

THE NASHVILLE News-LEADER

Preserving Southwest Arkansas's Heritage While Leading Through the 21st Century

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025 • Vol. 24, Issue 26 • 16 pages, 2 sections • \$1

Leader Board

www.swarkansasnews.com

OPINION | 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

Donations sought for museum upkeep

The Howard County Historical Society is seeking tax-exempt donations to fund maintenance and operations of the society's 1912 E.A. Williams Chapel Museum.

Extensive and expensive repairs have been needed at the museum which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The fund drive theme is "Saving the Past ... for the Future."

Donations to the society are tax-deductible. Donations should be made to:

Howard County Historical Society
PO Box 555
Nashville, AR 71852

Wet-dry petition campaign underway

A Nashville organization is gathering names on petitions to put 'wet-dry' on the election ballot in Howard County.

The organization, Developing Entertainment for Howard County, emphasizes that they are not taking sides on the issue of alcohol sales, but are giving citizens a chance to sign a petition to put the question to voters.

The first two places to sign the petition were Smoker Friendly, 401 S. Main, Nashville; and Nashville Truck Plaza, 407 Hwy. 27S. Bypass, Nashville. The latter site is open 24 hours a day.

Other canvassing sites announced since then include Poblano's Mexican Cafe, and Furtell Marine, both in Nashville, and the Topiary at Spring Hill Farm, located near Nathan.

There may be other signing places announced in the future.

Signers must be Howard County residents. They must be able to match the address they list on the petition sheet to their actual voter registration address; otherwise the signature will be disqualified.

The goal of the campaign is about 3,300 signatures.

Inside the News-Leader

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News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON. Nashville Primary School students make their traditional appearance to sing Christmas songs at the Nashville School Board's meeting Monday, Dec. 15. The youngsters have performed at a number of places around Nashville before Christmas break. Stacia Petty is the director.

School facilities plan approved by board

By John R. Schirmer

News-Leader staff

The Nashville School District's facilities master plan was updated during the Dec. 15 meeting of the Nashville School Board.

Superintendent Doug Graham recommended that two items be removed from the list. "We need to take off [constructing] tennis courts" after the new tennis facility opened early in the fall semester at Nashville High School.

The two new courts were used

throughout the season.

Graham also recommended the removal of plans for additional seating and a new press box at the Nashville City Park softball field where the Scrapperettes play.

"There's now discussion of building our own softball field," Graham said.

The updated facilities plan includes a new softball field, replacing the 10-year old artificial turf at Scrapper Stadium, re-surfacing the track, replacing the turf at the

Scrapper Dome, a new auditorium, new administration building, restrooms on the visitors side at the stadium.

No action was taken Monday on any of the individual projects. They will be discussed at future board meetings.

Graham was scheduled to meet later Monday with a representative of the Department of Education's facilities division to finalize the list.

The board approved the plan on a 4-0 vote.

Updated facilities master plans are required by the state.

Later in the meeting, Graham updated the board on new turf at the stadium.

In November, Graham said the turf has seen 10 seasons and has outlived its warranty.

"New turf is like everything else. It's gone up since the last time," he said.

The district has received a pre-

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Volunteers try to help SW Arkansas animals

By Don Hall

News-Leader staff

This last spring, the *Texarkana Gazette* ran an article that shocked many animal lovers in Nashville.

Due to overcrowding and not enough people wanting to adopt, Nashville Animal Control had one of the highest rates of euthanasia of all the towns in Arkansas; 82% of the animals that came in didn't make it out alive.

Deb Young and a group of her friends met in June to try to come up with a way to save more of these animals.

Thus was born SWA Paws (Southwest Arkansas Paws).

What began as a desire to rescue animals soon became a mission.

Now, six months after that initial meeting, there is a board of nine directors and 15-20 people who volunteer on a regular basis, and lots of others who give money.

"We operate solely on donations," says board member Jenna Pope. "The more the people of Nashville and our area give, the more animals we can rescue."

And donations have been coming in. SWA Paws is officially a 501(c)(3) that accepts your tax-deductible donations.

SWA Paws is making a difference in Nashville.

They've formed a good working relationship with Nashville Animal Control, and volunteers visit regularly to take photos of the animals, which they put up on the SWA Paws Facebook page.

Adoptions are up.

Suzanne Gathright has almost 26 years of experience with Nashville Animal Control, where there are 34 dog pens and 26 cat cages. Those pens and cages are usually full.

"SWA Paws is working to move the animals out so we can have empty pens," Suzanne says.

State law requires a minimum of five days before euthanasia, but Animal Control, with help from SWA Paws, is extending that. "We're holding animals a lot longer now," Suzanne adds. "We're also referring to SWA Paws for help with having young dogs spayed or neutered."

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News-Leader photo/DON HALL

HELPING OUT. Volunteers Linda Stiver and Jody King work the SWA Paws booth at Christmas on Main Dec. 15 in Nashville.

A holiday tradition: The Nashville Christmas parade

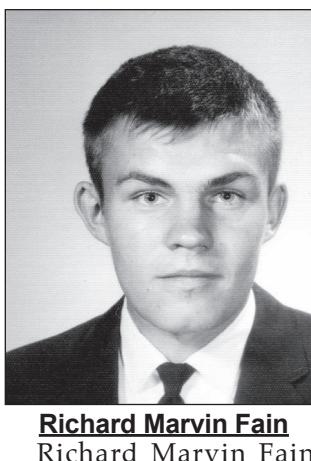


News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

(Above) Howard County 4-H members ride their float in the Nashville Christmas parade Monday, Dec. 15. The parade began at the Scrapper Stadium parking lot and made its way through downtown Nashville.

(Left) St. Martin Catholic Church observes the season with a float honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. The celebration began Dec. 12 and continues through Epiphany Jan. 6.

Obituaries



Richard Marvin Fain

Richard Marvin Fain, known as Dick to family and friends, died Dec. 12, 2025, at his home in Billstown, Ark. He was born March 31, 1949, in Nashville, Ark., to John Paul Fain and Clio Stone Fain.

He was a 1967 honor graduate of Delight High School and a 1971 graduate of Southern State College in Magnolia, Ark. He was a veteran of the Army, serving his time as a courier at the Pentagon in Alexandria, Va. He loved sports and keeping up with his nieces and nephews athletic accomplishments.

He is survived by three sisters, Dorothy Jean and John Nivens of Billstown, Paula Kennedy of Nashville and Eva and Larry Watson of Murfreesboro. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews, John Nivens, Candita Meek, Mandy Stone, Jason Kennedy, Justin Watson, Matthew Kennedy and several great nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m., on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

A funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Murfreesboro. Interment will follow in Billstown Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

You may send an online sympathy message at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://latimerfuneralhome.com).

Harvy Dean Walston

Harvy Dean Walston, 89, of Texarkana, Texas, died Monday, Dec. 8, 2025. He was born Dec. 19, 1935, in Nashville, the son of the late James C. and Lavada Self Walston.

He was a retired US Air Force veteran of Vietnam.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Emma Jo Russell Walston; six brothers, Cotas, Homer, Doyle, Jay B., Dewelee, and Baby Walston; and three sisters Eunice Barnes, Deselee Canaday, and Pearl Walston.

Survivors include: two sons, Gary Dean and Deborah Walston of Nacogdoches, Texas, and Stevey Joe Walston of Whitesboro, Texas; one daughter, Sherry Lynn Castleberry of Sherman, Texas; also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025, in

the chapel of Chapelwood Funeral Home, Texarkana, with visitation one hour prior to the service.

Ann Jackson

Ann Jackson, 87, of Mineral Springs, died Dec. 14, 2025. She was born April 16, 1938, in Mineral Springs the daughter of Lonnie and Mattie (Henderson) McCullough.

She was a registered dietitian and was a member of New Shiloh Baptist Church.

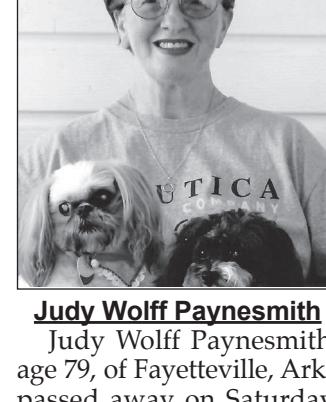
She was preceded in death by her husband, Sammy Jackson.

Survivors include: a son, Lonnie Jackson (Regina) of Arkadelphia, a daughter, Jan Marks (Eric) of Mineral Springs; siblings Jo Simpkins, Judy Tabler, Sherry Higginbottom, Eugene McCullough, and Patti Brett; also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until service time on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, followed by the funeral service at 2 p.m. at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville. Bro. Ben Jones officiating.

Burial will follow at Mineral Springs Cemetery under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.

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



Judy Wolff Paynesmith

Judy Wolff Paynesmith, age 79, of Fayetteville, Ark., passed away on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, in Fayetteville.

Judy was born on Sept. 30, 1946, in Nashville, Ark., to William Hix Smith and Ruby Nell Payne. She graduated from Nashville High School in 1964. Judy was devoted to her family and was a lifelong learner and avid reader. She achieved a significant personal milestone by attending the University of Arkansas at the same time as her daughter and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology. Later, she worked as a medical transcriptionist for Washington Regional Medical Center.

In 2009, Judy channeled her culinary passion into a business, co-founding Lean Green Cuisine, a vegan food operation she ran alongside her daughter. As a vegetarian, she had an extraordinary love for animals and was a constant advocate for rescuing dogs.

She was preceded in death by several beloved canine companions, including Tory, Lilliput, Bubba, Argus, Bitsy Boo, Nelly Bell, Anderson, Hanna, Cinder-

ella, Honeyboo, Hanna, and Baby, as well as her parents and her brother, William Hix Smith, Jr.

She is survived by her daughter, Caroline Israel (formerly Mylea Wolff) of Morro Bay, Calif.; her beloved sisters, Sue McClure of Nashville, Ark., and Vicki Sandefur of Texarkana, Texas; and her canine companion, Honey Bear; and numerous nieces and nephews.

No public services are planned at this time. Instead, her family will honor her wishes and her memory by scattering her ashes on a pond in Nashville, Ark., where they shared many memorable family picnics over the years.

And if she listens closely enough, Judy just may hear Mylea singing, "Good night, sleep tight. Don't let the bedbugs bite. I love you better, and I always will ..."

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to the Humane Society of the Ozarks.

Bro. Ben Jones officiating.

Burial will follow at Mineral Springs Cemetery under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.

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



Gwen Nina Gilbert

Gwen Nina Gilbert, age 81, a resident of Hope, Ark., passed away on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, at The Blossoms in Dierks, Ark.

Gwen was born on March 1, 1944, in Dierks, Ark. She was a member of the St. John United Methodist Church in Hope. She enjoyed working in her yard, loved flowers, and spending time with her church family.

Gwen was preceded in death by her parents, Vertis and Nina Morris Deaton; one brother, Elvis Deaton; one grandchild, Michael Dove; her first husband and father of her children, Robert Walker; and her second husband, Denzil Gilbert.

She is survived by two sons, Randy Walker and Rodney (Leisa) Walker; two sisters, Shelba McClain and Brenda Hill; seven grandchildren, Jason Welch, Joni Walker, Randon Walker, Zack Walker, Jacob LoneWolf, Lyndzey LoneWolf, and Jacqueline LoneWolf; 13 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren, and a number of nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of friends.

Visitation for Mrs. Gwen will be held from 1-2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, at the Dierks Chapel with a graveside funeral service at 2:30 p.m., at Dierks Cemetery, with Kevin Harrington officiating, under the direction of Wilkerson Funeral Home

in Dierks.

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

in Dierks.

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



Sheila Webb

Sheila Webb, age 84, of Mountain Home, Ark., went to be with her Lord and Savior on Dec. 15, 2025, after a lengthy illness.

She was born Sept. 26, 1941, in Barnstaple, England, U.K., to Eric Newton and Betty Walter Newton. Her father volunteered as a Navigator in the Royal Air Force during WWII. His plane was shot down over France and

all seven souls on board perished. Her mother worked for the war effort in the Guide International Service. While riding a train, she met an American GI, John Castle. They married with hopes of returning to the states for their life together with four-year-old Sheila after the war.

She is preceded in death by her mother, biological and stepfather, a half-sister, Annie Laurie Castle, and her husband, David Webb.

In her teen years, Sheila loved dancing. She became proficient enough to teach tap and especially loved ballet. She met the love of her life, John David Webb while they were in Radiology school at St. Vincent Infirmary in Little Rock. They were married 57 years until his death. She chose to remain at home to raise her children and she became an irreplaceable, faithful partner in his many Christian ministries. She taught many ladies and children's classes

as well as children's choir.

Survivors include two daughters, Leslie McCrary of Nashville and Cynthia Montgomery of Mountain Home, also three sons, Eric Webb and wife April of Auburn, Ala., Dr. John Webb and wife Michele of Hot Springs, Dr. Christopher Webb and wife Michelle of Mountain Home. She has 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Also surviving her is her brother, John Castle and wife Joyce of Little Rock.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 20, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville, with burial to follow in Restland Memorial Park, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

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

Council adopts budget for 2026; industrial revenue bonds approved

At its regular meeting for December, Monday, the Nashville City Council approved a budget for 2026, and passed ordinances which give a 20-year graduated abeyance of sales taxes, and industrial development revenue bonds for the new Cantex employer.

The city is under no obligation for bond payments, an attorney for Cantex explained.

The ordinances were 'housekeeping' measures for new industries. They passed unanimously.

James Trimm, vice-president of operations for Cantex, told the council that a portion of employees were already at work.

He said that in the early part of 2026 there could be three or four shifts at work.

The city's 2026 budget anticipates expenditures of \$21,005,908. Aldermen and department heads had worked on the budget for more than a month.

Aldermen also approved a resolution

for check signatures reflecting a surname change for City Recorder Lauren Clements. A late change in the ordinance changed the name of Arvest Bank to Farmers Bank and Trust, and removed the name of Regions Bank which has shut its Nashville presence. The city no longer has accounts with Regions.

At the meeting was Vanessa Weeks of Developing Howard County, the local economic development agency which worked to get Cantex.

Council members present included Freddie Horne, Joe Hoen, Donna Harwell, Brent Thompson, Phil Jones, Vivian Wright, William Turley, Charles Pinkston, Herbert Turley, Kathy Combs and Lynn Dyer; also, Mayor Larry Dunaway, City Attorney Aaron Brasel, Howard County Tax Assessor Cindy Butler, and the city's department heads.



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY COFFEE. The Nashville branch of Diamond Bank hosted a chamber of commerce coffee, Wednesday. Above, officers and directors of the bank, along with employees, welcomed visitors all day.



ANNUAL VISITORS ENTERTAIN ROTARY. Music teacher Stacia Petty brought Nashville first-graders from the classrooms of Paige Brown and Emily Venable to sing Christmas songs for the Nashville Rotary Club. Petty and her students have sung for the club for 20 years. Rotary meets at noon on Wednesdays in Room 101 at the Nashville campus of UA-Cossatot.

Yule schedule for St. Martin's Church continues

The schedule of rest of the Christmas season Advent events at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Nashville has been announced.

Sunday, Dec. 14 thru Christmas Eve -- "Posadas,"

re-enactment of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging in Bethlehem.

Christmas Eve -- bilingual mass at 5 p.m.

Christmas Day -- bilingual mass at 9 a.m.

Normal schedule for weekend masses Dec. 28 and Jan. 4.

Jan. 1 -- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, bilingual mass at 9 a.m.

The public is welcome.

THANK YOU for reading and supporting your hometown newspaper!

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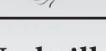
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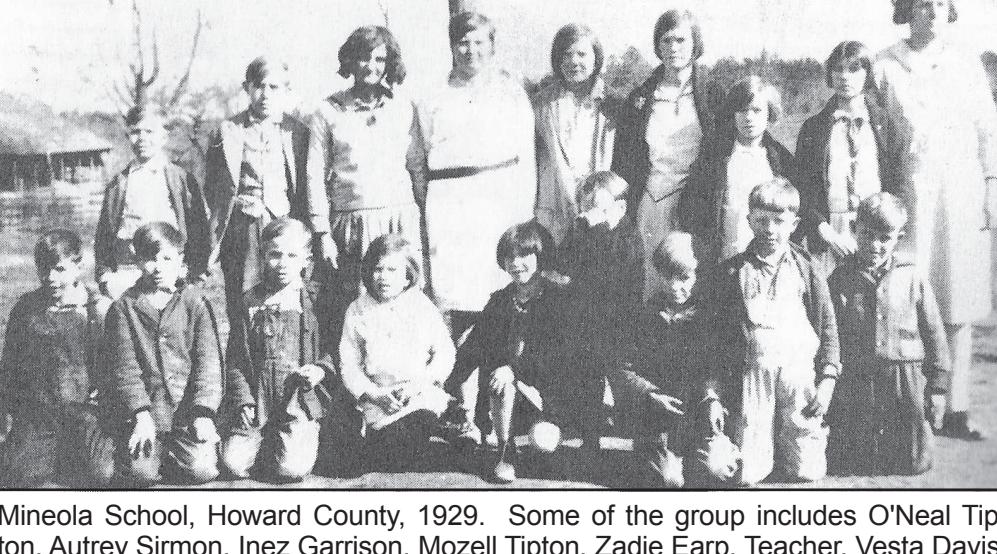


THE CECIL "BIRDDOG" HARRIS MEMORIAL EARLY FILES

Tales from Howard County's history reprinted in honor of longtime staff historian and photographer, Cecil Harris.

September 19, 1938 - December 15, 2012

Compiled by Patsy Young



Mineola School, Howard County, 1929. Some of the group includes O'Neal Tipton, Autrey Sirmon, Inez Garrison, Mozell Tipton, Zadie Earp. Teacher, Vesta Davis, Otema Davis, Odee Tipton. (Pic from *The Unfinished Story of North Howard County*)

123 years ago: November

1902

Major F. T. Shepherd, commander of Joseph Neal Camp, UCV, received a letter from Gov. Davis accepting an invitation to address the camp in this city. All Confederate veterans of this section, and especially the members of Joseph Neal Camp are invited to come out and hear the governor.

The invitation was issued by the camp with the understanding that politics are not to be discussed, and the address will no doubt be an interesting one.

B. K. Holcombe returned from Blossom, Texas, Tuesday night where he was called on account of the murder of his son-in-law, Ben Hill.

Mrs. Ben Hill, Mr. Holcombe's widowed daughter, returned with her father and will make her home with him.

(Adv.) Blow your own horn. You can get blowing horns from Thos. Dillahunt at Skillern's.

79 years ago: November

1946

The sleek, black custom-built limousine that formerly belonged to Hermann Goering, one-time Number Two Nazi, who recently committed suicide to evade the hangman's noose at Nuremberg, will no longer drive the rotund Reich Marshal along highways of Europe.

The long underslung automobile, confiscated by the U. S. Army, will be displayed by the Arkansas U. S. Army Recruiting District, at Nashville next Saturday. The car will be located in the parking lot next to Main Hotel where the public may view it.

Lost: Between Nashville and Mineral Springs, Poland China gilt about 10 weeks old. Please notify J. A. Stephenson, Mineral Springs.

Notice: I will sit with children or old people at night by the hour. Phone 135-M, Mrs. Ruth Timberlake.

62 years ago: November

1963

Marine Private Edgar A. Branch, Jr., son of Mr. and

Mrs. Edgar A. Branch of Nashville, completed four weeks of individual combat training October 14 at the Second Infantry Training Regiment, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California. Recruits were trained in tactical and combat skills needed by fighting Marines.

At 1:01 a.m. Sunday Southwestern Bell Company will switch over to the dial system, according to District Manager Buck Ware who spoke to the Rotary Club on the change at Wednesday's meeting. He said educating the users to dial will be the big problem in the change-over.

42 years ago: November

1983

A fire early Sunday morning brought nearly total damage to the Nashville Roller Rink, and the State Fire Marshal's office will be contacted for an investigation. Nashville firemen fought the fire for several hours, and a second fire truck had to be called out to the blaze on Highway 27 North inside the city limits.

weapons possession during a controlled substance offense. The state did not pursue the latter charge, a class Y felony.

A probation revocation bench trial date of Jan. 28 was set for Robert Johnson, 54, black male, Nashville, who is charged with failure to meet the terms of his probation on a 2018 conviction for theft of property.

Dontarius Block, 33, black male, Nashville, was found mentally not fit to proceed in a trial for residential burglary, theft by receiving, and felon in possession of a firearm. Court documents indicate that he cannot be restored and is a high risk to the community.

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Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Dec. 4-10, 2025, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses

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

Dec. 5. Brian William Chunn, 37, Nashville, and Brittany Danyell Dixon, 34, Nashville.

Dec. 5. Andrew Christopher Hawthorne, 29, Nashville, and Abigail Grace Witherspoon, 27, Nashville.

Civil Court

CV25-140, Dec. 5. Brent Kutcher vs. Brian Trotter. Automobile tort.

Domestic Relations Court

DR25-92, Dec. 4. Shayla Christopher vs. Alan Chadwick. Order of protection.

DR25-93, Dec. 4. Dontarius Alexander vs. Lakeisha Holloway. Order of protection.

DR25-94, Dec. 8. Karen Billings Sneed vs. Charles Sneed. Divorce.

DR25-95, Dec. 9. Crystal Wiley vs. Keshawn Jefferson. Order of protection.

DR25-96, Dec. 9. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs.

Christopher Edwards. Support.

DR25-97, Dec. 10. Angelica Williams vs. Herbert Williams IV. Order of protection.

Criminal Court

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

No new Criminal cases filed since CR25-114, Dec. 2.

Land/Property Transactions

Heir's Deed

Dec. 5. Heirs at law of Marion M. Langston; to William M. Langston, 3.5 ac. in S1 T11S R27W.

Quitclaim Deeds

Dec. 5. Edward Lynn Taylor; to William Edward Taylor and Martha Rose Taylor, husband and wife; part of Lots 1-2-3, Block 80, with exception, Town of Nashville.

Dec. 5. Carrie Ann Smith and Brandon Kyle Smith, a married couple; to Kip Hasson; 125 S. Lewis St., Mineral Springs. \$15,000.

Dec. 8. Cheryl Power; to The Cheryl Yvonne Power Revocable Trust; 0.48 ac. in S24 T9S R27W.

Dec. 10. Aurelio Martinez and wife, Angelica Martinez; to Aurelio Martinez and

wife, Angelica Martinez; Lots 14 thru 17, Block 6; R.L Hayes Addition, Town of Nashville.

Beneficiary's Deed

Dec. 5. William Edward Taylor and Martha Rose Taylor, husband and wife; to Edward Lynn Taylor; part of Lots 1-2-3, Block 80, with exception, Town of Nashville.

Dec. 10. James and Ruth Foltz; to Timothy and Julie Dean; Lots 5 thru 8, Block 31, New Nashville.

Gift Deed

Dec. 10. Charles David Nutt and Carla C. Nutt; to Charles F. Nutt; 61.65 ac. in S21 T10S R28W.

Warranty Deeds

Dec. 4. Nicholas Brooks and Koreen Brooks, husband and wife; to Paulett Flores; Lot 4, Block 4, North Greenwood Addition, City of Nashville. \$327,000.

Dec. 5. Corey Semmler and wife, Meagan Nicole Semmler; to Malcolm J. Campbell; part of Block 1, S19 T10S R27W, Town of Mineral Springs. \$126,000.

Dec. 10. Villabaldo Hernandez and wife, Maria L. Hernandez; to Aurilio Martinez and wife, Angelica Martinez; Lots 14 thru 17, Block 6; R.L Hayes Addition, Town of Nashville.

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Point of view

Fear for future If West Point cadets can't march, who will defend us?

(DEAR READER: I know I promised not to repeat any of my old columns when I couldn't get up the gumption to write a new one. I lied. This one is from a couple of years ago as you will be able to tell.)

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out of the newspaper's window on Main Street and I am in great fear for the future defense of our country after watching the prelims of Saturday's Army-Navy football game on TV.

The home team was Army and the whole Corps of Cadets marched onto the field pre-game. Did I say march?

I've seen many junior high bands that 'marched' better than the cadets.

Enlisted military pukes like me know how to keep in step with everyone else. And how to keep lines straight in ranks.

This is also true for anyone who has ever marched in a high school band behind a delightful straight line of graceful majorettes. But I digress.

"Get in step, Tommy!"

Boy, if someone got 'out of step' it really stood out because his or her head bobbed up when everyone else's head bobbed down. All of the ones that were in step yelled at the one that wasn't because it made the whole band look sloppy.

"Get in step, Tommy! Everyone can see you're out of step!"

So, on national TV, the whole country was treated to a shameful display of Army military student knuckleheads who couldn't march worth a darn. How can we trust the nation's defense to them?

When you see newsreels of North Korean troops or Chinese troops, there's not a one that is out of step. Possibly because he or she might have to undergo a severe three-year marching remediation camp; with beheading for a second offense.

Let me just modestly add the following to my already impressive list of qualifications for Official Downtown J-Turn Enforcement Officer:

- I marched in the Nashville Junior Scrapper Band without being shouted at even one time.

- I marched in the Nashville Senior Scrapper Band behind an impressive line of majorettes without being shouted at (if you don't count what the majorette moms screamed at me) even one time.

- I marched in Navy Boot Camp Company #153A and was never singled out for severe marching remediation camp. Or beheading.

I am fairly sure that by adding a line "Can March Better Than the Entire Corps of Cadets at West Point" to my resume' the mayor will finally have to take notice of my application to fill this vital position.

● ----- ● ----- ●

ANIMAL CRACKERS. Dennis Ritchie visited to tell me that earlier in December he heard loud cicadas somewhere in the tree line behind his house west of town.

On a December night, not August.

No, he says, he didn't leave a tractor motor running. Nor was it a whirring well pump. He admits to needing hearing aids, but says he can darn well recognize a cicada when he hears it.

We agreed that we DID NOT have the Extreme Summer of the Cicadas as forecast by some experts.

● ----- ● ----- ●

CHRISTMAS SEASON. Lotsa people deserve BIG thanks for that fabulous Christmas Parade.

● ----- ● ----- ●

(PLEASE NOTE: Papers now a dollar)

STOLEN. Someone is stealing papers from some of our newsstands in Nashville and Dierks.

I know it's just 75 cents, but we worked a whole week to produce that issue of the paper. Every 75c counts.

At some places there are cameras placed so that we might be able to catch the thief. We'll be checking those.

In the meantime our best chance to catch them is with help from the public. If you see someone taking a handful of papers from a newsstand, please rat on them.

● ----- ● ----- ●

PLEASE GET the Covid-19 vaccine. I saw a news item last week where a north Texas radio evangelist who had broadcast anti-vaccine messages found himself dead after several miserable days on a ventilator. His widow said it was Covid that got him. His son said it was a spiritual attack. Maybe. I'd put my money on Covid.

● ----- ● ----- ●

HEARD FROM. Often when I am news-surfing on the Internet I play choral music from an English outfit called Kings College Cambridge. I noticed this weekend that I can understand the lyrics of the Christmas songs they sing, unlike how I must turn on 'closed captioning' to understand dialog in the British detective shows which I like.

I wonder if the Brits have a hard time understanding us Arkies. They shouldn't. We speak perfectly good English.

● ----- ● ----- ●

WORD GAMES. The twins: Up and At 'Em. Early risers.

● ----- ● ----- ●

HE SAID: "Some people see things that are and ask, Why? Some people dream of things that never were and ask, Why not? Some people have to go to work and don't have time for all that." George Carlin, stand-up comedian and onetime rock DJ on KEEL-AM radio, Shreveport

● ----- ● ----- ●

SHE SAID: "Girls are capable of doing everything men are capable of doing. Sometimes they have more imagination than men." Katherine Johnson mathematician and NASA scientist

● ----- ● ----- ●

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Nashville News-Leader

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It's autumn. The weather is cooler, and we're inside more.

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free Covid-19 vaccination. If you're already

fully immunized, remember to get the booster shot.

Presented in the public interest by the Nashville News-Leader

Arkansas makes progress in dealing with maternal health care but more to do

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

Despite many challenges facing maternal health care, Arkansas has made progress. Arkansas now ranks among the top 10 states with the lowest rates of severe maternal morbidity, proving that focused hospital improvements are saving lives.

Earlier this year, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) launched the Arkansas Center for Women and Infants' Health headed by Executive Director Dr. Nirvana Manning, who also serves as professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UAMS.

In addition, new online interactive tools such as UAMS' maternal health scorecard are helping identify care deserts and guide resources where they are needed most.

According to the nonprofit organization March of Dimes, the state has made great progress this year to improve maternal and infant health care, but there is still much to be done.

We still have failing rates in many areas. Preterm birth rates remain stuck at 12.1 percent, ranking near the bottom (47 out of 52 states).

Infant mortality rates also increased from 7.7 to 8.2 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Adequate prenatal care declined, and low-risk cesarean births increased.

Too many women struggle to attend appointments for consistent care and support before, during, and after pregnancy.

Arkansas has made major maternal health policy progress this year. In 2025, the state enacted one of the most comprehensive maternal and infant health legislative packages in the country.

These reforms include the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Act, which expanded remote monitoring for moms living far away from hospitals or clinics.

Key provisions expanded Medicaid for pregnant women, increased provider payments, boosted telehealth, and aimed to provide comprehensive, continuous care from pregnancy through postpartum.

The legislature also created a statewide certification pathway for community-based doulas, expanded privileges for certified nurse midwives, and required insurance coverage for licensed birthing centers.

We made history as the first state in the South to provide 12 weeks of paid maternity leave for public and charter schoolteachers covered at 100 percent by the state.

setting a national example of bipartisan, family-first policy.

In February, The Arkansas Legislature directed \$2.5 million in state funds to hospitals in Crosssett and El Dorado so UAMS can train physicians in 22 residency slots, including a family medicine obstetrics fellowship.

In October, UAMS received a \$4 million federal grant to bring more maternal health care to rural South Arkansas.

HEART Moms, which stands for Helping Expand Access to Rural maternal health care Transformation for Moms, is designed to bring comprehensive, team-based care closer to home.

The goal is to create "a sustainable, regionally coordinated maternal health network with robust governance, a referral infrastructure and Medicaid-aligned payment strategies," according to the UAMS College of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology news release.

The HEART Moms program will begin in 2026 and employ mobile maternal health clinics that rotate between Ashley and Union counties to reduce patients' transportation-related barriers to care.

To learn more about the program, visit the website at <https://myarkansasbirth.org/>.

Small businesses vital to state, nation

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

The holidays are a special time where a mixture of memorable moments along with the hustle and bustle collide, inviting chaos, magic and more.

From the time we hit the road or skies for Thanksgiving through the last hours of New Year's Day, there is always plenty to do.

That includes gestures both large and small showing others our love, appreciation, respect or recognition for the role they play in our lives.

We are all familiar with one common form this takes: gift giving.

It is a staple of the season that is not only a sentimental exercise, but also a powerful force within our economy. As any company can attest, holiday commerce helps feed and shape their goals.

It has often been said that small business is the backbone, or lifeblood, of America's economy. There are over 30 million local enterprises around the country, including nearly 300,000 in Arkansas that employ over 500,000 of our family, friends and neighbors.

We are proud to celebrate these establishments in communities across our state and the important

contributions they make, economic and beyond.

That is why it is key to patronize them all year long, but especially during the critical period closing out the year.

As a former small business owner, I am proud to work with my colleagues in Congress to recognize the innovators and job creators at the heart of every small business year-round.

Just a few weeks ago, we also took the opportunity to acknowledge and applaud veteran-owned small businesses, which make up nearly five percent of enterprises in the U.S.

The value that small businesses bring to our communities and nation should be clear. That is why it is critical to enact policies that support them and help create conditions in which they are empowered to grow and thrive.

This summer, Republicans passed the Working Families Tax Cuts. This significant bill delivered needed relief to small businesses. Its policies made their tax deduction permanent while repealing onerous regulations and even ensuring workers benefit from the success of their employers by helping prevent taxes on their tips

or overtime hours.

The law will also help spur more investment by manufacturers as well as enable companies to fully expense business equipment purchases more immediately.

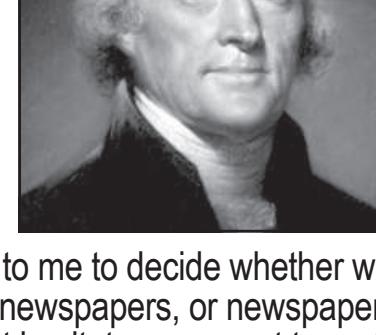
These pro-growth policies will invigorate small businesses to create even more jobs and opportunity.

I am also pursuing other legislative priorities to boost Main Street businesses during this Congress, including safeguarding their access to capital with the PROTECTED Act.

This bill I am championing alongside Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL) and Congressman French Hill (AR-02) would shield small business lenders from a burdensome regulatory mandate related to identity-based data collection.

Our entrepreneurs and the institutions that help finance their operations need to spend less time and fewer resources complying with this excessive rule and more time focusing on succeeding.

Small businesses are vital to Arkansas and our nation's future. When they flourish, we all reap the benefits, and I will continue advancing the priorities that make their success possible.



"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

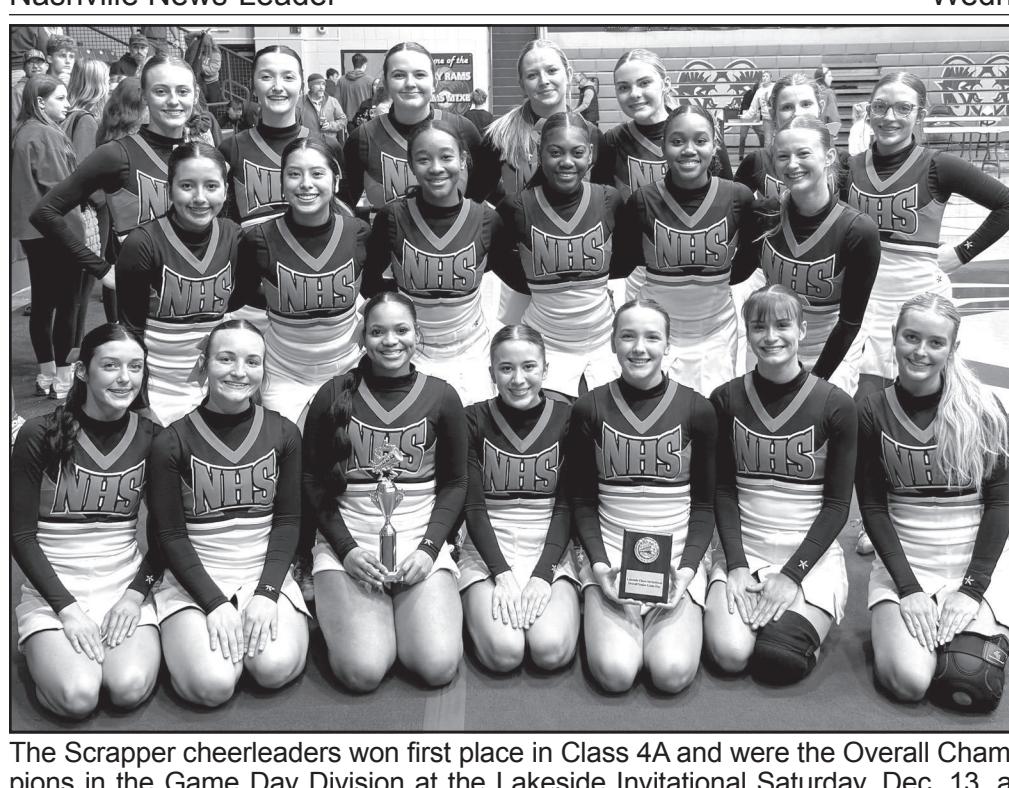
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Mail: Nashville News-Leader, Box 205, Nashville, AR 71852.

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.



The Scrapper cheerleaders won first place in Class 4A and were the Overall Champions in the Game Day Division at the Lakeside Invitational Saturday, Dec. 13, at Lakeside High School in Hot Springs. They will compete for the Class 4A state Game Day championship Saturday, Dec. 13, at Bank OZK Arena in Hot Springs. Erin Askew is the NHS cheer coach.

School

Continued

from page 1A

liminary rendering of a new surface from Hellas out of Austin, Texas.

Geo-Surfaces and Shaw Turf have also been contacted.

New installations include a pad underneath the turf that "makes it softer" in an effort to reduce injuries, Graham said.

New fields don't use black rubber under the turf, Graham said, lowering temperatures on the field by about 40 degrees during the summer and into the early part of the season.

"I'm excited about the cooler infill," Graham said.

The district will look at color schemes and other parts of the project as well before a decision is made.

The turf on the practice field at the Scrapper Dome was installed in 2003, Graham said. "Of course, there's no sun on it, but it's past due

to replace."

The stadium track is "breaking down," Graham said.

He discussed doing the stadium turf, practice turf and track separately if needed to control costs, but Hellas said the project would be "cheaper if all done at once."

The current stadium turf was paid for by donations. Graham said he hasn't contacted donors yet while waiting for information on the project's cost.

In other business, Graham said the district soon will begin planning the 2026-27 school calendar. "Do we stay with the hybrid calendar or go back to a traditional one? Are you happy with our calendar?"

Board members said they have not heard any negative comments about the current hybrid calendar.

In the academic update, Curriculum Coordinator Kim Slayton discussed college/career ready assessments for the state's public and open enrollment

schools.

At Nashville High School, 124 juniors will take the free ACT to be offered by the state in February.

None of the juniors chose to take the SAT or College Learning Test.

A group of juniors took the PSAT during the fall for practice only. "It doesn't qualify for the National Merit Test," she said. "They have to take the National Merit" later.

In the financial report, Graham said the district has an operating balance of about \$6.93 million.

The building fund has a balance of \$7 million.

Food services reported \$522,000.

The board accepted the resignation of elementary science teacher Valerie Erby. "We hate to see this resignation," Graham said.

Kaylynn Sharp was transferred from a half-day to Erby's position full-time.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026.

PAWS

Continued
from page 1A

Animal Control also has tame cats that make good pets, and feral, or "barn" cats that you really don't want to try to pet.

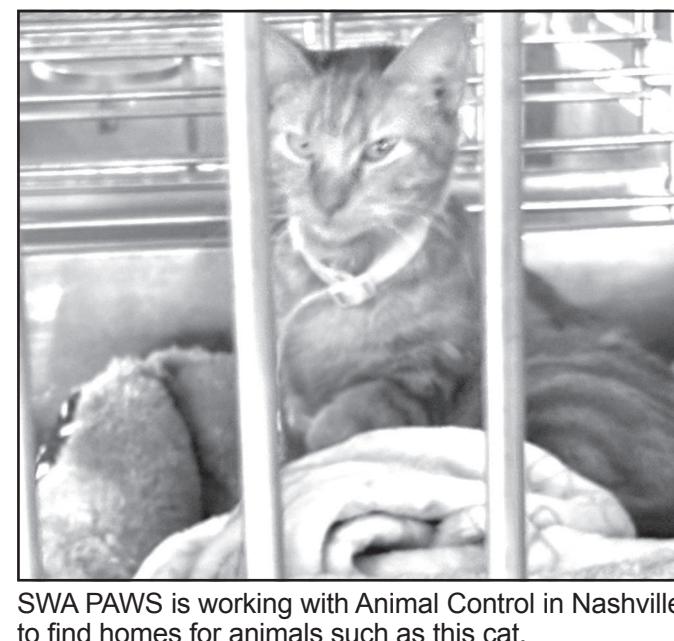
The barn cats are good mousers that basically are no trouble to own—they stay near the barn, out of your way, and take care of mice, rats and snakes—and if you have a farm or a ranch, you need a barn cat or two, whether you know it or not.

In addition to Animal Control, SWA Paws has also teamed up with an animal rescue group in Connecticut, Pack Leaders Rescue, to send unadopted puppies and dogs there. Pack Leaders can't accept them unless they've been separated from Animal Control for at least two weeks, to make sure they're healthy. For those two weeks these dogs need a foster family before they begin their journey to a forever home in Connecticut.

"We desperately need more people to foster," says Jenna. That's a sentiment echoed by Terry Young and Linda Stiver, also volunteers with SWA Paws.

After fostering, the dogs are taken to Little Rock and placed in a van owned by Pack Leaders and driven straight through to Connecticut.

They have to be spayed



SWA PAWS is working with Animal Control in Nashville to find homes for animals such as this cat.

or neutered before their trip north, and that's a major expense to SWA Paws. "Our finances are good right now, but we're spending over \$1,500 each month on spay and neuter fees," Jenna shares. That comes out to \$160-\$190 per animal.

And that is not just available for the puppies being sent to Connecticut. For those of you who want to adopt locally, SWA Paws can also help out with spay, neutering and vaccination costs.

That cost should go down in January. SWA Paws is beginning a monthly spay and neuter clinic for the animals in the shelter and also for your un-spayed or un-neutered dogs and cats.

"I would like to see people spay or neuter their pets," says Linda Stiver,

"And stop dumping their puppies." That alone would take care of much of the problem of overcrowded shelters and unwanted animals.

"And be responsible," adds Jody King, another volunteer.

And how can people give their time or money? Just contact Deb Young, SWA Paws president; or Gail Heornsberger, vice president, and they'll be happy to help.

SWA Paws board members and other volunteers meet monthly. But, Jenna Pope adds with a laugh, "We have a group text that's all day, every day."

These people are definitely passionate about giving dogs and cats a second chance at life.



Nashville Primary School singers perform at the Nashville School Board meeting Monday, Dec. 15. They sing Christmas songs for board members every year before the holiday break.



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

This dog is one of many awaiting adoption at Animal Control in Nashville. SWA PAWS is working to help the animals and to reduce the chances of euthanization. The organization plans to begin a monthly spay and neuter clinic for animals at the shelter. Pet owners may also take their un-spayed or un-neutered dogs and cats in for the service starting in January.

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Monday and Tuesday will be picked up on Monday 12/22/2025

Wednesday trash will be picked up on Tuesday 12/23/2025

Thursday trash will be picked up on Wednesday 12/24/2025

Please have all bagged trash out for pickup by 7:00 A.M. on the day of your scheduled pickup.

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Sports

Nashville News-Leader

AGFC Conservation Scholarships fuel future of wildlife, fisheries in The Natural State

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is accepting applications through Dec. 31 for conservation scholarships for the 2026-27 academic year.

Any Arkansas resident majoring in a conservation-related field and attending an Arkansas college or university is eligible to apply. Students must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants must also submit a current transcript, a curriculum vitae of their course of study, a 300-word minimum essay, and a short video about their background and career plans and how those relate to conservation.

Becky Bloomfield, program coordinator, said incoming freshmen and sophomores who receive a scholarship will receive \$2,500 per semester. This amount increases to \$5,000 per semester for incoming juniors and seniors.

"We still have some students who reapply under a former scholarship format that allowed more scholarships but less money; those students may reapply for that format at the reduced rate, but we are phasing it out as they complete their studies," Bloomfield said.

As a component of the scholarship, recipients are

required to complete at least 40 hours of volunteer work with the AGFC involving at least four AGFC divisions during the year they receive funding.

Bloomfield says the volunteer aspect is much more than a requirement for a scholarship; it's a valuable "foot in the door" at the AGFC.

"This is a golden opportunity for a student to build their network early," Bloomfield said.

"And they're not just meeting people where they're placed to volunteer. They'll be working on the ground in a variety of roles to make contacts, get on-the-ground training, work experience, all the good stuff. I wish I had access to a program like this when I was in college in Kentucky."

Visit www.agfc.com/conservationscholarships for more information and to apply.

The AGFC's Conservation Scholarship Program is funded by the sale of Conservation License Plates.

This program has been helping Arkansas students since 2001, the year after the first Conservation License Plate was issued. Since that time, more than \$9 million has been delivered to students pursuing careers related to conservation.

Apply now for Alligator Gar Trophy permit

Anglers interested in hooking into an epic-sized trophy fish can apply for a 2026 Alligator Gar Trophy Tag from now until the end of 2025.

Many Arkansas anglers travel all the way to the Gulf of Mexico each year in search of trophy fish like tarpon and sailfish. Most don't know they are passing up a similar opportunity right here in The Natural State.

While not truly a dinosaur, the alligator gar was alive during the Cretaceous Period (145 million to 66 million years ago), and can take decades to reach 6 feet long. They are the second-largest species of freshwater fish in North America, topped only by the white sturgeon.

Alligator gar can take years to reach the 36-inch mark, and females aren't able to reproduce until they are 14 years old. Their slow maturity rate, habitat loss due to dams and channeling of large rivers, and an ill-fitting moniker as a trash fish or predator of other game species have hindered populations to the point where extra caution is required for harvest.

Anyone may fish for al-

ligator gar on a catch-and-release basis, but an Alligator Gar Trophy Tag (AGT) is required to keep an alligator gar longer than 36 inches.

The application period is open Dec. 1-31, and the drawing will occur Jan. 2, 2026. Recipients will be notified of their selection by email with instructions on how to claim their tag.



TOURNAMENT CHAMPS-DIERKS JUNIOR OUTLAWS. The Outlaws rolled through De Queen (47-25) and Centerpoint (44-12) before edging out Nashville 30-28 for the tournament title. Team members include (back from left) Taytum Collum with Coach Collum, Parker Gadbury, Konnor Jones, Jace Herrington, Maxton Greene, Griffin Shanks, Jacoby Faulkner, Nash Hill, Coach Will Stewart; (front) Seth Bearden, Klay Helms, Henry Semmier, Madden Hill, Eli Brinkley and Braxton Bullard. Jacoby Faulkner was the tournament MVP.

Steve Martin Junior High Basketball Tournament @ Dierks

News-Leader Photos/NIKKI FIELDS



TOURNAMENT CHAMPS-DIERKS JUNIOR LADY OUTLAWS. The Lady Outlaws posted a 47-28 win over Centerpoint before beating De Queen 25-19 in the finals. Team members include (back from left) Coach Collum, Coach Simmons, Dallie Graham, Taigen Collins, Faith Castleman, Delannie Hawthorne, Scarlett Nuttall, Ali Shelton, Brielle Kirby, Coach Stewart; (front) manager Katelyn Moore, Aaliyah Chapman, Claire Fatheree, Kinley Pitchford and Amelia Kirby. Taigen Collins was the tournament's MVP.

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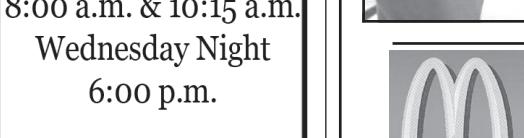
SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Ava Basiliere, Nashville



Ava, a Scrapperette junior, scored 9 points in Nashville's 73-42 win over Centerpoint Dec. 9 at Scrapper Arena. On defense, she helped Nashville hold Centerpoint to 3 points in the first quarter.



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Hoopsters go 4-0 in last week's games

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Ava Basiliere (left) drives to the basket in Nashville's 73-42 win over Centerpoint Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Scrapper Arena. The Scrapperettes led 34-3 after the first quarter and 61-19 at halftime in their only game of the week.



Demetrus Shelly sets up a shot against Kirby in the first game of the Nashville Bankers' Holiday Classic Dec. 8. The Scappers won 67-39.



Lucy Hagler hits a 3-point shot against Centerpoint Dec. 9.



Jailyn Staggers scores in the Scappers' win over Kirby Monday, Dec. 8.



Emma Chambers eyes the basket on her way to a score in the Scrapperettes' home win over Centerpoint.



Johnite Taylor goes up for a shot in the Scappers' 68-48 victory over Centerpoint Dec. 9.



Bo Bell (23) scores over the Kirby defender in the Bankers' Classic Dec. 8. The Scappers defeated El Dorado 74-68 in the Classic Dec. 11 to go 5-0 on the season.



Scrapperette defenders move in to force a turnover by Centerpoint in their 73-42 home victory Dec. 9. They include Ava Basiliere (44), Sofia McCauley (15), Emma Chambers (0) and Karstyn Scrivner (24). The Scrapperettes are 10-1 going into this week's road game at North Little Rock. They will host Bryant Friday night, Dec. 19, in their last game before Christmas.

Follow the News-Leader online at swarkansasnews.com

Coming up:

Scrapperettes @ North Little Rock Dec. 16, host Bryant Dec. 19
Scappers @ Fountain Lake Dec. 16, @ Star City Dec. 19

Merry Christmas!

As the year draws to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on the past months. The illnesses, trials, tribulations, heartaches, laughter, love, joy, good and bad times. Hearing news of the violence, illnesses and trials that other cities and communities are going through makes us realize how truly blessed we are to live in a community that has so much love, kindness and hometown feeling.

My prayer for the coming year is for us all to have good health, joy, love and prosperity for our Nashville Community and always be proud to call Nashville a great place to call home.

From Mayor Larry Dunaway and All City Employees, we wish a Merry Christmas and God's Blessings to each and everyone.

Merry Christmas
to our Neighbors, Friends,
Team Members and Families.



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Students in Nashville High School's Advanced Placement/Concurrent U.S. History class recently toured the Howard County Museums, with stops at the E.A. Williams Chapel, Old City Hall and Old Fire Station. The group includes (front) Jaime Harness, Arely Hernandez, Landree Green, Caylen Ellis, Hayley Soto, Luke Dowdy, Tyler Vaughn and Assistant Principal Eric Perez; (back) Lane Hester, Kaylee Santamaria, Helen Barragan, Dalton Manlove, Lariat Morris, Anna Kate McKinnon, Leslie Marrufo, Christy Maya and Howard County Historical Society President Freddie Horne.



Class takes a look at county's history

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Freddie Horne shows off the Howard County Historical Society's classic Yellow Cab to Dalton Manlove. The cab has been restored, and Horne drove it outside the Old Fire Station for the history students to gather for their group picture.



Caylen Ellis and Landree Green (front) and Tyler Vaughn, Lariat Morris and Luke Dowdy (back) take a look inside the Yellow Cab at the Old Fire Station.



Landree Green and Anna Kate McKinnon stand by the dinosaur prints at the E.A. Williams Chapel Museum on Second Street. The prints are part of a dinosaur exhibit developed by Hannah Sherman, a Nashville graduate now completing her master's degree at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Schaal native and former U.S. Surgeon General.



Tyler Vaughn tries his luck at the museum's pump organ as Freddie Horne offers suggestions on playing the 1855 instrument.



Freddie Horne (back, left) shows Kaylee Santamaria, Christy Maya, Hayley Soto, Leslie Marrufo and Jaime Harness around some of the exhibits at the county museum. They saw displays ranging from dinosaur footprints to Dillard's Department Store to famous Howard Countians, including Dr. Joycelyn Elders and Carl Boles.



Hayley Soto and Caylen Ellis look over the display of John Garrett Whiteside, who wrote the war declarations for WWI and WWII.

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FIND NEW ROADS

Nashville News-Leader

Howard County family takes state's top farm honor

Jared and Cathren Smith of Dierks have been named as the 2025 Arkansas Farm Family of the Year. The Arkansas Farm Family of the Year program has helped to recognize outstanding farm families throughout the state since 1947. The Smiths have been farming in Howard County for 17 years.

The Smith's farm spans 250 acres, with eight poultry houses and a cow-calf operation. They have two children, Cooper and Clara, who are active in the daily farm operations. Both children are active in FFA.

"Farming is at the heart of who we are, and we're proud of the role our work plays in sustaining our community and feeding families far beyond Arkansas," said Jared Smith. "Being named Farm Family of the Year is an honor we don't take lightly. We're thankful for this recognition and honored to showcase the strength of agriculture in our state."

Selection criteria for the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year includes efficiency of production, conservation of energy and resources, leadership in agricultural and community affairs, home and farm improvement and home and farm management. The Farm Family of the Year program's objective is to recognize farmers excelling at production, education and giving back to their communities.

As Arkansas Farm Family of the Year, the Smiths will compete with nine other state winners in the Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern

Farmer of the Year program in Moultrie, Ga.

Now in its 78th year, the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year is one of the longest-running farm family recognition programs in the United States. It begins with selection of the top farm family in each county. Then, eight district Farm Families of the Year are selected.

The Smiths are the West Central District Farm Family of the Year. Other district winners were:

- East Central District: the Mitchell family of Des Arc (Prairie County)
- North Central District: the Henley family of Evening Shade (Sharp County)
- Northeast District: the Dildine family of Blytheville (Mississippi County)
- Northwest District: the Spears family of Fayetteville (Washington County)
- Southeast District: the Hoover family of Monticello (Drew County)
- Southwest District: the Lockley family of Ashdown (Little River County)
- Western District: the Staton family of Magazine (Logan County)

AFB, the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas sponsor the program. The Arkansas Agriculture Department, Arkansas Department of Career Education, the Arkansas Press Association, the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, USDA's Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development provide program support.



2025 ARKANSAS FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR
Cooper, Cathren, Jared & Clara Smith of Dierks
(Photo Courtesy of Arkansas Farm Bureau)

Mule Shoe Parade this Thursday 5:30

The City of Mineral Springs Christmas Parade will be Thursday, Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Entry line-up will be at 5:00 at the Mineral Springs Fire Station.

Diamond Insurance
www.diamondstateinsurance.net

Diamond Insurance's Jon Wesche, Eva Linville, Autumn Sullivan, Phillip Turner, Micah Martin, PJ Cox and Christy Flaherty would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



We will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 25 for Christmas and will close at Noon Wednesday, Dec. 31 and be closed Thursday, Jan. 1 for New Years so our employees can enjoy time with their families.

Nashville (870) 845-2861 * Murfreesboro (870) 285-3191
License # 245424

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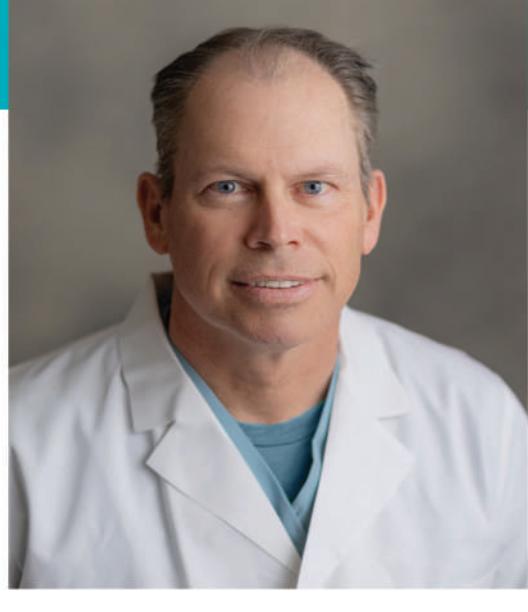


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Home & Heart

Celebrate Without Breaking The Bank: Holiday Spending Strategies

By Angie Freil
Howard County Family & Consumer Science
The holidays are a time of joy—but also a time when many families overspend. According to the National Retail Federation, Americans spend over \$1,000 on

gifts, food, and decorations during the holiday season. While giving is part of the season's spirit, overspending can lead to stress that lasts well into the new year. Research shows that financial stress is one of the leading causes of anxiety

for families, but with a little planning, you can keep your holidays festive without breaking the bank.

Start with a Spending Plan
Studies show that budgeting reduces financial stress and impulse buying.

List all holiday expenses: gifts, travel, food, decorations.

Set a realistic spending limit based on your income or savings.

Use apps or spreadsheets to track spending.

Avoid Credit Card Traps

Research from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau shows that **high-interest debt can take months or even years to pay off.**

Pay with cash or debit when possible.

If using credit, pay the balance in full by the due date.

Avoid "buy now, pay later" plans unless you understand the terms and are committed to managing them carefully.

Shop Smart

Evidence suggests that **comparison shopping and early purchasing reduce overspending.** Remember, a deal is not a deal if it was not in your budget.

Use price comparison tools.

Take advantage of sales—but only for planned purchases.

Beware of marketing tactics like "limited time offers."

Focus on Meaningful Gifts

Research on consumer behavior shows that **experiences and personal gifts often bring more happiness than expensive items.** These options often create lasting

memories without adding financial stress.

Homemade gifts or shared experiences.

Family activities instead of costly presents.

Plan for Next Year

Studies indicate that **saving throughout the year reduces holiday debt.** Many companies will take a predetermined amount out of each paycheck and place it in a separate account.

Start a holiday savings account in January.

Set aside a small amount each month.

Financial wellness during the holidays isn't about cutting out joy—it's about planning ahead and making informed choices. A little preparation now can mean a stress-free start to the new year. For more tips on financial management, visit consumerfinance.gov or contact us at the Extension office.

1 large onion
3 bell peppers, any color
1 pound chicken
2 tablespoons of cooking oil
1 lime
8 six-inch tortillas
½ cup sour cream (optional)
¼ bunch of cilantro

Instructions:
Preheat the oven to 400°F. Mix all the spices for the fajita seasoning in a small bowl and set aside.

Cut the onion and bell peppers into 1/4-inch-wide strips. Slice the chicken breast into thin strips. Add the chicken and vegetables to a large baking sheet or casserole dish.

Drizzle the cooking oil over the chicken and vegetables, then sprinkle the fajita seasoning mix over top. Use your hands to toss the ingredients until everything is well coated in oil and seasoning. Spread the chicken and vegetables out over the baking sheet evenly.

Bake the chicken and vegetables in the preheated oven for 35-40 minutes, stirring once halfway through. Squeeze the juice from half of the lime over top of the meat and vegetables after they come out of the oven.

To serve, scoop a small amount of chicken and vegetables into the center of each tortilla.

Top with a cilantro, sour cream, and an extra squeeze of lime.



COMPETES IN NATIONAL CONFERENCE. Howard County 4-H member Brody Cupples attended the 52nd National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 18-21. He qualified for this event in July after he placed at the Arkansas State O'Rama giving his egg presentation. While attending this year's conference, Cupples prepared his dish while being judged, then gave a demonstration speech that he was also scored on. During the presentation, Cupples gave facts about the poultry industry and how to cook with eggs. He placed eighth overall.

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.

New Life in Jesus Christ Church

913 South Main St. • Nashville, AR
Sunday Morning Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.
Pastors: Lankford & Mary Alice Moore

EBENEZER UMC

318 West Dodson • Nashville
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"
Scott Memorial (Paraloma Community)

First & Third Sundays Monthly

Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.

Pastor: Ellis Ray Floyd

Futrell Marine

Hwy. 371
Nashville

(870) 845-3122



First Baptist Church

415 N. Main • Nashville
Come Worship With Us!

Sunday school 9 a.m.
Morning worship 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
Evening worship 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Kevin Sartin

Come worship with us!

First Church of God

Community Oriented & Christ Centered

946 MLK, Hwy 355, Tollette, AR

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m. • Youth 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening service 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Charles Green, Pastor

Unity Baptist Church

380 Buck Range Road

Pastor:

Bro. David Cassady

Sunday Service

10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

WOODS & WOODS

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118 N. Main - Nashville - 845-4422

Jason Lenderman, CPA

Delight Methodist Church

E. Antioch Street • Delight

Morning Services - 11:00 a.m.

Prayer Meeting - Wed. 6:30 p.m.

Jim Henderson, Pastor

HOLLY CREEK

Missionary Baptist Church

705 Main St. • Dierks • 286-2010

Sun. School 10:00 a.m.

Sun. Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.

Sun. Evening 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday WÖW 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Bro. Brian Finn

Radio Program: 9:45 Sunday Morning • B99.5 FM

Visit us at: www.hollycreekmbc.net

First Christian Church

500 N. Main • Nashville

(Corner of Main & Bishop)

845-3241

Sunday Bible School - 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Minister: Jim Pinson

MINERAL SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST

318 Bridgeman Dr. • Mineral Springs

870-287-5652

Sunday Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

1403 W. Sunset St. • Nashville
870-845-3030
nashvillefumc.org
Pastor: Pam Estes
Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:50 a.m.
Facebook Live or listen to 98.7 FM

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at 870-845-0600

MINERAL SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST

318 Bridgeman Dr. • Mineral Springs

870-287-5652

Sunday Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.

Nashville Primary School Student Christmas Wishes

Christmas wishes are in letters to Santa from students at Nashville Primary School.

Angela Dodd's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa, I want:

- a Barbie Dream House with a slide, some Barbie dolls, a new car for my Barbies, a baby doll, and some new outfits for my baby doll. Love, Ryleigh Benson.

- a toy leopard, toy cheetah, toy horse, fox, and a dragon toy. Love, Zyaire Burton.

- a police car, a robot, a PS5 game, a remote-control race car, and a four-wheeler. Love, Kaycione Carter

- a Barbie Dream house, a playroom, some Barbie's, a baby doll, and a baby stroller and bed. Love, Lonnacia Coulter.

- a Barbie Dream House, some Barbie dolls, a new neck pillow, a night light, and a paint board. Love, Emily Dean.

- a VR set, some new ears like Mrs. Dodd said because we don't listen very well, a four-wheeler with the throttle like a dirt bike, a remote-control truck, and a camera. Love, Axel Fortenberry.

- some nails, makeup, a vanity, a playhouse, and some coloring books and colors. Love, Emma Hernandez.

- a remote-control car, a Nike suit, some Legos, some Nike shoes, and a remote-control monster truck. Love, Leo Hernandez.

- a real dog, a PS5, a toy airplane, a battery power car that I can ride in, and a drone. Love, Brantley Inlow.

- a toy vacuum, some cleaning stuff for my room, a blue Stanley, a new toy, and some race cars. Love, Kamryn Jones.

- a stuffed baby lion, a baby doll, a toy car, a squishy, and a toy car. Love, Heaven King.

- some headphones, a real dog and cat, some new Barbie's, and a Barbie Dream House.

Love, Indi Newton.

- a remote-control car, some trains, Min Craft Dune characters, MineCraft toys, and MineCraft monsters. Love, Michael Sullivan.

- a doll, a new tablet, a dress, an iPhone, and a Grinch shirt. Love, Zury Toribio.

- some MineCraft micro-bots, some magnetic blocks, some Magnetic tiles, and some dinosaurs: a T-Rex, and some triceratops. Love, Forrest Tucker.

- I would like the best worker at Weyerhaeuser (a car set), a Nex Play, a Nintendo Switch, an electronic 4 wheeler with a remote control, and a new pair of ears so that I can listen to Mrs. Dodd, and my Mom and Dad better. Love, Bryant Turner.

- a banana stuffie, an electric pink car with a battery, a red robot, a unicorn that is red, and a red motorcycle for Fletcher. Love, Lilly Wallace.

Shannon White's Kindergarten Class

- Slime, Play Doh and a stuffed animal kitty. Love, Elisabet Alvarado.

- a robot dog and hunting stuff. Love, Thomas B Britt.

- make up, Plushies and a sleeping mask. Love Harley Britton.

- a gun, hunting stuff, a 4-wheeler and a motorcycle. Love, Parker Chesshir.

- a My Life doll, a sleeping mask and a Gabby doll house. Love, Mallory Cody.

- a toy car. Love, Jorge Fernandez.

- a stuffy toy, Zoe toys and a stuffed dolphin. Love, Madison Harris.

- a talking Sonic toy and a monster truck with weapons. Love, Nicholas Harris.

- Slime, Squishy toys, a plushy Sonic and a dinosaur. Love, Brantly.

- a race car and a Jack in the Box. Love, Kaylee Maroon.

- Squishy toys, Christmas clothes and a race car. Love, Yanuel Martinez.

- a Jack in the Box, a Stanley cup and a ring. Love, Charlesea Myrick.

- a sleeping mask, Squishy toys, some make up, socks and a cat. Love, Elianna Ornelas.

- a dinosaur with a long tail, a Plushy and a dinosaur cup. Love, Axel Pacheco.

- a new lunchbox, a phone and stuffed animals. Love, Essie.

- a remote-control car, a real pony, a real gun, and a sleeping mask. Love, Janson Reed.



News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

HOLIDAY TRADITION. The Howard County Extension Homemakers held their annual bake sale last week to raise funds for work at the EH House, located behind the courthouse across the street. EH members on hand for the morning sale included (from left) Dana Newberg, Jean Ince, Edith Deloney, Joy Barr, Sherri Finney and Corliss Lewis.

Jennifer Pinkerton's Kindergarten Class

- a basketball, a plushie animal, and some Play-Doh. - Najih Ali.

- a Minecraft hoverboard, a MineCraft toy, and a MineCraft blanket. - Hayden Bennett.

- a tractor, an excavator, and a monster truck bicycle. - Hudson Bennett.

- a Gabby doll house, some Gabby dolls, and a Barbie doll house. - Laney Chandler.

- a basketball, some books, and a toy cat. - A'Lidiyah Coulter.

- an American Girl doll, some Barbies, and a stuffed bunny. - Jordyn Gammage.

- some Barbie dolls, a toy cow that can do yoga, and a toy cat. - Lattie Goodwin.

- a bike, some dinosaur toys, and a coat. - Bennett Harris.

- Barbie dolls, some books, and some Play-Doh. - Eva Hernandez.

- a kitty cat toy, a tablet, a Christmas tree candy that has chocolate on one side and a toy on the other. - Trinity Hupp.

- a basketball goal, a big football, and camo mud boots. I wear a size 13. - Bridger Howard.

- a toy truck that I can drive, a tablet, and a phone. - Sy'Mir Johnson.

- an iPad 17, a PS5 and a Nintendo Switch. - Wade Reed.

- dinosaurs, a four-wheeler, and a walker that is a huge Star Wars robot. - JT Serrano.

- a computer, a PlayStation, and hunting clothes. - Becklyn Wright.

- a teddy bear twist, a make-up set, and something that clips beads in your hair. It can also do braids and glitter. - Bailey York.

- an iPhone, Zoey doll, and a soldier doll. Amelia

- Rumi doll, Barbie, and makeup set. A'ladyn

- a drum set, bike, and a skateboard or new skates. Easton

- a motorcycle, Santa toy, and a Paw Patrol toy. Armonie.

- Jinu doll, bow and arrow, and a nerf gun. Ezra

- race car track, Hot Wheel cars, and a lot of candy. Kyler

- an iPhone, Zoey doll, and a soldier doll. Amelia

- Rumi doll, Barbie, and makeup set. A'ladyn

- a drum set, bike, and a skateboard or new skates. Easton

- a motorcycle, Santa toy, and a Paw Patrol toy. Armonie.

wheeler, a remote controlled monster truck, a puppy.

- Jaylynn Murphy -- a squishmallow, pretend slime, a duck, and a LOL doll.

- Alanni Navarrete -- a baby doll and some things to play school with my sister.

- Braelyn Osborn -- a go kart, a Nintendo, and a Christmas cup.

- Kenneth Rios -- a monster truck, and a toy lawnmower.

- Isabella Roberts -- a squishmallow, a 3D pen, a stuffed panda bear, a pretend goat.

- Owen Sharp -- a bowl for my collectibles, and a toy car from the demolition derby.

- Murphy Smith -- a real motorcycle, a toy gun, a 4 wheeler, my own real TV, and to give God something.

Ridge Whisenhunt -- a PS5.



See More
Wishes Next Page

Merry Christmas
May the good times and treasures of the present become the golden memories of tomorrow. Wishing you lots of love, joy and happiness.

Ferguson Health Care
114 S. Main St. • Nashville (870) 845-0033

Season's Greetings

We'd like to thank all our customers and friends this holiday season for making this a great year.

Smith Tax Service
200 S. Main • Nashville • 870-845-5075

Celebrate The Season!

At this festive time of year, we'd like to extend our warmest wishes to all our friends for the very merriest season ever.

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

One thing is clear... we really appreciate your goodwill & trust.

Happy Holidays Feliz Navidad!

Joe F. Chaney Jr.
Optometric Physician
119 W. College • Nashville • 870-845-2020

In This Season Of Joy...

It is with deepest gratitude that we extend our holiday greetings to our loyal customers, neighbors, associates and friends. Knowing people like you makes doing business a genuine joy for us all year long.

Happy Holidays!

Lisa Chandler Insurance
705 S. Main • Nashville • 870-845-5930
Insurance #1264226

Tis the season to celebrate good friends & neighbors like you. Your trust means everything to us.

Thanks!

Nashville Rural Public Water Authority

1303 Mine St. • Nashville • 870-845-5442

WISHING YOU A MEMORABLE HOLIDAY SEASON

We know we'll never forget the goodwill and support you've shown us. Many thanks for seeing us this year.

NASHVILLE Vision Center
708 S. Main
Nashville • 870-845-5211

God bless your home

One of the real joys this holiday season is to pause and take the opportunity to say **thank you** and wish you the very best this holiday season.

Nashville Family Dentistry
700 N. Main #1 • Nashville • 870-845-1263

In This Season Of Joy...

It is with deepest gratitude that we extend our holiday greetings to our loyal customers, neighbors, associates and friends. Knowing people like you makes doing business a genuine joy for us all year long.

Happy Holidays!

Lisa Chandler Insurance
705 S. Main • Nashville • 870-845-5930
Insurance #1264226

Tis the season to celebrate good friends & neighbors like you. Your trust means everything to us.

Thanks!

Nashville Rural Public Water Authority

1303 Mine St. • Nashville • 870-845-5442



LOVED THE PANCAKES. Shelby Moore of Nashville brought brother and sister Barrett, 1, and Noah, 2, in matching Christmas pajamas to the Junior Auxiliary's annual Breakfast with Santa, Saturday.



HE'S BEEN A GOOD BOY. Fletcher Jones, 4, was visiting from North Carolina with relatives here when he got to tell Santa he had been good during Saturday's Breakfast with Santa. News-Leader photos/LOUIE GRAVES



More Christmas Wishes Nashville Primary School

Gonzalez
- baby doll and robot toy that talks. Love, Rosalie Hill

- a kitchen set, a dollhouse, and a Barbie that has a swimsuit. Love, Michaela Jones

- ten Star Wars Lego sets, 2 VR's (one for me and one for my brother), and a box of Legos. Love, Jaden Land

- toy ninja backpack with swords and daggers and Nintendo Switch. Love, Vincent Lloyd

- train, ninja, Christmas tree and presents, and a big robot. Love, Haiden Morris

- a robot that talks, makeup, toy Rudolph, a toy Santa, a flower pillow and smiley face pillow, and a mirror that has a face on it that has a doll that pops up. Love, Lyndyn Ortiz

- a toy ninja that you can dress him up, Sonic the Hedgehog toys, a Lego box, GTA robot, a toy truck that opens its doors with a man to go with it and a four-wheeler and a trailer to go with it. Love, Bentlee Roberts

- toy Lamborghini. Love, Fletcher Westfall

- a box of raisins, the game Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza, and a Grinch stuffie. Love, Lindsey Young

- a unicorn that has a horn on it that is tall as me. Love, Ulani Packnett

Mrs. Goodwin's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,

Please bring me a....

- shark toys and spiderman toys. Love, Armani Austin

- a SUV for kids, a big school, a toy robot that has a dress, a shirt, and a computer. Love, Anari Beth

- Legos, a big stuffed animal snowman, a toy motorcycle, a little toy car, a mini toy dirt bike, and a little

- lizard that can stick on walls. Love, Landynn Bracken

- Stitch roller skates and a big Stitch ball. Love, Lake-lynn Brown

- a new ninja megazord, a power ranger ninja, and the power rangers figures. Love, Lincoln Davis

- toys, a teddy bear, a doll, rainbow toys, and Christmas tree toys. Love, Ely

**There Are
MORE
CHRISTMAS
WISHES
Next Page**

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phone: 870-845-5256
fax: 870-845-5899
vmartinlaw@gmail.com

WOODS & WOODS
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, LTD
118 N. Main St.
Nashville
870-845-4422

Jason Lenderman, CPA

Merry Christmas

We'd like to thank all our customers and friends this holiday season for making this a great year.

RAY'S REALTY
724 S. Main
Nashville
870-845-2900

May your holidays be SHINY and BRIGHT!

Wishing you a warm and safe holiday with lots of joy and happiness. Thank you for your business this year.

Merry Christmas

YORK GARY
WE GO THE EXTRA MILE
1420 W. Leslie
Nashville
870-845-1536
yorkgaryauto.com

First State Bank

Accounts That Make Sense.
Open Simply Free Checking for every convenience, local service, and a FREE GIFT - all for zero monthly fees!

422 Issac Perkins Blvd
Nashville
(870) 451-9994

507 Front St.
Dierks
(870) 286-2090

Member FDIC

Merry Christmas!

We'd like to thank all our customers and friends this holiday season for making this a great year.

Southern Glass & Mirror
In the Curve Nashville • 870-845-5353 or 870-845-2121

4 States Overhead Door
Nashville • 870-845-1623



*Faith makes all things possible,
Hope makes all things work,
Love makes all things beautiful,
May you have all the three
for this Christmas*

Howard Memorial Hospital
130 Medical Circle • Nashville • 870-845-4400

To Our Brightest Stars... Our Customers!

Thanks for playing a supporting role in our success this past year. With best wishes to all for a happy and healthy holiday season!

McDonald's
1512 S. 4th St. • Nashville

More Wishes from Nashville Primary School

Emily Venable's 1st Grade Class

- Brahm Chambers- a toy fridge, a toy oven, & new fishing stuff
- Noah Gannous- dinosaur cereal, a robo-dragon, & dinosaur toys
- Kasen Green- a marble track, an elf, & a robot dinosaur
- Aubree Hopkins- a puppy, a bike, slime, & new books
- Kiya Hopkins- a monster truck, a Christmas tree, & a new phone
- Harley Huffman- Barbies, fake nails, makeup, & headbands
- Jamison- a tablet, headphones, & new earrings
- Jordan- Legos, a dino toy, a mask, & a new shirt
- Alexander Moldanado- a lambo toy, D-Rex toy, & a dino lamp

- Beckett Mason- a nerf gun, a guitar, a basketball, & playdoh
- Carter Michaud- Fortnite toys, Messi stuff, & Tyreek Hill stuff
- Ella Morrow- my own elf, Barbies, art supplies, & nail polish
- Tommy Payton- an RC car, a 4-wheeler, & a dirt bike
- Dixie Pinegar- makeup, new clothes and shoes, & LOL dolls
- Julianne Stanley- Barbies, babydolls, makeup, & a notebook
- Jorja Trotter-Haynes- a guitar, a xylophone, a piano, & Barbies

- Ava Witherspoon- a new hoverboard, Ken dolls, & skincare stuff.
- Ms. Brown's 1st Grade Class
- Dear Santa, this year, I would like...
- Zariunna Alexander- a hoverboard and a baby doll
- Brett Barfield- a fort and nerf bullets
- Mason Barnes- a toy dog and a key chain
- Ezra Camacho- a robot toy, a dinosaur, and a monster truck
- Iva Chambers- a rainbow slinky and a rainbow robot
- Della Crump- slime, art supplies, and LOL dolls
- Kyler Dixon- a PS5, a bean bag chair, and a gaming chair
- Castiel Erby- a plushie with a box on the fox's head
- Liam Garcia- hot wheels, Christmas mugs, and toys for my brother
- Brandon Hill- remote control cyber truck, markers, Nike shoes, and a drawing set

Haizleigh Hill- a robot dog, an air hockey table, a Christmas wish for my mom to get a lot of money

Eden Johnson- a barbie doll house and some barbies

Julia Jones- a bean bag chair

Arabella Lima- Night light of Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Barbie Christmas tree, a toy nutcracker

Levi Lingo- a dirt bike and a toy teddy bear

Ada Morrow- slime, makeup, and a drawing kit

Alejandra Scroggins- a big Hello Kitty plushie, a painting board, and paint

Taylin Smith- a tent with a curtain, electric scooter, and a hoverboard

Mrs. Bailey's 1st Grade Class

Dear Santa,

This year I have been

very good. I would like...

Sienna Adams- a scooter, a Labubu, and a Lafufu

Jameson Goolsby- 100 robucks and a blade set

Darion Gray- a fish tank, a fish, and some robucks

Ethan Haney- a diamond chain, a 4-wheeler, and a hamster

Everleigh Hilliard- a drone, a Labubu, and a giant Hello Kitty

Gatlin Kinkade- an electric scooter and a toy tractor with a bucket

Arianna Martinez- a guinea pig, a cute dog, and a Labubu

Mattie Miller- a mermaid tail, a Gabby doll house, and a K-pop doll

Jose Morales- a Labubu, some money, an Xbox

Lloyd Moultrie- a robot, a drone, and a Lafufu

Brittney Murphy- a makeup stand, some make-up, and a Labubu

Pepper Parker- an Iphone, a Labubu and a Lafufu

Giovanni Perez- shoes, a drone, and a scooter

Josie Reed- a robot, another donkey to ride, and a drone

Ensley Rosenbaum- some crafts and an Ipad

Adriel Schooley- a 4 wheeler, a dirt bike, and a scooter

Jolee Stanley- a 4-wheeler, a drone, and a basketball

Avery Sunderman- a tablet, some airpods, and a cat

Kamrie Wakefield- a hoverboard, some clay, and a K-pop doll

Christopher Waller- an Xbox, a 4-wheeler, and a scooter

Landen Nevarez- A pup-

Mrs. Young's 1st Grade Class

Dear Santa,

This year I have been

nice. I am wishing for...

Adilynn Ackley- Music box, Stitch headphones, bows

Ben Adams- Demogorgon toy, Venom toy, Stitch plushy

Declan Davis- V bucks, red Nikes, Nintendo 2

Julio De La Rosa- 10,000 Robux, Pokemon, PS5

Jazmin Garcia- new chips, Takis, new shoes, new pants

Chloe Grissom- lipstick, Robux, a new iPhone

Karla Hernandez- doll, toy, unicorn stuffy

Jenny Markcum- red doll, blue dress, teddy bear

Cristal Marrufo- hearts, Big Bluey, big Stitch

Bransen McFadden- Cat nap, dog day, Barbie bear hug

Emir Nava- candy, a couch, milk

Adrian Pioquinto- VR headset, PS5, shoes

Melanie Pioquinto- PS5, Nike shoes, Nintendo switch

Carter Singleton- BB gun, Pokemon, small motorcycle

Jamie Singleton- A big Bluey, a big Bingo, a Cat in the Hat

R.S.- A backpack on an RC car, a house for my Barbies, keychains

Liam Soto- PS5, VR Headset, watch

Mariyah Swift- candy and chips, clothes and toys, shoes

Mrs. Puryear's Class For Christmas this year,

I would like...

Adrian Bustamante- toys

Bailey Chesshir- Gabbie's dollhouse, good grades, and a hunting gun

Kambrie Davis- Bubble skincare, a vanity, and Jasmine- Vanilla handcream

Alondra Espino- A kitten, clothes, and clothes for my little sister

Veronica Garcia- A Barbie, Legos, and a babydoll

Isaac Gracida- A pack of markers, a notebook, and pencils

Kingston Gulley- Legoland, money, and motorcycle

Adilynn Hernandez- Finger Monkey, fake kitchen, and a dog stuffed animal

Ezequiel Hernandez-

Amelia Herndon- American Doll stuff, snow, and to go ice skating

Bernardino Marrufo- A cat, a bike, and a phone

Melissa Najera- A cat, a dog, and a Barbie

Landen Nevarez- A pup-



News-Leader photo/LOUIE GRAVES

WITH HER NIECE. Santana Swift brought her niece, Mia Love, age 2, to the Junior Auxiliary's Breakfast with Santa, Saturday morning.

py, a kitten, and a motorcycle

Hadley Pack- A watch, fingernails with hearts, and a kid's kitty

Adaline Reeves- Hello Kitty Squishmellow, Stitch nails, and a phone

Rex Reeves- PS5, a Monster Truck, and a racecar

Cesar Sanchez- A kitty cat, a puppy, and a bike

Stewie Stroud- A monster truck, a mystery toy, and Ryan toys

Preston Wakefield- Whoppers, a new game, and more good grades this school year

Ellie Witherspoon- American Girl Doll, a new puppy, and arts and crafts

Mrs. Westfall's Class For Christmas I would like...

Angel Bustamante- a new PS5 controller, a computer, and Pokemon Cards

Layla Capetillo- Barbie Dolls, Slime, and a toy car

Xavier Christopher- toys, candy, and a laptop

Everylynn Childs- a phone, a bike, and lots of candy

Kadence Deloney- LOL Dolls, a baby cat, and a baby puppy

Tay'Sean Germany- a toy car, a side by side, another basketball

Avery Lowrey- Iphone 13, a mini pony, and a kitten

Easton Marshall- Steve plushie from Minecraft, PS5,

Mrs. Worthington's 1st Grade Class For Christmas I would like...

Kallie Beene- a brand new bike

Carter Cobb- an xbox, new legos, candy corn, toy dog robot, and sourpatch kids candy

Charlee Cupples- a new

squishy baby doll and toy food for her

Rylee Galente- Polly the magic bird, a toy panda, and an electric scooter

Cartier Gaston- a new dinosaur toy, toy airplane, and a new toy train

Clarah Hopson- a new bike, tablet, and a toy kitchen

Keelan Johnson- perfume set, a lotion set, diary, and a toy locker

Owen Lovelis- new baseball stuff

Daxen McElyea- a dirt bike, tackle box, nerf guns, and a fishing pole

Caroline Moore- a sand box, toy playhouse, and a polly the magic bird

Anthony Maldonado- a toy car, a toy house, and a baby kitten

Harper Pham- an elf on the shelf, sewing machine, and a new bike

Isaiah Smith- a new bike, four wheeler, and a new sled

Andres Wesson- a BB gun, dirt bike, and an electric scooter

Ashton Williamson- ninjago lego set, power ranger costume, minecraft costume, and a virtual reality set

Gunner Walters- electric dirt bike, new lego set, and a new guitar

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Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, Monday - Friday, closed on Wednesday afternoons.

For questions, you may call the Housing Authority Office at (870) 845-1080.

Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville

is offering personalized ornaments to families who have lost loved ones during this past year.

Stop by this Christmas season, and take an ornament from our Remembrance Tree, which is located in our foyer.

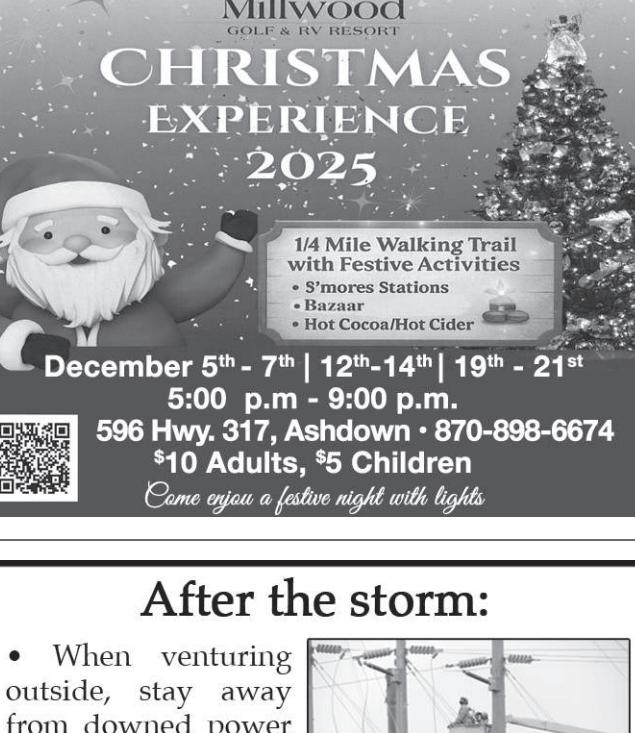
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• Photo booth

• Santa's Sleigh Rides

• Santa's Visit</



STATE TROOPER MICAH BROWN is pictured here with nearly 48 pounds of marijuana he seized during a 2024 Sevier County traffic stop. Brown was recently named Howard County's Officer of the Year.

AG honors state's law enforcement Officers of Year

ASP Trooper Micah Brown earns Howard County honor

Attorney General Tim Griffin honored law enforcement officers from across Arkansas at the 2025 Officer of the Year Awards luncheon. At the conclusion of the event, Griffin issued the following statement:

"The men and women we honored today are true heroes, and it is my distinct honor to recognize them for their outstanding service to their communities. These officers have distinguished themselves in the past year for their excellence and dedication. But this event isn't just a celebration of their accomplishments, it's also a celebration of all law enforcement officers and a way for us to say thank you to those who keep us safe each and every day."

"The 2025 state Officer of the Year is Arkansas State Police Trooper Hunter Grubbs. Trooper Grubbs has distinguished himself in the past year, securing 67 felony arrests, 94 misdemeanor arrests, 115 warrants served, nine DWI arrests, six vehicle pursuits, assistance to 211 stalled motorists, 60 vehicle accident investigations, recovery of two stolen vehicles, and 111 hours assisting other agencies. Trooper Grubbs was described by his superiors as exemplifying 'the highest ideals of

the Arkansas State Police—courage, professionalism, and service.'

"I congratulate all those honored today and the countless others who put their lives on the line so that Arkansans can live in peace and safety."

Officer of the Year awards were given to officers from each of the state's counties, five regional winners, one recipient of the Dwayne Yarbrough Distinguished Service Award, one valor tribute (for an officer who died in the line of duty), and one statewide Officer of the Year. This year's honorees are:

Statewide Officer of the Year
Trooper Hunter Grubbs, Arkansas State Police

Northeast Region: Corporal Chris Barnett, Corporal Dustin Carpenter, Corporal Marcus Simpson, Arkansas State Police

Southeast Region: Officer Kevin Robbins, Star City Police Department

Southwest Region: Trooper Hunter Grubbs, Arkansas State Police

Central Region: Special Agent Dustin Thompson, Arkansas State Police

Northwest Region: Corporal Dylan Gresham, Officer Drew Walker, Eureka Springs Police Department

Valor Tribute: Sergeant Fredrick T. Coleman Sr., Arkansas Department of Corrections

Dwayne Yarbrough Distinguished Service Award: School Resource Officer Ray Borel (retired), Lakeside School District and Hot Springs Police Department

Area County Officers of the Year:
Clark County: Trooper Sean Weston, Arkansas State Police

Hempstead County: Corporal Charlie Featherston, Hope Police Department

Howard County: Trooper Micah Brown, Arkansas State Police

Little River County: Chief Boyd Kennemore, Ashdown Police Department

Logan County: Trooper First Class Skyler McElroy, Arkansas State Police

Montgomery County: Deputy Michael Wojcielewicz, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Nevada County: Corporal Christina Bussey, Arkansas State Police

Pike County: Special Agent Christopher Harper, Arkansas State Police

Sevier County: Chief Scott Simmons, De Queen Police Department

South Pike County School Board hears update about sports complex, teacher growth scores

At the recent South Pike County School Board meeting on Thursday, Dec. 11, Superintendent Tanya Wilcher told board members that that Murfreesboro Jim O'Neal and the city council voiced concerns about the unplatte road running next to the new fields and it's current condition.

"Once all construction is completed [at the ballfields] we will make sure the damage caused by our construction is fixed and taken care of.

"The construction of the batting cages have started," Wilcher said.

In her report to the board

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teachers, with the data to be used to better understand a teacher's impact on student learning as well as to identify teachers with three-year growth scores in the top quartile for ELA and Math, which is helpful when meeting student assignment requirements.

All mathematics teachers' growth scores

from last year and their 3 year weighted averages are above 80 -- meaning our students are growing more than expected.

English and Language Arts (ELA) is at approximately 80 overall.

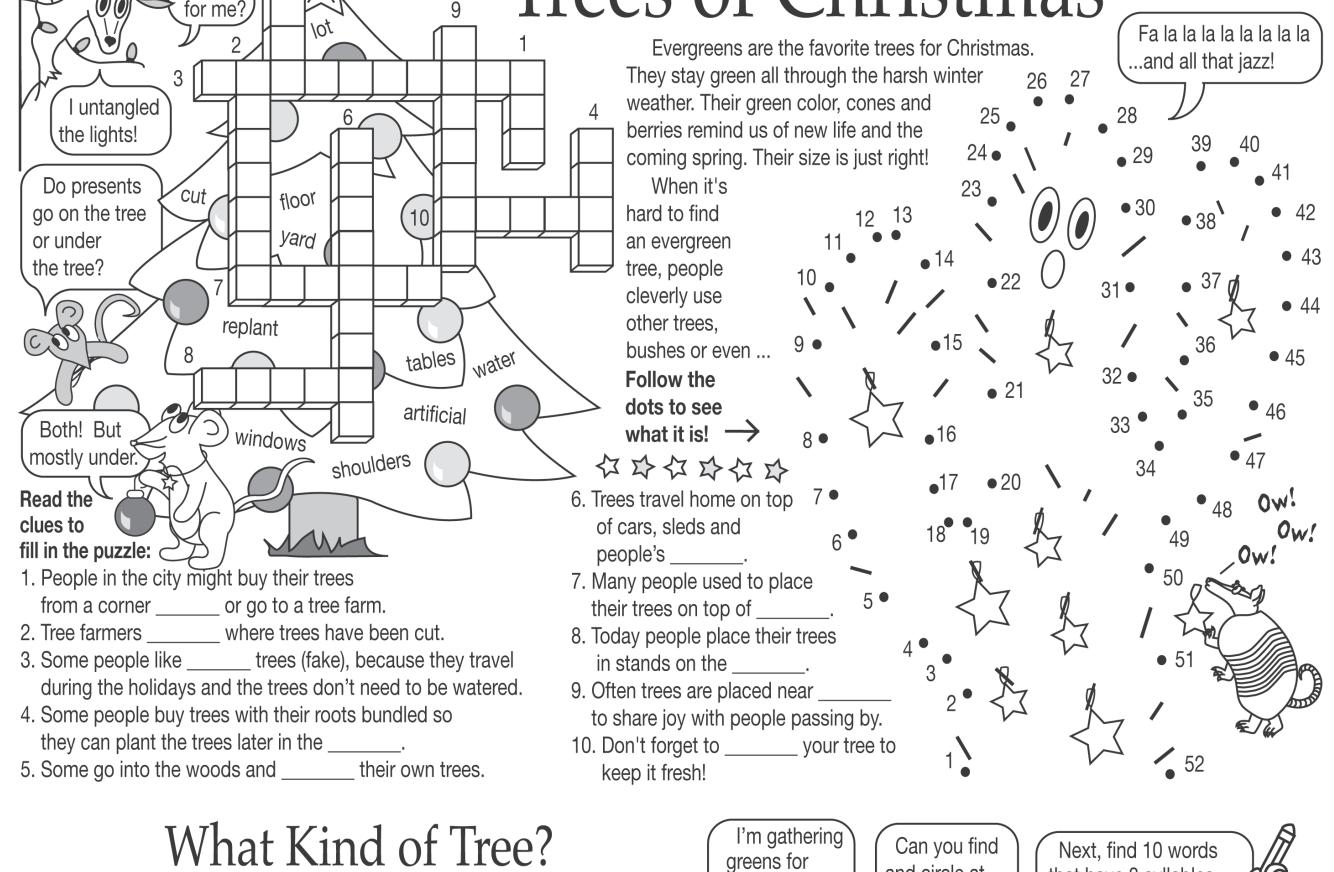
The school is employing five high-impact tutors in high school on campus during second period and work-

ing with lower performing students. ELA tutors include Debbie Holley, Beckal Hawkins and Arlene Fugitt. Math tutors are Buddy Ray and Charlotte Binkley.

The Murfreesboro Elementary School (MES) Academic Report showed teacher growth scores, with Principal James Riley recognizing instructor Markie

Dixon with the highest ELA growth scores and the highest three-year average scores. Carle Gathiff had the highest three-year average scores in math.

He also highlighted first year MES instructor Amanda Buck, who had terrific growth scores of over 90% the past two years in her previous district.



Trees of Christmas

Evergreens are the favorite trees for Christmas.

They stay green all through the harsh winter weather. Their green color, cones and berries remind us of new life and the coming spring. Their size is just right!

When it's hard to find an evergreen tree, people cleverly use other trees, bushes or even ...

Follow the dots to see what it is! →

6. Trees travel home on top of cars, sleds and people's _____. 7. Many people used to place their trees on top of _____. 8. Today people place their trees in stands on the _____. 9. Often trees are placed near _____. 10. Don't forget to _____. your tree to keep it fresh!

Fa la la la la la la la ...and all that jazz!

...palms, and fake plastic trees too!

Kids: color stuff in!

26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52

ow! ow!

40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

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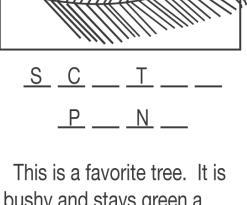
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ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

ow! 40! 41! 42! 43! 44! 45! 46! 47! 48! 49! 50! 51! 52!

What Kind of Tree?

During the winter holidays, in our country's capital, Washington, D.C., a national Christmas tree is lighted to show hopes of joy and peace for the world. There are many kinds of evergreens from which to choose a tree. We look at the length and softness of the needles, and the shape and height of the tree. Which are your favorite needles? Read the clues to fill in the name of these greens:



1 S. C. T. —

P. N. —



2 C. L. D. O. —

B. E. S. P. R. —

This is a favorite tree. It is bushy and stays green a long time after it is cut. It has blue-green needles about 1 1/2 to 3 inches long.

Ouch! These short, sharp, thick needles hurt my hands. But their beautiful silver-blue to blue-green colors make this a pretty tree.

I'm gathering greens for decorating!

Can you find and circle at least 10 words that have a long "e" sound as in the word tree?

3 D. O. U. L. S. —

F. R. —

This tree has short dark-green to yellowish-green needles. They bend easily to the touch. This is easy to decorate and smells so good, too!

This is one of the favorite decorations of the season.

Unscramble the letters to spell it out on the blanks.

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Nashville drug defendant sentenced to 60+ years for combined cases

Defendant Edward Walker, 66, of Nashville, got both of his wishes.

First, he held out for a jury trial, which he got on Thursday, Dec. 11.

Then, on the day before the trial, he asked that both of his felony cases be combined. Which he got.

The jury trial lasted one afternoon. After jurors were chosen in the morning, Walker's trial on a multitude of charges

in two cases for delivery of methamphetamine, possession of meth, and for maintaining a drug premises began.

By 5:28 p.m. the jury retired to reach a verdict.

By 5:48 p.m. the verdict was in: guilty on three counts of delivery, guilty on the charge of maintaining a drug premises, or place where controlled substance offenses frequently occurred, and guilty of possession of meth.

Then, the jurors needed 37 minutes to arrive at a sen-

tence: virtually a life sentence, by combining three sentences of 20 years each for delivery; 30 years on the drug premises charge; 60 years on one charge of intent to deliver; and 60 years plus one year on another delivery charge. The lesser sentences are to run concurrently, so Walker's sentence is effectively 60 years plus one year in the Arkansas Department of Correction.

On the bench for the trial was Judge Bryan Chessir.

Group of Pike County inmates charged for marijuana possession, use in jail

A group of nine Pike County inmates is facing felony charges after marijuana was alleged smuggled into and smoked in the jail following a day of trash detail.

The inmates charged include: Jakob Reppo, 38, of Glenwood; Brandon Davis, 30, of Little Rock; Austin Swanger, 28, of Glenwood; Dutch Forga, 41, of Glenwood; Glen McCurdy, 45, of Caddo Gap; Kevin Mitchell, 37, of Arkadelphia; Michael Griffith, 38, of Caddo Gap; Montana Curry, 23, of Mount Ida; and Nathan Peek, 46, of Kirby.

All nine are charged with furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles-delivering a prohibited article.

All of the inmates made court appearances Monday where they each pleaded innocent and April court dates were set.

According to affidavits filed on the cases, the Pike County jail inmate trash crew was on detail on Nov. 22 when a girlfriend of one of the inmates approached the crew and was "hugged up" to the boyfriend with some of the other inmates around her vehicle.

The inmates were dispersed from the vehicle and later transported back to the detention center and their assigned pods.

The following day, the inmates were monitored in their pods and appeared to be in possession of marijuana, which was being separated and passed around. Some of the inmates were observed smoking the weed inside the jail.

A review of surveillance video "clearly shows Reppo" in possession of the substance, dividing it, rolling multiple joints, distributing portions to the other inmates and passing contraband under pod doors to inmates.

Inmate Swanger admitted that he brought the substance into the jail after finding it on the ground during work detail and concealing it in his mouth upon re-entry to the jail.

Pike County man killed in industrial accident Friday afternoon in Delight

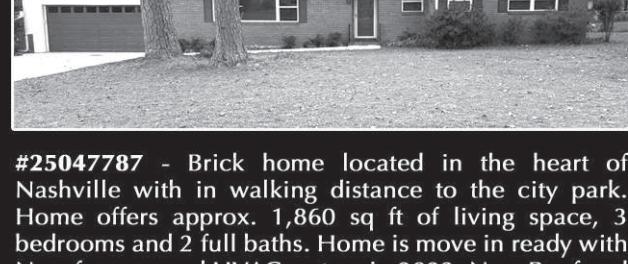
work hours at around 4:30 p.m.

A 911 call was placed by Jerry Johnson, who reported that a male subject had fallen from an elevated basket while being raised by a forklift. Johnson told deputies that Woodall had contacted him requesting assistance in lifting him in a basket in order to obtain measurements for piping in the

facility. Johnson stated that while in the air Woodall walked to the side of the basket, causing it to tip and Woodall to fall to the ground with the basket landing on top of him.

Diamond City Trailer owner Christopher Gilmer arrived on the scene and told deputies he was unaware that Woodall was at his shop working that day.

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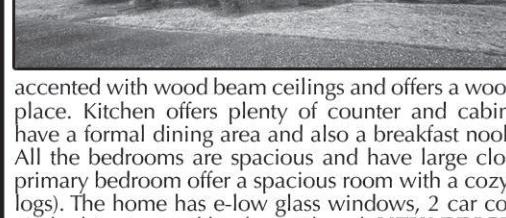
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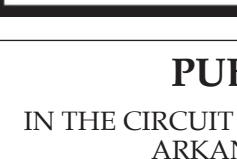
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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY,
ARKANSAS CIVIL DIVISION

CHRIS TEDFORD, Petitioner,

Vs.

31 CV-25-122

JOANNA BOYD GUADAGNO OR,
E. WAYNE HOLT, AND ALL PERSONS
CLAIMING AN INTEREST, Defendants,

IN REGARD TO A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN
HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been filed in the Circuit Court of Howard County, Arkansas, a Petition to quiet title to lands in Howard County, Arkansas, described as follows, to wit:

Commencing at the Northeast Corner of Section (35) in Township (8) South, Range (28) West, thence run South on Section Line Between Sections (35) and (36) in Township (8) South, Range (28) West a distance of sixty yards to the point of beginning, thence run east at right angles with section line eighty-seven and one third yards, thence South forty eight yards, thence west eighty-seven and one third yards to Section Line, thence run North forty-eight yards to the Point of Beginning and being a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of section (36) in Township (8) South, Range (28) West, lying in the town of Centre Point, Howard County, Arkansas.

The Defendants, and any and all other persons claiming said lands or interest thereon are hereby warned to appear in this Court within thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Notice and answer said Petition and show cause why the title to said lands should not be quieted and confirmed as set forth by the Petitioner or be forever barred from asserting his or her interest.

WITNESS my hand and seal as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Howard County, Arkansas, this 18th day of November, 2025

Angie Lewis,
CIRCUIT CLERK OF HOWARD, ARKANSAS
(AB: 23 - 26)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY,
ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:
JON REMINGTON MCELYEA CASE NO. 31PR-21-78

Warning Order

TO: Richard Blake Howard

Shall take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed on behalf of Dakota and Brooklyn McElyea in the Circuit Court of Howard County, Arkansas to adopt the minor children J.R.H. whose date of birth is February 3, 2015.

A hearing is currently scheduled for January 7, 2026 at 9 a.m. at the Howard County Courthouse, 421 N. Main Street, Nashville, AR 71852.

Richard Blake Howard shall take notice that unless you appear and defend or otherwise respond within thirty (30) days from the first date of publication of this notice, an order may be entered and granted, or you will be otherwise barred from asserting your interest in this matter.

Angie Lewis, CIRCUIT CLERK

(seal)

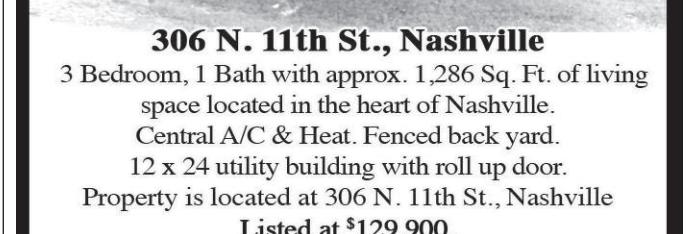
DATE November 21, 2025

(AB: 23 - 26)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DRAFT PERMIT DECISION
FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
AND ENVIRONMENT

In accordance with provisions of Arkansas Statute 8-4-203, public notice is hereby given that as of December 11, 2025 the Mining Program of the Division of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment announces its draft decision to issue a modification of Open-Cut Mining Permit No. 0532-MN-A5 as requested by CertainTeed Gypsum Manufacturing, Inc., 794 Highway 369 North, Nashville, Arkansas 71852 for the mining operation located in the city of Nashville in Howard County Arkansas.

The Department has received the necessary documentation from CertainTeed Gypsum, Manufacturing, Inc. for the modification of Open-Cut Mining Permit No. 0532-MN-A5 for the removal of gypsum at 794 Highway 369 north in Section 11, 12, 13, 14, 24 Township 08 South Range 28 West. The site will be mined for gypsum with a total estimated affected area of 2221 acres.

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning the Department's draft decision within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice. Any interested person may submit a request for a public hearing on the draft permit decision within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice. The decision on whether to schedule a public hearing is at the Department's discretion. If a hearing is scheduled, first class mail notice will be provided to the permit applicant and to all persons who submitted individual written requests for a hearing and who provided public comments on the record.

Written comments concerning the Department's draft decision should be sent to: Ashlan Wasko, Mining Program Manager, Division of Energy and Mineral Resources, Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72218 or by email to: ashlan.wasko@arkansas.gov.

Additional information regarding the draft decision, including copies of the permit application and documents concerning the review process by the Department staff, can be made available for inspection and copying by contacting the Department's Mining Program, Division of Energy and Mineral Resources in writing at the above address. There will be a charge to cover photocopying costs.

A final, written decision on this permit application will be issued by the Department after the close of the 30-day public comment period or after a public hearing if one is held. The final decision will include a response to each issue raised during the public comment period for this proposal, and will include an explanation of the rationale for any technical requirements or standards involved in making the final decision. Any person with legal standing in this matter may appeal the Department's final decision to the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission. Appeals must be in writing, must be filed within 30 days of the Department's final decision and must conform to all the requirements set forth in Regulation No. 8.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2025

By authority of the Secretary

Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment

(pd. 26)

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Jewel of The Ozarks Blanchard Springs Caverns to be state's 53rd state park

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism Secretary Shea Lewis has signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Forest Service that begins the formal process of designating The Blanchard Springs Caverns Complex as the 53rd Arkansas State Park: Blanchard Springs State Park.

"This partnership with the U.S. Forest Service allows us to elevate one of Arkansas' top tourism destinations. The creation of Blanchard Springs State Park will enrich the experiences across the caverns as well as outdoor recreation like paddling, camping and mountain biking. Its proximity to the Ozark Folk Center will bring more overnight guests and support local communities," said Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism Secretary Shea Lewis.

"Blanchard Springs Caverns is not only one of the most magnificent and largest living cave systems in the world, it is also the heart of the Ozarks. Today's announcement is a monumental action that secures the future of this incredibly valuable asset for Stone County and for the entire state of Arkansas. The local economy is driven by tourism, and the caves are critical for my rural area of the state, and especially for my town of Mountain View.

"This collaboration between the USDA, US Forestry, and the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage & Tourism is an incredible opportunity to be the best stewards of the resources God has given us and to drastically increase tourism in the state of Arkansas. I am so grateful to President Trump, Governor Sanders, Secretary Brooke Rollins, and the entire team at both the Department of Parks,

Heritage & Tourism and the US Forestry for their commitment and hard work to bring this to fruition," said Senator Missy Irvin (District 24).

The memorandum of understanding lays the groundwork for a new joint management model between Arkansas State Parks and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests to enhance visitor services, strengthen cultural and environmental protections, and align federal and state investments in staffing and facilities.

Located in north-central Arkansas near the community of Fifty-Six, the Blanchard Springs Caverns Complex sits within the Sylamore District of the Ozark National Forest. The Blanchard Springs Caverns Complex encompasses eight-and-a-half miles of explored caverns, the only Forest Service Major Visitor Center in Arkansas, as well as a campground, swim beach, picnic area, and multiple trails.

Blanchard Springs is one of only a handful of federally-managed "living" caves in the United States, featuring active formation growth and one of the nation's largest flowstones.

Since its opening in 1973, Blanchard Springs Caverns Major Visitor Center has offered two signature guided tours: the Dripstone Tour and the Discovery Trail. The Dripstone Tour leads visitors a half-mile through some of the cavern's most decorated chambers, filled with stalactites, soda straws, a natural bridge, and the sweeping Cathedral Room – more than 1,000 feet long and anchored by a stone column over six stories tall.

The Discovery Trail fol-

lows the underground stream that carved the caverns, guiding visitors 366 feet below the surface to view Rimstone Dams, the natural entrance, and the dramatic Ghost Room. More advanced



News-Leader photo/LOUIE GRAVES

SOMEBODY HAD TO COOK. Volunteer Maddie Propps, left, helped JA members Maianne Burgess and Kayla Propps meet the demands of hot pancakes, Saturday, at Junior Auxiliary's annual Breakfast with Santa.

visitors also participate in seasonal Wild Cave Tours exploring undeveloped areas of the cavern system.

As the second-largest cavern system in Arkansas and a cornerstone of regional tourism, Blanchard Springs

draws nearly 70,000 visitors annually and significantly contributes to the economies of nearby communities.

Advancing the process to establish the complex as Blanchard Springs State Park will strengthen that impact, serving as an anchor for regional tourism and amplifying the abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities surrounding it, including boating and trout fishing on the White River, as well as hiking, biking, camping, and water-based recreation throughout the National Forest.

Rather than competing with existing amenities, the future state park would operate as a hub that elevates and connects the broader region into a premier recreation destination.

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