no penalty if your taxes are **POSTMARKED** by 10-15-25.

Please bring your tax statement from the Sheriff or Your receipt from previous years

You can pay online at arkansastaxsearch.com.

There will be a fee of 3.6% to use a debit or credit card added to your total. It will be the taxpayer's responsibility to make sure that they pay all the correct parcels relating to them. The Howard County Tax Collector's office

WILL NOT be responsible for any parcels that were not paid.

Home&Heart It's Pumpkin Time!

Howard County Extension Agent/FCS When most people think of fall, they may think of cooler weather and fall decorations, including pumpkins. In the past several years, there has been much debate over pumpkin spice foods and drinks in the fall. People seem to either love it or hate it, and they have strong opinions about it one way

But pumpkins are great for your health and are plentiful this time of the year. Choose small, immature pumpkins for the most flavorful dishes. Pumpkins smaller in size are more tender and less stringy than the larger varieties. Select one between five and eight pounds if you are going to use it for cooking purposes.

When purchasing a pumpkin, look for one that feels heavy for its size with a stem of 1 to 2 inches. If the stem is cut too low, the pumpkin will decay quickly or may already be decaying at the time of purchase and avoid pumpkins with blemishes and

While most pumpkins are orange, they also come in white, blue, yellow, and other colors. The bright orange color of a pumpkin is a dead giveaway that it is loaded with an important antioxidant - beta-carotene. Beta-carotene is one of the plant carotenoids converted to vitamin A in the body. In the conversion to vitamin A, beta carotene performs many important functions in overall

certain types of cancer and heart disease. Pumpkins are low in calories, fat, sodium and high in fiber and are good sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, potassium, protein, and iron. One cup of pumpkin can give you 200% of your recommended daily vitamin A intake. The pumpkin seeds, which provide protein and iron, make a great snack or lunch box item once roasted.

health like reducing the risk of developing

The colonists made pumpkin pie, of course, but not pie as we know it. They often didn't have wheat for crust, nor cane sugar, pies. The origin of pumpkin pie occurred when American colonists sliced off the pumpkin top, removed the seeds, and filled the insides with milk, spices, and honey. The pumpkin was then baked in hot ashes.

Recipe of the Week

Pumpkin Praline Cake is a great way to use your pumpkin. You can use I can pumpkin puree in place of fresh pumpkin. Make sure it is pumpkin puree not pumpkin pie filling as they are different. Pumpkin puree is pure pumpkin that has been cooked down and pureed with no spices added. Pumpkin pie filling has spices added like cloves, cinnamon, allspice and nutmeg.

Pumpkin Praline Cake

1 box yellow cake mix

1 can (16 ounces) pumpkin puree or 2 cups fresh cooked pumpkin, mashed

1/2 cup oil

3/4 cup dark brown sugar

1/4 cup water

11/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon allspice 3 eggs*

Topping:

340

ABRAM-IN-EGYPT

PHARAOH HAS NOW HEART FROM HIS PRINCES, OF THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN OF THE EAST, A SISTER, HE IS TOLD, OF ABRAM, TO WHOM HE MUST GIVE MANY GIFTS, IF HE IS TO POSSES THIS RARE PRIZE

FOR THE WOMAN, THIS BEAUTIFUL SISTER OF HIS, MUST BE

AND IN A SHORT WHILE, HIS REVERIE IS DISTURBED....

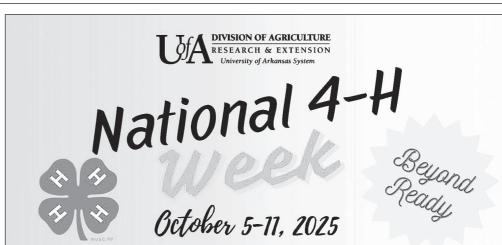
1 cup chopped pecans

1 stick margarine or butter, softened

1/2 cup of brown sugar

Combine first eight ingredients in order given. Add one egg* at a time, beating a full minute between each addition. Pour one fourth of the batter into a greased tube pan that has been sprayed with non-stick cooking spray or greased with flour and shortening. Topping: In small bowl, combine nuts, butter and sugar; mix well. Place on top of batter in pan; carefully pour remaining batter over top of nut mixture. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees or until toothpick or cake tester comes out clean. Remove from pan and place on cooling rack to cool.

Special thanks to Carla Due, former FCS agent in Miller County for her contribution to this week's article.



Monday October 6th - Go Green - Wear green and take a picture of you in your green and post on social media and tag Howard County 4-H on Facebook.

Tuesday October 7th - Food Drive - Collect canned and nonperishable items to be put in the blessing boxes around town. Youth will meet at 3:30 at the EH House and go put items they collected around Howard County.

Wednesday October 8th - Post a picture with your pet - Take a picture of you and your pet and post to social media be sure to tag Howard County 4-H on Facebook.

Thursday October 9th - Beyond Ready - A day to recognize those in the community that promote doing good and making positive impact. Take a video or video this person and post on social media. Be sure and tag Howard County 4-H Facebook.

Friday October 10th - Promote 4-H through a local school tell your story as a way to encourage others to join your local 4-H.

Howard County 4-H would like to invite you to participate in National 4-H Week Oct. 5-11.

The theme for this year is **Beyond Ready**, highlighting how 4-H prepares young people for success in college, careers, and life. Howard County has one of the strongest 4-H programs in the state and is proud of all the young people involved. For anyone interested in joining 4-H, contact the Howard County Extension office at 870-845-7517, and ask for Mrs. Samantha. Be sure to follow The Howard County 4-H Facebook page when you join Howard County 4-H.

Attend Church This Sunday!

DESCLATELY, FOR AN INNER GENSE
TELLS HIM, ALL HE HAS FEARED
WILL SURELY COME TO PASS!

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

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

First Church of God

Come worship with us!

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

2013

Be our Guest at **Cross Point Cowboy Church**

Sunday Services 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study for all ages at 6:30 p.m. Hwy 371 W. of Nashville "Pointing People to the Cross"

Pastor Don Jones

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Missionary Baptist Church

705 Main St. • Dierks • 286-2010 Sun. School 10:00 a.m. Sun. Morning Worship 10:50 a.m. Sun. Evening 5:00 p.m. Wednesday WOW 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Bro. Brian Finn

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First Christian 500 N. Main • Nashville

(Corner of Main & Bishop) 845-3241

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

MINERAL SPRINGS

CHURCH OF CHRIST

318 Bridgeman Dr. • Mineral Springs 870-287-5652

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

Immanuel Baptist Church

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

Sunday: Sunday School - 9:55 a.m. Worship (KMTB-fm) - 10:55 a.m. Worship - 6:00 p.m. Wednesday: GROW - 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Youth - 5:30 p.m.

First United Methodist

1403 W. Sunset St. • Nashville 870-845-3030 nashvillefumc.org

Pastor: Pam Estes Sunday school 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:50 a.m.

Facebook Live or listen to 98.7 FM

your Church or **Call Tracy** at 870-845-0600

Futrell Marine

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Sports

Nashville News-Leader

Delph

Continued from page 1A

fix our extra point and field goal problems. We have to spend a lot of time on the kicking game."

Overall, though, Chesshir was "proud of how we ran. We had three sophomore on the O-line and a sophomore quarterback and still moved the ball well."

Senior Carson Kirby was out with an injury last week. "We expect him back" on the offensive line for this week's Homecoming game against Fountain Lake.

The Scrapper defense of positive things. They got the quarterback off his spot," Chesshir said.

Nashville defenders accounted for two touchdowns, one when Josh Walker intercepted a Badger pass and returned it for a TD, the other on a scoop and score by Jailyn Staggers on a turnover forced by Abari

"The defensive line

over Arkadelphia.

will host Fountain Lake

Friday night, Oct. 3 in the

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

and her court will begin at

overall, 1-0 in District 7-4A.

The Cobras are 2-2 overall, 0-1 in 7-4A. They lost to

Arkadelphia Sept. 26.

Bauxite 46-39 Sept. 26.

game after a 24-23 win over speed."

causes problems for our opponents. We forced a lot of third downs," Chesshir said.

For the game, Scrapper defenders allowed three explosive plays.

"I love their resiliency," Chessher said, including a touchdown-saving tackle on an 85-yard Arkadelphia pass reception. Walker and Myles Hawthorne tackled the receiver on the three-yardline. "That drive resulted in a field goal, not a touchdown. I'm proud of our resilience. We didn't give up. We didn't let a negative situation defines. That says a lot about this team. I'm extremely proud to be on this journey with them."

Going forward, "We have "played well. They did a lot to stay humble. We can't let Arkadelphia be the most exciting moment of the season. We have to create more in November and hopefully December. We have six conference games left and can't take anybody lightly. We have a long road ahead," Chesshir said.

For the night against Arkadelphia, the Scrappers posted 11 first downs. Nashville ran the ball 43

The Scrappers signal the start of the fourth quarter during Friday night's 24-23 victory

Scrappers to host Cobras at Homecoming

The Nashville Scrappers back Cooper Buss is "very a bit. The defense has a lot of

Homecoming activities The Cobras have "quite better at throwing the ball

good," according to Nash-

ville Coach Brad Chesshir.

also beat you on his feet."

a year ago, Chesshir said,

including two receivers who

The Scrappers "will have

On defense, Fountain

when it comes to the passing

Lake is "pretty multiple.

game," Chesshir said.

for Queen Jayla Hendrix a few skill kids back" from this week" as well.

times for 199 yards, led by quarterback Jacoby Hopson with 101 yards and Tucker Dixon with 98 yards and two touchdowns.

Hopson completed 9 of 12 passes for 108 yards and no interceptions.

Karson Chambers caught three passes for 57 yards. Dixon had three catches for 35 yards, and Davonte Gilliam had three receptions for 16 yards.

The Scrappers fumbled twice and lost the ball both

Defensively, Lucas Aylett made 10 tackles. Williams had 10 tackles with 2 TFLs, 2 sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

Makhi Johnson made 8 tackles, had 3 TFLs and 2

Walker recorded 5 tackles, 2 interceptions and a touchdown off an interception,.

Hawthorne had five tack-

Other Scrapper tacklers included Brayden Erby, Jaydon Williamson, Hayden Gray, Gilliam, Staggers, Trenton Northcross, Kishon Jefferson, Cortez Cooper and Demetrius Shelley.



The Nashville Junior Scrappers take the field before their District 7-4A home game against Arkadelphia Sept. 25. The Scrappers defeated the Badgers 44-30 to remain undefeated with a season record of 4-0. They will travel to Fountain Lake Thursday night, Oct. 2, to take on the Cobras. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

Junior high **Scrappers** defeat

The Nashville Junior

Quarterback Mack Arnold ran the ball 9 times for 37 yards, completed 8 of 9 passes for 125 yards and accounted for 2 touchdowns.

Jakari Starr had 18 carries for 239 yards. He also caught one pass for 24 yards and was in on 4 touchdowns.

Other receivers included Bo Dean, 1 reception for 46 yards; Zee Beasley, 5 catches for 46 yards, and Al Green, 1

Dean was Nashville's leading tackler with 10.5. Kiron Johnson and Malik

Other tacklers included Beasley, Royce Johnson, Kallen Horn, Jahce Curry, Green, Ace McKinnon, Bay Nolte, Shane Keaster and

Kiron Johnson made 1 sack, with 2 for Gilliam.

Friend recovered a fum-

The seventh grade Scrappers won 14-0, and the eighth graders defeated Arkadel-

The NJHS teams will play at Fountain Lake Thursday night, Oct. 2, with the seventh grade game at 5, eighth grade at 6 and junior high at 7 p.m.

Badgers

High Scrappers ran their record to 4-0 after defeating Arkadelphia 44-30 Thursday night, Sept. 25.

The Scrappers had 402 yards total offense, including 276 rushing and 126 passing.

reception for 10 yards.

Gilliam had 6 tackles each.

Parker Webb recorded 5. Braiden Friend.

To be successful against | ble. phia 25-8.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Jakari Starr (1) goes up for a 24-yard reception Sept. 25 at home against Arkadelphia. Starr also ran the ball 18 times for 239 yards. He had 4 total touchdowns in the 44-30 win over the Badgers.

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ARKANSAS PRESS FREEDOM GALA

OCTOBER 23, 2025 | CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING IN **NASHVILLE AND DIERKS**

annual Homecoming game. He has "a good arm and can

Nashville comes into the are "very good, with good

The Scrappers are 2-2 to be very good defensively

Fountain Lake quarter- They'll go man-to-man quite

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.



have the call.

moving parts."

The Scrappers "will have

to be very disciplined on

offense. We'll have to get

the Cobras, the Scrappers

must "have a good week of

preparation. We'll have to

overcome the festivities of

the week and get ready to

on KMTB, B99.5-FM. Bunch

Nichols and Mark Trout will

The game may be heard

compete," Chesshir said.

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January 17-18, 2026 • 2 days /1 night • \$299

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OUTLAWS IN ACTION. Senior quarterback Peyton Boeckman (at left) throws for one of his seven touchdown passes Friday, including this one to Treaton Alexander.

outlaws throw all over LC Cougars

pass-heavy on the Lafayette County Cougars Friday night on Ayers Field, result- he did not intend to throw ing in a 47-15 conference as much as we did "but win and a school record for they dictated that with their touchdown passes.

389 yards of offense with all but 13 yards coming via the passing game. Senior quarterback Peyton Boeckman record for a single game by hitting seven touchdown passes. Boeckman connected

with 15/28 passes in the win. 'Our defense showed a big improvement, particularly in tackling and running to the football," said Outlaw the win. "We still have to balls for touchdowns." be more violent at the point improvement from the pre- tremely well on defense

group of athletes.

On offense, the coach said defensive philosophy for the The Outlaws racked up night." The Outlaws were expecting a 4-4 cover 3-man free look but LC played a 5-2

zero look all night. "We were able to hit some set a new Dierks High School big plays on screens and took shots when they presented. The O-line did a great job handling the pressure and Peyton Boeckman delivered some good balls. Sophomore Maclane Smith had a great night and Drake Thatcher blocked well all night and Coach Paul Ernest about was rewarded with a couple

Ernest added that Eligah of attack but it was a big Hawthorne played ex-

The Dierks Outlaws went vious week against a better and fellow sophomore Jason Bailey made some great five times for 108 yards and plays. Lucas Allen, Tristen earned 10 first downs. Godwin and Brayson Talley disrupted all night and each recorded a sack. Ben Ernest had a pick six that was called back but set up Kolton Gad-

bury's touchdown reception. "A beautiful thing was junior tight end Treaton Alexander getting into the endzone on a long pass play on our second possession. He has played offensive tackle until this year and it was great to see him get a touchdown."

The Cougars were held to 258 yards of offense with 35 rushes for 175 yards and two TDs and 4/11 passes for 83 yards. The Cougars were penalized 15 times for 93 yards and gained 10 first

The Outlaw receivers were led by Maclane Smith with seven catches for 160 yards and three TDs followed by Drake Thatcher with four catches for 67 yards and two TDs, Treaton Alexander with one catch for 79 yards and one TD, and Kolton Gadbury with five catches and one TD. Ben Ernest also pulled in two

passes for 18 yards. The limited running game was headed up by Jason Bailey with two carries for 19 yards, Maclane Smith with two for 13 yards and Thatcher with two for 11 yards.

On defense, Ernest had an interception and Brayson Talley had a force fumble.

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The Outlaws were flagged The tackle chart was led ter. LC scored all 15 points by Ernest and Eligan Haw- over the third and fourth thorne with five solo stops quarters.

> scoreless until the third quarter while Dierks put up 20 first-half points followed by

27 points in the third quar-

The Outlaws will host The Cougars were kept the Spring Hill Bears Friday night for anotehr conference game. The Bears are coming off 16-6 win over the Mineral Springs Hornets.



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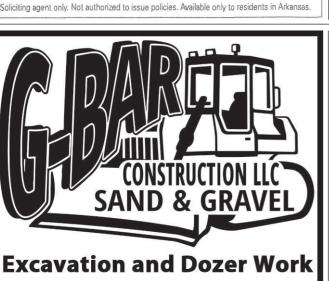
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It's that time of year again!!! The Mine Creek Conservation District annual pecan sale to support the Conservation District Scholarship that is awarded each year to a Howard County High School Senior.

Fresh shelled Arkansas Pecans: Halves - 1 lb. bag - \$11.00, Pieces - 1 lb. bag - \$11.00 Also available in 1 lb. bags - \$11.00: Dark Chocolate Pecans, Milk Chocolate & White Chocolate Pecans, Praline Pecans, Mixed Nuts, Cashews, English Walnuts, Chocolate Almonds, Chocolate Peanuts, Cinnamon Spiced, Honey Roasted, Pecan Brittle

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Deadline to place an order is October 24, 2025. Orders will arrive second week in November, contact the conservation district at 101 S. Washington St., in Nashville. 870-845-4121, ext. 3 or email us at louise.morris@ar.nacdnet.net

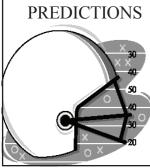


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2025

PIGSKIN



This week's top games	John R. Schirmer (60%)	Louie Graves (70%)	Eddie Cobb (62%)
Mineral Springs at Junction City	JCity	JCity	JCity
Murfreesboro at Foreman	Foreman	Mboro	Mboro
Spring Hill at Dierks	Dierks	Dierks	Dierks
Arkadelphia at Bauxite	Adelphia	Adelphia	Adelphia
Haskell Harmony Grove at Malvern	Haskell	Malvern	Malvern
Genoa Central at Ashdown	Ashdown	Ashdown	Ashdown
Texas at Florida	Texas	Texas	Texas
Mississippi State at Texas A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M
Vanderbilt at Alabama	Bama	Bama	Bama
Fountain Lake at Nashville	Nashville	Nashville	Nashville



Coach Brad Chesshir talks to Scrapper defenders Jaydon Williamson (50) and Brayden Erby (77) during Nashville's 24-23 conference win at Arkadelphia Friday night, Sept. 26

Circle the teams you think will win in the entry below. Deadline for entries is Friday at 3 p.m. You can drop entry in box in front of the Leader office, or email screenshot of newspaper entry to tracy@nashvilleleader.com or mail your entry form to PO Box 205, Nashville, AR 71852 (must be postmarked by Friday). Only one entry per person per week. No copies please.

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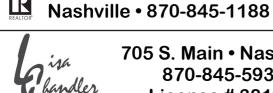
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Murfreesboro Rattlers vs. Gurdon Go-Devils Friday night on Holloway Field @ Rattler Stadium Murfreesboro Diamond photos

Rattlers even record to 2-2 after 48-22 conference loss to Gurdon

The Murfreesboro Rattlers (2-2, 0-1) dropped their first conference game of the season 48-22 to the visiting Gurdon Go-Devils (2-2, 1-0) last Friday night.

Head coach Jay Turley said the team was simply "not ready" to play the game and it showed in their performance. MHS trailed Gurdon 21-8 at halftime, with the touch-

down coming on a long kickoff return by Alex Parker.

"We thought we could just walk on the field and beat Gurdon, and we simply were not mentally prepared or focused for the game. I could see that [Gurdon] had that look in their eyes when they got off the bus—and we didn't.

focused for the game. I could see that [Gurdon] had that look in their eyes when they got off the bus – and we didn't. Gurdon is a tradition rich school and has pride about what they do."

He said that the offense was generally able to move the

ball, but that penalties and turnovers constantly killed any momentum and positive drives.

"They hit us in the mouth and we simply didn't respond. This should be a wake-up call and a learning lesson for us going forward."

Turley added that while changes were needed, it was not the time to get extreme over a single bad performance.

"It's just one conference loss ... one game. It's not the time to panic ... but we cannot look forward to another game, to winning the conference, to the playoffs ... we have to focus on this week and this week alone. You have to respect every team you play and fear no one."

He said this week the team would see some changes in their approach, both in preparing for the game in practice over the week, but also their mental approach on Friday's gameday.

"We have to remove distractions and get refocused," Turley said simply.

Vs. Foreman

This week the team will travel to Foreman to take on the Gators (2-2, 0-1).

Foreman has alternated win and losses this season, beating Parkers Chapel 38-16 in week one and Horatio 34-14 in week three. Their losses have been at Hampton 38-14 in week two and at home versus Junction City 43-6 last week.

Turley said that the Gators are a much improved team over the past couple of years that saw them as the conference's doormat.

FOR SALE

"They are in the second year with coach [Edwin] Baker – after changing coaches year after year there for a while, they now have stability and it's showing. They have figured out their identity and it is showing. They play very hard

for coach Baker."

He said they gave Junction City a much better game

than the score indicated.

"They were able to move the ball against Junction City
... but the [Dragons] finally got the best of them."

Turley said the Gators employ a disciplined offense that features the flexbone, with a big fullback that is hard to bring down and a quarterback that makes the team go.

"We just have to refocus – this week I'd look forward to playing anyone after last week's result. We have to get that mentality that we are going to be ready for who we play, no matter their record. Good football teams take all opponents seriously, gameplanning and practicing all week with urgency all week. Mentally we have to be there – we have to play disciplined team football in order to win. We don't have enough superior athletes to just go out there

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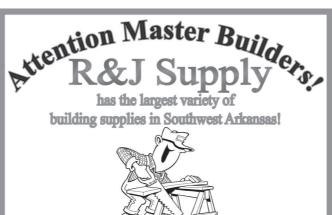
electrical hazard. Assume any dangling wires you encounter are energized and dangerous. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

• If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility. Also, when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.



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Coach Brad Chesshir congratulates Josh Walker after Walker intercepted an

Scrappers earn win over Badgers



Josh Walker picks off a Badger pass and takes off for the endzone for a touchdown in Nashville's 24-23 win Sept. 26 at Arkadelphia.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R SCHIRMER Jailyn Staggers scores off



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON Hayden Gray (7), Abari Williams (33) and Makhi Johnson (9) converge on the Former offensive line coach Michael Howard (right) Arkadelphia Badger in last week's 7-4A victory for Nashville.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER congratulates his son, O-lineman Halton Howard.



Tucker Dixon (left) takes the handoff from Jacoby Hopson during the Scrappers' road win over Arkadelphia.



Scrappers run onto the field at Badger Stadium Sept. 26 for the conference opener against Arkadelphia.



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON

Myles Hawthorne returns an Arkadelphia kickoff as Cortez Cooper keeps the Badgers away.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER Fans join the Scrappers in singing the Nashville High School Alma Mater following the victory over Arkadelphia in the first District 7-4A game of the season.

Scrappers 24, Badgers 23

First Nashville win over Arkadelphia since another one-point victory, 22-21, in 2019. Scrapper defensive backs coach Dontrell Robinson played in the 2019 game.

Drum major Klaire Hendry directs the Scrapper band's halftime show.

Decibel level goes off the scale at district-wide pep rally Sept. 26



Students, faculty and staff from all four Nashville campuses join for the Alma Mater at the district-wide pep rally Sept. 26 before the Scrappers' game at Arkadelphia.



Nashville Elementary School students show their support for the Scrappers during the pep rally at Scrapper Arena.



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON



Students from Nashville Primary have fun at last week's pep rally.

News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER The district-wide pep rally begins with the crowd at Scrapper Arena singing "The Star-Spangled Ban-

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SPORTS I Players of the Week as selected by

The Leader sports department

Josh Walker, Nashville



Josh, a Scrapper senior, made two interceptions in Nashville's 24-23 victory at Arkadelphia Sept. 26. He picked off one pass and returned it for a touchdown before adding a second pick.



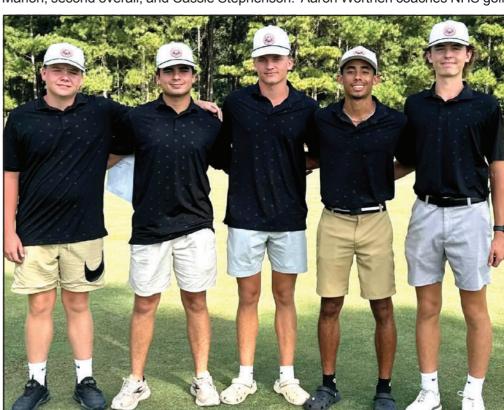


News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

SENIOR NIGHT. Seniors on the Scrapper and Scrapperette tennis teams were recognized during Senior Night Sept. 29 at Nashville High School's new tennis courts. The seniors and their families include Millie Sanchez, Allie Sartin, Rylee Backus, Irene Bustos, Jareth Perez, Joshua Howard, Luis Bustamante, Peyton Fritts, Edwin Pizarro and Orfael Rosas. Coach Maddie McRae said this is the largest group of seniors she has coached.



DISTRICT CHAMPIONS. The Scrapperette golf team won the District 7-4A championship for the eighth year in a row. Parker Tate was District Medalist for the fourth straight year. For the fourth consecutive year, the Scrapperettes finished 1, 2, 3, 4 overall, made All-Conference and will advance to state. The girls include Kinley Martin, fourth overall; Parker Tate, District Medalist; Rayleigh Harmon, third overall; Molly Marion, second overall; and Cassie Stephenson. Aaron Worthen coaches NHS golf.



SCRAPPER GOLFERS. The Scrapper golf team competed at last week's District 7-4A tournament. The group includes Colton Brown, Madden Arnold, Manning Goff, Zeus Hutchinson and Luke Wallis. Goff will advance to the state tournament as an individual qualifier, and Wallis won a playoff to advance as a qualifier.

Nashville harriers compete at DQ meet

DE QUEEN - Nashville cross country athletes com- 28:20 peted at the Leopard Run last week in De Queen.

Results include the following:

Sr. Boys (3.1 miles) Lucas Muncy 8th 20:19

(medalist) Leo Hernandez 10th 20:26

(medalist) Eduardo Hernandez

22nd 22:00

Landon Morris 30th 22:54 Luke Dowdy 33rd 23:07

Jaxon Dixon 87th 38:11

Anthony Aguilar 72nd

Sr. Girls (3.1 miles) Paola Hernandez 17th

29:18 Mallory Clifton 19th 29:29

Daniela Hernandez 20th 30:05

Lindzi Lorenzo 26th 31:27 Ruvi Martinez 28th 32:45

Jr. Boys (1.55 miles) Eden Lopez - Mercado

7th 9:59 (medalist)

Weller Chesshir 20th

Annabelle Schoolev 18th Carolina DeLosSantos

Jr. Girls (1.55 miles)

13:24

Manuel Hernandez 69th

Xavior Cardona 74th

19th 12:00

Ava Aguilar 23rd 12:13 Olivia Simmons 51st

Kaylee Pizarro 66th 14:55 Ayleen Pizarro 68th 15:14 Betsi Delarosa 86th 17:13





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Trends

Nashville News-Leader

SWA PAWS fundraiser Oct. 18 at Nashville's Midtown Social

SWA PAWS, the local group in southwest Arkansas that is working to increase adoptions at Nashville Animal Control and is also planning to host low cost spay and neuter clinics in the near future, is holding a fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The Paws and Dogs Fundraiser will be held Oct. 18 from 4-7 p.m. at Midtown Social, 117 East Howard Street, Nashville. Admission will be \$5 per person with kids 12 and under getting in free.

Paws and Dogs will feature a chili cook-off with all sorts of chilis to sample and taste, a dunking booth with lots of local celebrities ready to be dunked, as well as a hot dog eating contest, a dog costume contest, face painting and a live auction.

All proceeds will go to SWA PAWS to help pay spay and neutering fees for adoptions at the shelter and for the future low cost spay and neuter clinic to be held in Nashville.



News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

2025-2026 MINERAL SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING COURT. (From left) Sophomore Football Maid Kailey Thomas, Junior Football Made Rihanna Collins, Senior Football Maid Madison Adams, Maid of Honor Jameia Erby, Homecoming Queen Sarai Canales, Senior Class Maid Juliana Salazar, Junior Class Maid Kadynce Harris and Sophomore Class Maid Christen Bell. Homecoming events will be held on Friday, Oct. 10.

October Events at **Nashville City Park**

*2025 Golden **Gathering**

Thursday, Oct. 9 9-12 Noon

*Halloween Trick or **Treat Trail**

Thursday, Oct. 30 5-7:00 Costume Contest 5:30

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Howard County District Court

Sept. 25, 2025 BF=Bond Forfeited **Howard County**

Bouley, Paul L., 44, Denver, Colo., \$240 BF, speeding; \$260 BF, failure to appear

Carrigan, Anita R., 38, Camden, guilty of no proof o liability insurance, fined

Combs, Jeremy, 36, Nashof fines, \$2,787 owed, committed to jail-suspended conditions

Curry, Aaron Lee, 38, Farmersville, Texas, \$230 BF, speeding

Saratoga, \$195 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Dowell, Glendon Daryl, 62, Dierks, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,170 owed Gills, Kara L., 63, Nash-

ville, \$265 BF, speeding Gosnell, Taylor D., 34, Dierks, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined

\$210; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360 Hollingsowrth, Mackenzie, 25, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345

Hupp, Brandon C., 39, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445

James, Richard A. Jr., 19, Texarkana, \$220 BF, public intoxication

Johnson, Chase Mitchell, 37, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Johnson, Jennifer, 44, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$870 owed

Kelly, Jason Lee, 46, Dierks, guilty of non-payment 29, McCaskill, guilty of no of fines, \$1,310 owed

Lawrence, Megan, 27, Nashville, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,075 and license sus-

pended for six months Lewis, Brenna Claire, 22, \$195 BF, failure to yield

Lowery, Amanda D., 41, Hot Springs, \$45 BF, no seat

Lowery, Robert Jess, 46, Lockesburg, \$145 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Messinger, Caleb Eric, 25, Hot Springs, \$16 BF, use of wireless phone while

Myrick, Shelby L., 34, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$4,080 owed,

Nashville, \$270 BF, speeding

Parks, Brandon K., 31, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$690 owed, committed to jailsuspended conditions

Pena Murillo, Cristhian, 25, Nashville, \$260 BF, speeding

Phillips, James H., 66, Henderson, Nev., \$230 BF, speeding

Smith, Macy Gail, 24, Nashville, \$240 BF, speeding

Walker, Fandra Marchall, 62, Texarkana, \$195 BF, fictitious vehicle tags/no tags; \$245 BF, failure to appear

Wallace, Marcus E., 33, Nashville, \$235 BF, protection from secondhand

Womack, Christopher kana, Texas, guilty of non-

R., 37, Ashdown, guilty of speeding, fined \$290; guilty of failure to appear, fined

City of Nashville

Allen, Jadakiss Ramon, 22, Texarkana, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months

Bay, Joshua G., 20, Winoville, guilty of non-payment na, Mo., guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$560

Benitez, Jose, 47, Nash-Diaz-Jimez, Marcos, 32, ville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Benson, Akilah Asha, 29, Nashville, \$160 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$210 BF, expired vehicle tags/

Boyles, Makiye, 19, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Britton, Rajay, 22, Okanogan, Wash., \$540 BF, violation of city ordinance - no door to door sale permit

Chism, Tanner, 24, Ozan, guilty of possession marijuana, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months

Collins, Amber L., 36, Nashville, guilty of nonpayment of fines, \$505 owed Delfino, Barragan, 30,

Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license Duran, Angel, 22, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's

license/expired license Fields, Taliyah, 21, Texarkana, Texas, \$255 BF, speed-

Fontenot, Brandon Joe, proof of liability insurance, fined \$345

Griffin, Nicholas David, 42, Fulton, guilty of failure to pay registration, fined \$210; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245

Hernandez, Noe, 24, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$65; guilty of leaving scene of accident, fined \$360

Hill, Kevin, 58, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of committed to jail; guilty of fines, \$450 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245 driving on suspended or Nunally, Omareon D., 20, revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of no proof of liability vehicle tags/no tags insurance, fined \$345

Hopson, Charity, 19, Emmet, guilty of possession of license suspended for six

months Humphry, James D., 49, Delight, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined

\$345; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245 Johnson, Jennifer, 44, Hope, guilty of no vehicle license, fined \$200; guilty of

no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360 Loaexa Kennon, Adriana, 30, Nashville, guilty of no

driver's license/expired license, fined \$210 Luster, Mya S., 26, Texar-

payment of fines, \$600 owed; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460

McCoy, Tatiana, 35, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,255 owed, committed to jail-suspended conditions

Milligan, Joey, 20, Texarkana, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months

Muldrew, Carly S., 32, Wilton, guilty of improper or prohibited passing, fined \$195; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245

Nava, Miguel Antonio, 35, Dierks, guilty of speeding, fined \$265; guilty of DWI, fined \$1,125, credited with time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Nava, Toribio, 32, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Orange, Jazerious O'Neal, 20, Wilmot, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$575

Pate, Ashly, 35, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360

Shelton, Robert William, 45, Nashville, \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance Stewart, Terelle, 29, Min-

eral Springs, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360

Torrrance, Jimmy D., 63, Nashville, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,125, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

White, Darrell L., 62, Mineral Springs, guilty of public intoxication, fined \$235

Young, James R., 44, Mineral Springs, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460 City of Dierks

Bruce, Kendall, 31, Little Rock, \$240 BF, speeding; \$260 BF, failure to appear

Champagne, Aric H., 52, Shepherd, Texas, \$50 BF, failure to present insurance

Epifanio, Abrham, 19, Shreveport, La., \$290 BF, speeding; \$195 BF, no child restraint; \$260 BF, failure to

Martinez, Elizabeth, 44, De Queen, \$255 BF, speeding

Pender, Matze B., 17, Dimarijuana, fined \$1,090 and erks, guilty of no seat belt, fined \$85; guilty of reckless

driving, fined \$360 Ramirez, Jorty, 20, De Queen, guilty of speeding, fined \$275; guilty of careless or prohibited driving, fined

Smith, Jackson, 24, Fayetteville, \$265 BF, speeding

City of Mineral Springs Britton, Rajay, 22, Okanogan, Wash., \$360 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$210 BF, running stop sign or light

Donavan, Jeff K., 60, Cot-



INSIDE WORK. The old Piggly Wiggly building's transformation to a new grocery store for Murfreesboro is progressing for business owner Jack Bonds.

New Murfreesboro grocery store update Interior construction underway

Local businessman Jack Bonds shared an update on the new grocery store last week.

He said that the inside demolition had been completed and that construction of the inside of the building was now underway.

"The tear down is done and the build is on ... it's definitely coming along."

Projects currently ongoing include reroofing the building, polishing the floor and

Framing is currently ongoing for the back wall, and walk-in coolers have been ordered.

The meat room is currently under construction, and a sign is being ordered.

"This is over 10,000 square feet and there will be nothing small or quaint about it,' said Bonds, who pledged fair, good pricing with no added percentages at the check-out

Bonds said the store could be open optimistically by the turn of 2026 if everything happened perfectly, but that a date later into the year -- March perhaps -- was more realistic. He said the store will feature rotisserie

chicken, fresh baked goods, a full meat market with butcher and a full produce section. "This will be one of the nicer stores in the

area -- perhaps in all of southwest Arkansas," Bonds concluded. Bonds said he is seeking old pictures of

the Piggly Wiggly store from its heyday or pictures of any grocery store in Murfreesboro to help the store connect the town's past to its future.

Should anyone have pictures they would be willing to share, they are asked to bring them to the Gypsy Underground Flea Market in Murfreesboro.

tonwood, Calif., guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$65

French, Shanai, 20, Ashdown, \$245 BF, speeding; Heifner, Jeffrey Braden, \$260 BF, failure to appear

Griffin Nicholas David 42, Fulton, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360

Hill, Kevin, 58, Nashville, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$560

Looper, Crystal M., 42, Lavonia, Ga., guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and

Massey, Nancy W., 70, Cordova, Tenn., \$195 BF, no tail or brake lights

McCoy, Tatiana, 35, Hope, guilty of no driver's license/ expired license, fined \$210 Sanchez Cruz, Isidro, 57, Hobbs, N.M., \$360 BF, inat-

tentive driving Smith, Jacqueline M., 57, Mineral Springs, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no proof of liability

insurance, fined \$360 Vincent, Manuel A., 21, Hull, Texas, \$240 BF, speeding; \$245 BF, failure to ap-

Wade, Renita, 39, Texarkana, \$460 BF, driving on suspended or revoked

& Fish Commission Pickett, James T., 31, De

Arkansas Game

Queen, guilty of fishing without license

Bench Trials

City of Mineral Springs Dailey, Holly Dianna, 40, Nashville, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months

Finley, Rufus L., 65, Mineral Springs, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,125, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Johnson, Melanie S., 41, Mineral Springs, guilty of running stop sign or light

Homemakers' Annual Benefit **Yard Sale** Friday, Oct. 3 ~ 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4 ~ 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

at the Extension House behind the **Howard County Courthouse** All proceeds raised will go toward new equipment for the

Howard County Extension

house, including a new heat/air unit. Donations are also being sought for the sale

For more information or to donate, contact Tina Conzel at (870) 451-2345

HUGE 5 FAMILY GARAGE SALE

190 Blue Bayou Road North (Home of John & Lisa Wesson)

Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 2 & 3 7:00 a.m . - 6:00 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 4 8:00 a.m. - Noon furniture, housewares, hardware, lawn &

garden, bedding, art, electronics, guns & ammo, tools, pellet grill, toys, LOTS of misc.



MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE 435 Ferguson Rd.

(Lockesburg Hwy.) Thurs., & Fri., Oct. 2 & 3 8 a.m. -? Toddler bed, high chair,

changing table, table w/ chairs, plus much more. Watch for Signs



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scattered hardwoods and SMZ on the east boundary that borders Yellow Creek.

Has beautiful home sites and great area for building large lake. Rural water and electric on highway.

> \$192,000. CALL 870-703-1628

Plea entered in Pike County murder case

A Pike County man charged with second-degree murder for the shooting death of Daniel Cain Lamb, 44, of Delight, on June 18 entered a "not guilty" plea Monday.

Gage Allan King, 23, of Murfreesboro, was charged Sept. 18 in Pike County Circuit Court and entered his plea Monday in Pike County Circuit Court. A Nov. 3 pretrial date was set but first King will return to court on Oct. 6 for a possible bond increase. King was initially expected to charged with manslaughter in the

shooting. Also Monday in Pike County court, Danny Golden, 60, of Glenwood, plead guilty to the amended charge of possession of a firearm by certain persons and was fined \$2,500 plus court cost and placed on six years of probation.

Jakob Reppo, 38, of Glenwood, also plead guilty Monday to possession of a controlled substance and was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with three years suspended.

Charges Filed Sept. 26

Brandy Rose Balderson, 52, of Glenwood, charged with possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Misty M. Williamson, 39, of Bismarck, charged with nonsupport.

Dakota Welch, 27, of Glenwood, charged with possession of controlled substance and furnishing prohibited articles.

Leah Ann Ransom, 24, of Glenwood, charged with forgery and theft of prop-

Pike County District Court

Sept. 16, 2025 BF=Bond Forfeited Pike County

Adair, Trace William, 27, Atlanta, La., \$185 BF, speed-

Cogburn, Chase A., 18, Amity, guilty of no driver's license, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of no driver's license, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315

Merchant, Selina Rena, 50, Lockesburg, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$140; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125

Sang, Peng Lin, 59, Murfreesboro, \$140 BF, defective

equipment Smillie, David T. III, 37, Prescott, \$205 BF, failure to ance, fined \$50

pay, \$6,250 owed

City of Glenwood Bishop, George, 65, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined

Cogburn, Chase A., 18, license, fined \$145; guilty of 30 days in jail-suspended

defective lights, fined \$145 Forga, Dutch Joseph, 41, Glenwood, guilty of driving on cancelled license, fined \$215; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225; guilty of driving vehicle with revoked license/registration, fined \$215; guilty of failure

to appear, fined \$240 Machucho, Emmanuel, 36, De Queen, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,105, credited with time served, license suspended and must complete

DWI educational course Reppo. Jakob M., 38, Little Rock, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,825 owed, commit-

ted to jail Swanger, Austin McCoy, 27, Norman, guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$210;

guilty of failure to appear, fined \$240

Bench Trials Pike County

Harr, Raymond Tyler, 35, Nashville, two counts of criminal mischief, under advisement for one year to dismiss

Lamb, David K., 71, Delight, guilty of harassment, fined \$210

O'Connell, Alahna Marv, 33, Mablevale, contributing to delinquency of minor, under advisement for one year to dismiss, fined \$350 and no-contact order issued

City of Murfreesboro

David, Jimmy Lamond, 53, Nashville, guilty of fictitious tags, fined \$50; guilty of no proof of liability insur-

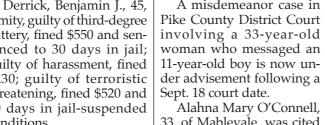
City of Glenwood

Derrick, Benjamin J., 45, Amity, guilty of third-degree battery, fined \$550 and sentenced to 30 days in jail; guilty of harassment, fined \$230; guilty of terroristic Amity, guilty of no driver's threatening, fined \$520 and

> 38, Glenwood, \$390 BF, criminal mischief

Yalamarthi, Sai Sashank, 25, Plano, Texas, \$145 BF, speeding

Stolz, Michael Tyson, 40, Glenwood, theft of property, under advisement for one year to dismiss, fined \$922.98; guilty of animal cruelty, fined \$215; guilty of animal cruelty, fined \$215; guilty of violating animal cruelty ordinance, fined \$115; guilty of violating animal cruelty ordinance, fined \$115; guilty of violating animal cruelty ordinance, fined \$115; guilty of violating animal leash law/at large ordinance



conditions 33, of Mablevale, was cited with contributing to the Wright, Christopher S., delinquency of a minor in June. During her court date, O'Connell, with her attornev Brent A. Miller, entered

to pay a \$350 fine and a nocontact order was issued for her minor victim. The misdemeanor charge is now under advisement for one year after which time the charge can be dismissed if O'Connell adheres to lawful conduct conditions, according to the Pike County District Clerk's office.

According to a Feb. 8

messaging boy, 11, now under advisement A misdemeanor case in incident report filed on the mother claimed O'Connell the messages sent to (the case by Pike County Investigator Jason McDonald, an investigation into O'Connell began on Feb. 7 when a due to Snapchat's deletion mother told McDonald she had discovered messages Alahna Mary O'Connell, between her young son and O'Connell that dated back to November 2024.

The mother said that despite her efforts to block internet access and prevent the downloading of apps a plea agreement on the on her son's phone, the boy charge and she was ordered had downloaded Snapchat on a relative's iPad. The relative reported seeing a message between the boy and O'Connell which allegedly included a picture of O'Čonnell in a tanning bed with the caption "would be a tight squeeze in here."

McDonald noted that a review of screenshots showed "several inappropriate conversations" and the

was also messaging other underage boys. McDonald said the claim is "unknown

SPECIAL GUEST IN HOWARD COUNTY. U.S. Congressman Bruce Westerman was the guest speaker at

the recent Howard County Republican Committee's "Lincoln-Trump Day" dinner. Here, the congressman is

Misdemeanor case involving woman, 33,

pictured with Howard County Republican Committee Chairman Darin Wood and his wife, Anna, and children.

feature." "Based on the nature of from his parent."

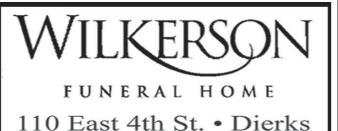
son), there is a possibility that the other messages could be inappropriate or sexual on Snapchat due to her son hiding the amount

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THURS., FRI., SAT. ~ 8 a.m. Vintage glassware, pottery, pictures, and trunk, wicker furniture, recliner, solid wood coffee table, end table, toaster oven, microwave, large decorative mirror, metal desk, curtains, men's leather motorcycle jacket, purses, shoes, etc.



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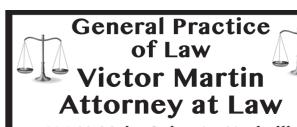
REAL CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF

I would like to say a very **special Thank** You to everyone for the help, prayers and k kind words when and since the trees came down at my house on June 15, 2025. Everything is so much appreciated and will always be remembered. God Bless Everyone. I thank God for me still being alive. **Doris Hill** Lecoxoro coxo

FOR SALE

This 60 acres near Old Washington and 2 niles from Grandview Wildlife Management Area is a **Hunter's Dream**. Lots of oak and pine timber and a beautiful creek running through the middle plus a pond. Access is through a locked gate with a gravel timber company road that dead ends into the property. The area around the property is leased and controlled which makes this place

very private. \$165,000. CALL 870-703-1628.



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SUNDAY DINNER FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 5^{TH} , 2025 at Mineral Springs **Townhall**

12PM UNTIL ALL IS GONE MENU: CHICKEN W/DRESSING

TURKEY, GREEN BEANS, CORN, ROLLS, CRANBERRY SAUCE/GRAVY TEA/WATER

DONATION \$10.00

All proceeds will go toward the Mineral Springs

Please come by and get you a plate and help

with our festival. You can eat in or take it home!



WELCOME TO NASHVILLE. New Nashville Chamber of Commerce member Roma Italian Restaurant was welcomed into the city's business community with the traditional ribbon-cutting, Monday morning. Owners, chefs, employees, chamber representatives and friends joined for the event at 121 N. Main St.

South Pike County School Board hears about state's letter grade report

By PJ Tracy

Murfreesboro Diamond

The South Pike County School Board met on Tuesday, Sept. 23 and opened with a comment period that is open to the public.

Local resident Matthew Humphry used his time to discuss a recent issue at school -- a teacher's comments -- that made its way to social media.

He asked why the school district labeled a situation as inaccurate and asked why it had been put out there, stating that it made his child appear to be lying.

The pubic speaking period does not allow for students or district employees to be named directly.

In her superintendent's report, Tanya Wilcher told the board that the school was live streaming games through hudl.com [subscription required] that currently includes football and basketball. They hope to add baseball and softball games to the and "wants to win." slate if a reasonably priced

She credited Diamond Bank with helping partner to build batting cages at the baseball/softball complex and said the school had qualified for e-rate funding, which would make the \$130,000 project cost ELA tests. \$112,892.

She also credited local law enforcement with "really stepping up" during the recent social media fiasco that saw a student make veiled threats against the school.

High School principal Davey Jones begrudgingly confessed to the board that Centerpoint (B) had a better letter grade from the state Department of Education than Murfreesboro (C) did this year.

concurrent credit courses classroom supplies. taken by students as well as standardized test scores.

Jones said last year only seven student participated in concurrent college credit classes -- something that BETA chapter for fifth and

year. He said that this year on academic standing. will feature a much larger number.

He also has mixed emotions at the graduation rate calculation -- with Murfreesboro holding "what appears to be a terrible" 92% for the class of 2025. He explained that students that leave the district but never enroll at another school count against the original district. "We can't stop them from mov-

"We are scored on kids that no longer attend the district -- if parents moved their kids and then homeschool or don't enter their kids in a new district -- MHS is still held responsible."

With those two factors against the school, Jones said he knew the school would have "blow the top off the test" and simply couldn't cover the gap. He said there was still "no excuses" and that he "expects to compete"

He said the school will wifi option can be installed do what it needs to in order at the ballfields before the to get back as the highest season. The board approved ranked county school, but quarterly payments from felt that no major changes were needed to accomplish that fact.

Murfreesboro Elementary principal James Riley said that an enrichment program has been set up for fifth and sixth graders that score a three or better of the math/

Options include robotics, e-sports, educational Minecraft, a crochet club or a podcast club.

He said there was consideration to include third and fourth grade in the perks system as well.

Riley also outlined the school's "only" fundraiser -- the third annual Fun Run -- would allow all students to participate if they chose to, regardless of funds raised. The event funds a number He said there were three of things including school main factors that go into the field and incentive trips, grade -- graduation rate, the school's house store and

> He said 100% of the proceeds would go toward the

4. water hose

helicopter

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5. air tank

6. ladder

Additionally, MES has established an elementary

He said there would be

a state contest similar to the high school program. Some thirteen students from the two grades were nominated.

The board approved the purchase of a new van to

"comes and goes" year to sixth grade students based transport students, a Kia \$881,000 as opposed to the Carnival, at the cost of around \$40,000 as opposed to a mini bus that Wilcher at all the options, and is on said costs around \$120,000.

> The board also approved the projected budget, that according to Wilcher would have an ending balance of

"normally \$300,000." "It looks good, looking

the website for the public to see," said Wilcher. The school's website is rattlers.

After an executive ses-

sion, the board announced no action on a student discipline issue and that Leah Jones was being hired as a paraprofessional.

The next school board meeting is currently sched-



Hempstead County to crack down on illegal school bus passers

The Hempstead County Sheriff's Office is issuing a strong warning to motorists regarding the illegal and dangerous practice of passing stopped school buses while they are loading or unloading students. Recent reports have indicated an increase in these violations throughout the county, creating serious safety risks for children.

In response, the Hempstead County Sheriff's Office will begin assigning deputies to ride along on school buses and will place additional patrol units in school zones and along bus routes. Deputies will be actively monitoring for motorists who disregard school bus stop arms and flashing red lights.

Motorists caught passing a stopped school bus face significant fines, possible license suspension, and other penalties under

Arkansas law The sheriff's office urges all drivers to stay alert, slow down, and exercise patience in school zones and near bus stops.

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Leader-News Photo/COURTESY OF JONATHAN CANADAY HONOR FOR HOWARD COUNTY FARM FAMILY. Farm Bureau President Brent Talley (at right) presented the Cathren and Jared Smith Family of Dierks with a plaque honoring the family's accomplishment as Howard County Farm Family of

the Year at Farm Bureau's recent customer appreciation dinner.

Howard County's Sales and Use Tax Distribution for August 2025

RECEIPTS	HOWARD CO.
Deposit	\$634,335.25
State service charge	19,300.06
Interest earned	1,961.84
Vending decals	3.52
Amount distributed	<u>\$626,000.55</u>

Hospital tax collected: \$227,636.57

HOWARD COUNTY DISTRIBUTION

Total Distributed	<u>\$626,000.55</u>
Howard County General fund	28,692.71
Howard County Landfill	45,908.34
Howard County Road	68,862.51
Cossatot Community College UofA	56,904.14
Howard County (Jail)	56,909.34
Tollette City Treasurer #2	823.48
Tollette City Treasurer #1	3,293.92
Nashville City Treasurer #2	18,486.01
Nashville City Treasurer #1	73,944.05
Mineral Springs City Treasurer #2	4,829.50
Mineral Springs City Treasurer #1	19,318.39
Dierks City Treasurer #2	4,077.34
Dierks City Treasurer #1	\$16,305.35

SOURCE: Howard County Treasurer Sheri Mixon

Place pecan orders now with MCCD

It's that time of the year again as the Mine Creek Conservation District announces its annual pecan sale to support a district scholarship that is awarded each year to a Howard County high school senior.

The district has the following available

Fresh Arkansas pecans - 1 lb bag of halves \$11

Pecan Pieces - 1 lb bag, \$11

Also available in 1 lb bags for \$11 are dark chocolate pecans, milk chocolate pecans, white chocolate pecans, praline pecans, mixed nuts, cashews, English walnut, chocolate almonds, chocolate peanuts, cinnamon spiced, honey roasted and pecan brittle.

There will also be fresh fudge available for \$8 per 1/2 lb bag and raw peanuts for \$8 for 2 lb and \$16 for 5 lb.

The deadline to order is Oct. 24. Orders will arrive the second week of November.

For more information or to order, call (870) 845-4121, Ext 3, stop by the office at 101 South Washington in Nashville or email louise.morris@ar.ncadnet.net.

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

Eddie Stavely, Principal: 870-845-9000 Kristin Stavely: Executive Broker: 870-845-9068 Pam Kirby, Sales Agent: 870-845-9251 Brad Vines, Sales Agent: 870-356-9680 Jodi King, Sales Agent: 870-557-0747 Holly Rucker, Sales Agent: 870-784-1349 Matt Smith, Sales Agent: 870-845-8821

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Jpdated all-brick home, featur g two bedrooms, two baths, and an inviting layout designed for comfort and style. A land-

create a warm first impression, perfect for relaxing or entertaining outdoors Inside, the spacious kitchen offers quartz countertops, abundant cabinetry a large island, walk-in pantry, and recessed lighting, while the separate dining areas is spacious and ideal for gatherings. The inviting living room boasts a brick fireplace with gas log inserts. The primary bedroom is generously sized, featuring a striking tongue-and groove wood ceiling, while the area. The second bath features a relaxing jetted tub with tile backsplash Outdoors, a former carport/storage area has been converted into a versatile game room, complete with a full bath and sink-ideal for entertaining or a private retreat. Home is located within walking distance to park and just minutes from downtown. PRICE \$255,000.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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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: 15)

is Hiring a Part-Time Temporary **Admissions Coordinator**

Phone: 870-845-1080

The Howard County Housing Authority (HCHA) is dedicated to providing safe, decent, and affordable housing to low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities in Howard County. Our mission is to support housing stability and self-sufficiency through quality programs and community partnerships.

a temporary part-time Admissions Coordinator, responsible for managing the intake and eligibility process for all applicants to HCHA's Public Housing program. This position ensures fair and efficient processing of applications, oversees compliance with HUD regulations, and works closely with applicants, staff, and community partners to meet housing needs in the region.

Full Job Posting: www.tinyurl.com/hchajobs

The Howard County Housing Authority at 1010 South Pope Street, Nashville, AR

The Howard County Housing Authority is seeking

Equal Opportunity Employer, including disability



PUBLIC NOTICE

Melinda Bennett 870-451-2226

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHESLA ALFRED BEARDEN, DECEASED 31 PR-2025-36-2

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent: 418 Caney Creek Road Dierks, AR 71833

Date of Death: June 29, 2020

The undersigned was appointed ADMINISTRATRIX of the estate of the above named decedent on September 17, 2025.

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 24th day of September, 2025.

RELINDA RUTH **ADMINISTRATRIX** 378 Caney Creek Road Dierks, AR 71833

LAURA LINDLY ATTORNEY FOR ESTATE 310 W. De QUEEN AVENUE **De QUEEN, AR 71832** (870) 642-4462 (LL: 14, 15)

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BUSINESS

MINI STORAGE IN MUR-

FREESBORO. 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.

FOR RENI Small furnished apartment

for rent. Nashville, Arkansas. 870-557-7868, (pd. 14-16)

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DHS advances to finals for \$1M stadium makeover

T-Mobile has revealed the Top 25 finalist for its Friday Night 5G Lights social media sweepstakes and the Dierks High School has advanced and is now in the running for a "game-changing" stadium makeover.

Dierks' advancement as a finalist came will come with a \$25,000 check to be presented during a special event on Friday, Oct. 3 hosted by T-Mobile at Outlaw Stadium.

Dierks is the only school in Arkansas to qualify for the sweepstakes which will include a \$1 million field upgrade and a renovated weight room from Gronk Fitness, a consulation with stadium experience experts, an all-expense-paid trip to the SEC championship football game for 16 school representatives and a tailgate party revealing the finalized upgrades in 2026.

Votes can be cast for DHS to win by scanning the QR code pictured here. Voting will be held through Oct. 24 on the Friday Night 5G Lights website. The community can come back every day during the time period to cast another vote for their favorite school - the more daily votes, the higher the chance of winning the grand prize being announced Oct. 30.

According to a press release from T-Mobile, "For more than 20 years, the Outlaws' stadium has gone without upgrades, yet their town of farmers, small business owners, welders, teachers and cafeteria workers show up with pride to support the team. Winning the \$1 million grand prize would do more than just replace outdated facilities - it would remind the students that they can be from a small town and still dream big.'

The school was also awarded \$5,000 as part of the sweepstakes earlier this season.

"I'm not sure I can put into words what this means to these kids, this town. To be selected to move on to the Top 25 round woke something inside I'm not sure most of us even knew or would admit was in there," said Outlaw Head Coach Paul Ernest.

Dierks teacher and cheer coach Adriana Hogg added, "The Holler is special place that holds countless memories. I cheered at this field in high school, my husband and son played football on this field. My two daughters cheered at this field. Most of the community have tons of stories about The Holler. You will find a group of men eating breakfast at our local gas station every morning telling stories about when they played football at The Holler. It is one of the oldest fields that is still being used in the state of Arkansas."

According to information on the internet, Ayers Field was used a landing strip for small aircraft before becoming a football field.



THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT. Outlaw Coach Paul







News-Leader photos/NIKKI FIELDS

MAKING THE BIG ANNOUNCEMENT. Jill Strickling of T-Mobile (at right) announces Dierks High School has made the finals of T-Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights social media sweepstakes during a pop-up Pink Out pep rally held last week. The QR code here can be used for daily voting in the sweepstakes.

RED RIBBON WEEK 2025*

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