

THE NASHVILLE News-LEADER

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

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026 • Vol. 24, Issue 29 • 10 pages, 1 section • \$1

Leader Board

www.swarkansasnews.com

OPINION | 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

Single Parent Scholarship Fund taking applications

Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund (ASPSF) is now accepting scholarship applications for the spring 2026 semester.

Single mothers and fathers who are seeking financial support for higher education can apply at aspf.org/scholarships. The deadline is Feb. 1.

Recipients must be pursuing an associate degree, bachelor's degree, or professional certificate.

Scholarship awards range from \$400 to \$1,600, depending on enrolled credit hours.

Funds are sent directly to recipients so they can pay for essential needs such as rent, child care, gas, utilities, and school-related expenses.

ASPSF is committed to providing college scholarships for single parents and supporting educational pathways that lead to stable, family-supporting careers.

In 2025, ASPSF awarded 9 scholarships totaling \$12,400 to single parents in Howard County, including Amber Burchette who is now an education major at Arkansas State University

"This scholarship also helps me to make more money to provide for my three children that are watching me daily," she said. "I can show my babies that you never stop and keep pushing for greater."

The Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund was established in 1990 to support and empower single parent students across the state.

For nearly 30 years, ASPSF partnered with local county affiliates to fund-raise for scholarships. In 2017, these affiliates began merging into a unified statewide organization to streamline efforts and expand access.

Today, ASPSF serves single parents in 69 of Arkansas's 75 counties, along with Bowie County in Texas.

1P
SINGLE PARENT
scholarship fund

Inside the News-Leader

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Nashville firefighters honored at banquet

A veteran firefighter, Cliff Petty, received the coveted Firefighter of the Year award during the Nashville Fire Department's annual awards banquet, Dec. 2, and the department's first female firefighter, Jasmin Camacho, was presented the Officer's Choice Award by Fire Marshal Justin Thornton.

Petty, Firefighter of the Year for the third time, also received his service pin for 36 years as a firefighter here.

The selection for Firefighter of the Year is by a spontaneous and secret ballot vote by fellow firefighters. It is the highest award given by the department.

It is a testament to Petty's long service that he also won the award in 1991 and 1994.

Camacho recently finished her

one-year probationary period with the department, according to the fire marshal.

The selection is made by the fire chief, assistant chief and department captains.

Other awards presented by the fire department include the following:

Five-year Service - Clint Hostetler and Lee Worley.

Ten-year Service -- Royce Miller.

Twenty-five year Service -- Matt Smith.

Thirty-two year Service -- Bobby Chambers.

Attendance Award -- Kelly Hostetler.

Fire Marshal Thornton said: "It is a hard decision to choose these

See Awards • Page 2



FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR. Fire Marshal Justin Thornton, left, presents the Firefighter of the Year award to Cliff Petty, who also won the award in 1991 and 1994. Selection is made by a secret ballot participation by all firemen at the annual banquet.

Spring semester underway at Nashville

The spring semester in the Nashville School District began Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Upcoming dates include the following:

Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Feb. 12 - Parent-teacher conferences

Feb. 13-17 - Winter Break

March 13 - End of third nine weeks

March 23-27 - Spring Break set by state

April 17-20 - Easter Break

May 22 - NHS graduation

May 25 - Memorial Day

May 29 - Last day of school

If school is closed for any reason, make-up days will be as follows (when possible):

Day 1 - Feb. 13

Day 2 - Feb. 17

Day 3 - Feb. 16

Day 4 - April 17

Day 5 - April 20

Missed days must be made up, according to the Arkansas Department of Education. The state no longer allows AMI days.

The state-mandated ATLAS test will be administered during the spring semester.

High school schedule

Career Coach Natalie Sherman has announced the following dates for students at Nashville High School:

See School • Page 5

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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26	27	28	29	30		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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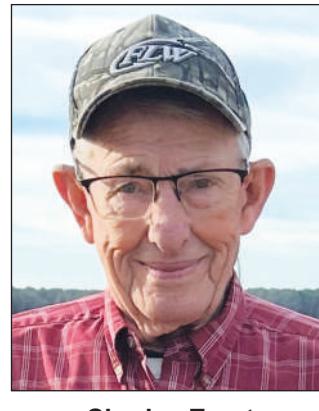
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

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Obituaries



**Charles Evert
Robertson**

Charles Evert Robertson, age 83 of Nashville, Ark., passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2025, at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born on Oct. 2, 1942, in Hartville, Mo., the son of the late Omar Robertson and Ruth Martin Robertson.

Mr. Robertson attended Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed gardening, and especially raising tomatoes. Above all, he enjoyed spending time with his family.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a grandchild, Adrienne Butler, and three siblings, Carl Robertson, Darrell Robertson and Beulah Long.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife of 63 years, Karen Thornhill Robertson; two daughters and sons-in-law, Lisa Butler and Joey, and Sharla Parrish and Donnie; six siblings, Bonnie Agee, Farris Robertson, Dillard Robertson, Kenneth Robertson, Steve Robertson and Beverly Hawkins; six grandchildren, Chad (Mollie) Parrish, Katie (Josh) Ellen, Blake Butler, Josh Butler, Vance (Hannah) Butler and Whitney (Kaleb) Murray; 10 great-grandchildren, Anna and Nancy Parrish, Jack, Canon and Silas Ellen, Reid and Addy Butler, Cohen and Molly Butler and Fox Murray; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until the service begins on Friday, Jan. 2, 2025, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

A memorial service will follow at 2 p.m. in the Latimer Funeral Chapel with Josh Ellen and Paul Herndon officiating.

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

Mary Ponder

Mary Ponder, 101, of

Nashville died Monday,

Jan. 5, 2025, in Nashville.

She was born Feb. 2, 1924.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until the service begins on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2025, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

A funeral service will fol-

low at 2 p.m. in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Nashville. Interment will follow under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home.

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



Eunice Irvin Jackson

Oct. 12, 1938 – Jan. 3, 2026

Eunice Irvin Jackson was born on Oct. 12, 1938, to Robert and Nan Andrews Irvin. Family remained at the center of her life, grounding her through both joy and hardship.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Hadge Jackson; her sons Rick Morris, Dave Christensen, and Eric Christensen; and her brothers, Earl and Desmon Irvin.

She is survived by her stepdaughter, Brandi Sharp; her stepson, Mike Jackson, three step-grandsons, Marc and Kyle Jackson and Eli Sharp; two nephews, Tracy and Allen Irvin; three nieces, Glenda Irvin, Brenda Young, and her special niece, devoted caretaker, and friend, Debra Tedder, along with Debra's husband Keith Tedder.

Graveside services will be 10 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Liberty Cemetery in Neophope, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Pallbearers will be Tracy Irvin, Mac Irvin, Jacob Irvin, John Young, William Wolfe, and Keith Tedder.

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

Awards

Continued
from page 1

awards because we have a great group of firefighters and they all deserve these awards. We are very proud of all our firefighters and the job they do."

Winners of the Firefighter of the Year Award since its inception:

1987 Roy Blakely
1988 James Daniel
1989 Terry Ray
1990 James Dyer
1991 Cliff Petty
1992 Ronny Woods
1993 Jerry Harwell
1994 Cliff Petty
1995 Roy Blakely
1996 Jimmy Mixon
1997 Bobby Chambers
1998 Jimmy Mixon
1999 Joe Dallas
2000 Gary Funderburk
2001 Alfred Neeley
2002 Matt Smith
2003 Mike Kinkade
2004 Terry Ray
2005 Matt Smith
2006 Jeff Westfall
2007 Jeff Westfall
2008 Jimmy Mixon
2009 Jeff Westfall



SHE'S THE FIRST. Nashville Fire Marshal Justin Thornton presents the Officers Choice Award to Jasmin Camacho, the department's first female firefighter. The selection is made by the fire chief, assistant chief and department captains.

2010 Jeff Westfall
2011 Jeff Westfall
2012 Josh Worley
2013 Josh Worley
2014 Russell Sparks
2015 Andrew Westfall
2016 Michael Staten
2017 Kenton Miller

2018 Michael Staten
2019 Kenton Miller
2020 Zachary Miller
2021 Kelly Hostetler
2022 Kelly Hostetler
2023 Lee Worley
2024 Derek Brewer
2025 Cliff Petty

FINANCIAL FOCUS

New Year's financial resolutions: Making them stick

By Josh Tie
Edward Jones Investments

financial goals and track progress toward meeting them

Increase your 401(k) contributions or max out your IRA and/or HSA contributions

Pay down debt strategically and negotiate lower interest payments

Build an emergency savings fund of six to 12 months

Save more consistently

Be specific. Vague resolutions like "save more money" rarely succeed. Instead, it can help to make goals specific and measurable.

For example, rather than making a resolution to "start an emergency fund," commit to a specific goal, such as, "I will put \$100 a month into an emergency fund."

This shift from general to specific transforms wishful thinking into actionable steps. When goals are attainable, it's easier to track progress and stay motivated.

Find an accountability partner. Don't go it alone. Having someone to check in with can help you stay on track. This could be a spouse, friend or family member who shares similar goals.

Consider working with a financial advisor who can help you create a realistic plan, monitor your progress and adjust strategies as needed. A professional can provide expertise and accountability, making it easier to stay on track throughout the year.

Start small and build momentum. Rather than overhauling your entire financial life all at once, focus on one or two priority areas. Identify where the largest gap exists between your current situation and where you want to be, then concentrate your energy there.

Breaking larger goals into smaller, manageable actions makes them less overwhelming and more achievable. Each small win builds confidence and momentum for tackling the next challenge.

The new year offers a fresh start and renewed motivation to improve your financial health. With specific goals, a solid action plan and the right support system, this could be the year your financial resolutions finally stick.



SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER. Winner of the agency's 2025 Spring Semester scholarship was Cynthia Herrera who was studying nursing at UA-Cossatot in Nashville. A Fall 2025 scholarship went to Amber Burchette of Nashville who is studying at Arkansas State University. The deadline approaches for scholarship applicants. (Related article, Page 1.)

In Memory of M. Z. Chesshir



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Bastogne, Belgium

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The Nashville News-Leader

The Nashville News-Leader (USPS # 023884) is published weekly by Nashville Leader, Inc., 418 North Main, Nashville, AR 71852. Periodicals postage is paid at Nashville, AR 71852.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Nashville News-Leader, P.O. Box 205, Nashville, AR 71852.

Single issue price: \$1.00.

Subscription rates: Howard, Pike, Sevier, Hempstead and Little River counties, \$45 per year. Outside the five-county area, \$57 per year.

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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



The Norsworthy Family 1919. Left to right Lillian, Leo, J.H., Dean and Xercie

123 years ago: January 1903

Harry Allemand, who pitched in the Southern League last season and who has signed with Cincinnati for the coming year, was shot and mortally wounded at Mason West Virginia, in his home early today by robbers who took \$980 from him.

Allemand was on Little Rock's staff of pitchers last season and did some splendid work. He was one of the most popular players in the Southern League.

In the last few days, W.E. Leslie of Corinth has sold to Will McClanahan his residence and a half interest in his store building and stock of goods. And S. B. Reese and wife sold to W. D. Lee three acres in town of Centre Point.

(Adv.) G. W. Clayton, dealer in staple and fancy groceries, country produce. Goods delivered anywhere in town. Phone 115 South Main, Nashville.

80 years ago: December

1946

Dr. and Mrs. F.F. Ferguson attended the funeral of First Lt. Ed Beasley, MC USA, who died August 2nd in Osata, Japan. Services were held at the home of his mother in Waldo Tuesday afternoon.

James Hugh Humphries of this city sailed last Saturday from the West Coast for Pearl Harbor.

(Adv.) We now have battery radio tubes and new and used radios. Logan-Flournoy Radio Service. Phone 69

62 years ago: January 1964

Just two hours before an assassin's bullet ended John F. Kennedy's life, the young president had called former Vice President John Nance Garner at Uvalde, Texas, to wish Mr. Garner a happy birthday, 95th for the venerable Texan. Mr. Garner ended the call with these words, "Thank you, Mr. President. God bless you."

Final plans for the inauguration of Nashville's

dial telephone system are being made, according to Don R. Sappington, manager for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. The new dial system is the climax of months of planning and work, involving an expansion and improvement programs requiring the expenditure of \$630,000.

43 years ago: January 1983

The Veterans Administration has inaugurated a special toll-free telephone information hotline for former prisoners of war. The Hotline was established for ex-POWs if they feel their treatment is not consistent with the intent of the Prisoners of War Health Care Benefits Act of 1981. The 24-hour toll-free number is available to over 93,000 ex-POWs nationwide.

(Ad.) Sunset Grocery, 400 W. Sunset, Prices good thru Saturday. Open 7:30 to 6:00 Monday - Saturday. Carrots, 1-lb. 29¢; Bananas 37¢; Idaho potatoes 27¢ lb.; Cabbage 15¢ lb.

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*RIDGE® XR CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. This vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4016. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard by which the horsepower of many cars is measured, and as a result referenced HP measurement may be higher than if it were measured by an SAE standard. 6-passenger seating is available on RIDGE® CREW models only. Seating capacity varies by each RIDGE® XR CREW model.



Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Dec. 25-31, 2025, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses

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

Dec. 29. Jackson Lee Mc- Cauley, 23, Nashville, and Katelyn Nicole Blum, 21, Nashville.

Civil Court

CV25-145, Dec. 26. LVNO Funding, LLC, vs. Timpa Ferguson. Debt.

CV25-146, Dec. 27. American Express vs. Julia Guzman. Contract.

CV25-147, Dec. 30. Kino Financial vs. Ira Stewart. Debt.

CV25-148, Dec. 31. Capital One vs. Earl Christopher. Debt.

Domestic Relations Court

No new Domestic Relations cases filed since DR25-101, Dec. 18.

Criminal Court

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

CR25-122, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-123, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-124, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-125, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-126, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-127, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-128, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-129, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-130, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-131, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-132, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-133, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-134, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-135, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-136, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-137, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-138, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-139, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-140, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-141, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-142, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-143, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-144, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-145, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-146, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-147, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-148, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-149, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-150, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-151, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-152, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-153, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-154, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-155, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-156, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-157, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-158, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly signed sister's name to a traffic citation.

CR25-159, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Colby Westbrook, 59, white male, 174 Geneva Church Road, De Queen; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-160, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Alex Allen, 23, white male, 220 N. Park, Ashdown; residential burglary, class B, and theft of property, class C. Allegedly took items valued at \$6,200 from a Dierks residence.

CR25-161, Dec. 30. State of Arkansas vs. Tiffany Green, 36, white female, 611 Block Ave., Dierks; 2nd degree forgery, class C felony. Allegedly

Point of view

Whooping cough

Trying to warn you that you need to be vaccinated

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I am puzzled about a news release received from the Arkansas Department of Health.

It's about the record number and danger of Whooping Cough (pertussis) cases in Arkansas this year.

We've only been keeping records for 15 years, but this year is highest on record.

Here's why I'm puzzled: the article goes on for six paragraphs about the danger especially to children.

Finally it gets around to: "The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against pertussis is to get vaccinated."

Why did it take so long to get around to vaccination?

Measles, Covid, Pertussis, Polio, Influenza, Shingles, Pneumonia, etc. The best way to avoid is to get vaccinated.

You CAN get your vaccination at the Howard County Health Unit. Maybe you've already had your TADP -- Tetanus Something Something and Pertussis -- vaccination. I got mine after impaling my bare foot on a roofing tack in 2020. The shot is good for 10 years so you can quit worrying about me until 2030.

If you need to call the health unit, the number is 870-845-2208 to make an appointment.

Whooping cough is really dangerous for children. The hospital says that no one has been hospitalized here for whooping cough, yet, so let's keep it that way.

AND ON a related note, in the email I received a copy of an article about sore throats which I had missed in the "Arkansas Democrat-Gazette."

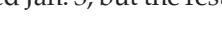
The article was the best thing to do if you have a simple sore throat. Some of the suggestions are (1) salt water gargle; (2) honey mixed with warm water; (3) non-caffiene hot tea; (4) lozenges.

I'll repeat my Grandmother Graves's family secret sore throat remedy: mix warm water, some lemon juice, and a dash of bourbon. Repeat as needed until your attitude improves.

I didn't even get around to the best scientific remedy for a sore throat.

Coat the bottoms of the feet liberally with Vicks Vaporub; put on thick socks and leave them on overnight.

At least no one will get close enough to catch whatever it is you've got.



ONE THING you can count on is that our full moons will rise here on cloudy nights.

Even so, you might want to plan ahead in hopes of seeing each of the 13 full moons of 2026.

You've already missed Jan. 3, but the rest (according to LiveScience.com) are:

Feb. 1, March 3, April 1 (no joke), May 1, May 31, June 29, July 29, Aug. 28, Sept. 26, Oct. 26, Nov. 28, and Dec. 3.

I've read that it is a myth that full moons are usually accompanied by an increase in crime, natural catastrophe and childbirth, but my 50+ years experience here as a newsman tells me otherwise.

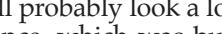


WHERE IS SHE? News stories about the abduction of Venezuela El Presidente Maduro and his wife have shown us pictures of him, but there's not been a word about her. If she's 'hot' maybe our El Presidente has sent her to Mar-A-Lago for personal interviews.

Maduro, however, will be kept in the Epstein Cell in a NY prison.

I'm wondering about our own Presidential Pardon for the ex-Presidente of Honduras who was jailed here for being a narco-dictator responsible for the addiction of many Americans. But, of course, Honduras has no oil.

AND THOSE American addicts CHOSE to use dope.

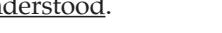


WE ARE SOOOO LUCKY.

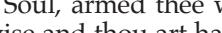
President Donald J. Trump is going to build a "Triumphal Arch" (something we really need instead of affordable health insurance) and it will be located somewhere near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Unless he decides to send out for some more decorative gold like in the Oval Office, it will probably look a lot like the historical 'Arc de Triomphe' in Paris, France, which was built by the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte in 1806.

All that is left to do for President Trump is to come up with a good name for the Arch. Emperors have a knack for coming up with good names.



MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: TOMORROW -- One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.



WORD GAMES. I love oxymorons: The President's intention about renaming The John F. Kennedy Memorial Center for the Performing Arts was Clearly Misunderstood.



HE SAID: "Those who gave thee a body, furnished it with weakness; but He who gave thee Soul, armed thee with resolution. Employ it, and thou art wise; be wise and thou art happy." Akhenaton, pharaoh of Egypt 1351-1334 BC



SHE SAID: "Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties." Helen Keller, teacher



SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Nashville News-Leader

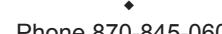
Louie Graves and Jane Graves (2007), co-publishers

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The Nashville News-Leader is published weekly by Nashville Leader, Inc.

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Love Thy Neighbor, and GET THE COVID VACCINE!

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



Don't let the cold weather stop you. Keep yourself and those around you safe. Please get your free Covid-19 vaccination. If you're already fully immunized, remember to get the booster shots.

Presented in the public interest by the Nashville News-Leader

Legislators pass 1,026 of 1,600 bills filed during regular session of 2025

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

This past regular session both the Senate and House filed over 1,600 bills.

Of those bills, 1,026 passed both chambers and were signed into law by the governor.

Here are a few bills that stand out for the 2025 Regular Session.

Act 140 of 2025, known as the "Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Act," changes Medicaid regulations to make prenatal care much more accessible in areas of the state that have been designated as maternal care deserts, because of a lack of obstetricians.

It establishes presumptive eligibility for pregnant women who apply for Medicaid.

This allows them to get immediate prenatal care, while they are waiting for a full application to be processed.

Medicaid coverage will include office and home visits, laboratory fees, tests ordered by a physician, blood work, remote monitoring, fetal non-stress tests and glucose monitoring to detect possible gestational diabetes. Self-measurement blood pressure devices will also be covered.

The legislature has approved

Act 387 of 2025 that clarifies the meaning of a medical emergency when the life of a pregnant woman and her unborn child are threatened.

The bill's sponsors said they wanted to clarify that physicians who act in good faith to save a woman's life would not be prosecuted under Arkansas anti-abortion laws if the unborn child unintentionally dies.

About 708,000 Arkansas homeowners will save \$56 million from Act 330 of 2025.

This act raises the homestead property tax credit by \$100 to \$600 a year. Previously, the credit was \$500.

Act 1008 of 2025 will exempt food and groceries from the one-eight cent state ales tax approved by voters in 1996 to benefit conservation efforts.

The act will lower taxes by about \$10.9 million a year. The bill does not repeal any local option city and county sales taxes on groceries.

Both chambers approved a lengthy bill to change the way juvenile justice statutes are found

in law books.

The juvenile code has long been difficult to navigate because of overlapping jurisdictions among various courts. That makes it difficult for a juvenile's family to know their rights, and for social services workers to keep track of their duties when protecting vulnerable children.

People within the juvenile justice system have spent hundreds of hours dividing juvenile laws into separate "sensible" sections.

According to section one of Act 518 of 2025, it only makes technical corrections not substance changes to the juvenile code.

To review all acts that were passed earlier this year you can search online on the Arkansas State Legislature website at <https://arkleg.state.ar.us>.

The Senate and House will reconvene on the second Wednesday in April 2026, but only to pass appropriation bills for the fiscal year starting in July 2026.

The fiscal session cannot extend past 30 days, unless both chambers vote to extend the session. If that happens the fiscal session by law can only be extended by 15 days

Senator provides help to Arkansans

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

I always enjoy this time of year and the opportunity to see family and friends. These moments together are treasured and a valuable way to reflect on the year gone by.

It is no understatement to say 2025 in Washington, D.C., was tumultuous, with new policies and dramatic change. But I am glad to say some of my most important work as a U.S. Senator carried on faithfully—especially my priority of serving Arkansans.

Over the last 12 months, my staff and I have responded to over 145,000 calls, letters and emails from Arkansans reaching out to make their voices heard regarding issues and causes they care about or that impact their communities. I am grateful for the time and care taken to provide this feedback, especially when I am weighing issues actively in front of the U.S. Senate.

In addition to the comments about policy issues, there were many requests for help navigating the bureaucracy of the federal government.

Overall in 2025, my office assisted with more than 2,900 cases involving everything from securing emergency passports to problems accessing veterans' benefits, and all the extraordinary circumstances in between that require extra care and attention which immense,

distant departments and agencies struggle to handle.

Once again this year, a leading source of outreach came from veterans and their families.

For example, we worked with 652 Arkansans to obtain military service and medical records as well as long-deserved military medals.

One of our most common requests involved helping grieving families track down military discharge paperwork as they made arrangements for a veteran's funeral.

Another top area of support we provided them and their loved ones was assistance procuring benefits letters from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We are happy to aid veterans who need such letters.

This year we helped 324 people with this, but I am also helping to push for a modernized VA process that would reduce the need for this particular service.

I have continued to encourage the VA to make it easier for people to acquire copies of their critical documents through online portals and other resources, and I am optimistic that they are making these strides.

This change within the VA was part of a much larger trend we saw across the federal government. With greater use of technology and digital infrastructure, there have been enormous transitions as

federal agencies simplify processes and offer more services online rather than requiring in-office appointments.

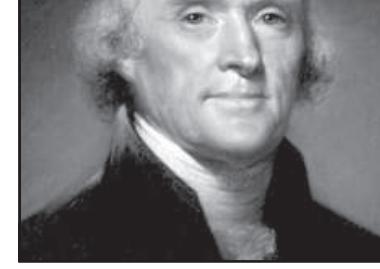
Although it is encouraging to see easier access to basic services, it is also something I am watching closely to make sure all Arkansans can access the services and support they need.

There are also instances where a website portal can't solve a problem. That happened a few weeks ago when we helped a Hot Springs family with a dire Social Security issue, and I was reminded of the importance of this work in a note they sent me:

"I am only telling you all of this so that when you are faced with those rough days, the ones where every person comes at you with disgruntled complaints, you are reminded that the work you do makes a tangible impact in our lives, in the most real of ways. I would not have made it this far without your help."

That is what our efforts are all about, or as one of my former mentors liked to put it: using the power of the office for good. Politics and ideologies have and always will take a backseat to that calling.

I am humbled by these occasions to make a difference and, as we wrap up 2025, I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Arkansas.



"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Thomas Jefferson, 1787
Free press, free people

Letters policy

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

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

E-mail: jrs@nashvilleleader.com

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

Host of new state laws in effect

State Rep. Dolly Henley

With the new year underway, Arkansans will see a number of laws passed by the House of Representatives and the General Assembly take effect.

While the majority of legislation approved during the 2025 Regular Session became law 90 days after adjournment, many measures included a delayed effective date of Jan. 1, 2026 to give state agencies, businesses, insurers and consumers time to prepare for the changes.

One of the most significant laws which took effect Jan. 1 is the elimination of the state sales tax on groceries.

By exempting food and

food ingredients from the state sales and use tax, lawmakers took a meaningful step to lower the cost of everyday necessities for families across Arkansas.

Because groceries are a recurring expense for every household, removing the state tax provides ongoing relief that can make a real difference in monthly budgets, particularly for working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and those most sensitive to rising food prices.

Local sales taxes on groceries will remain in place, but the change represents a major reduction in the overall tax burden on essential items.

Several other laws effective Jan. 1 are aimed at strengthening Arkansas's economy and workforce.

Changes to the state's incentive structure expand how investment tax credits may be used, create new incentives for businesses that relocate corporate headquarters to Arkansas, and add accountability measures to ensure job and payroll commitments are met.

Farmers will also benefit from a new sales tax identification card designed to simplify the process of claiming eligible exemptions, while updates to the state maintained job board will better connect job seekers with available employment op-

portunities.

A number of new laws also focus on health care coverage.

Beginning Jan. 1, health benefit plans are required to cover services such as childbirth at licensed birthing centers, treatment for acquired brain injuries, breast reconstruction surgeries, breastfeeding and lactation services, genetic testing and certain cancer screenings, lung cancer screenings, and treatment for severe obesity under defined conditions.

Arkansans can find a complete list of laws taking effect on Jan. 1 at arkansas-house.org, along with more information on how they impact the state.

School

Continued from page 1

SCC classes at UA-Cosatot began Jan. 5.

Jan. 9 - Deadline to sign up for Feb. ACT with no late fee (not the Junior ACT)

Jan. 12 - Online college classes begin

Jan. 22 - FAFSA day (sign up in the office)

Jan. 26 - Accuplacer testing (sign up in the office)

Jan. 28 - Career Fair

9:30-10:30 Seniors

10:30-11:30 Juniors

11:30-12:30 Sophomores

12:15-1:00 9th grade civ-

ics

Feb. 10 - UCA representative at lunches

Feb. 12 - FAFSA day / PT conferences

Feb. 24 - Junior ACT

Feb. 25 - Accuplacer

March 6 - Deadline to sign up for April ACT with no late fee.

March 10 - Sophomore Career Exploration Camp Locksburg

March 17 - FAFSA and Accuplacer

April 14 - FAFSA and Accuplacer

Local scholarship deadlines will be given out with individual due dates as they become available.

Election

Continued from page 1

erson (R), Juanita Jackson (D), Dist. 9. There were no candidates filed for Districts 5 and 7.

City of Nashville
Mayor -- Larry Dunaway (R).

City Clerk -- Lauren Hoen (R).

Alderman -- Charles Pinkston (R) W5P1; William E. Turley (R), W4P1.

City of Mineral Springs
Mayor -- Vera Marks (D); Merles Jean Cheatham (D), W1P1; Dana Greenlee (D), W2P1; Vanessa Hendrix (D), W3P1.

School Boards

Mineral Springs -- William Dixon, Zone 7; Barnardo Thomas, Zone 6; Robert Ray Hawkins, Sr., Zone 5.

Nashville -- Jerry Wilson, Zone 4; David Hilliard, Zone 3.

Dierks -- Layton Graham, Justin Simmons, at large.

Arkansas House of Representatives

Dolly Henley (R), Dist. 88; Justin Gonzales (R), Dist. 89.

Non-partisan District 9 West

Circuit Judge -- Judge Bryan Chesser, Division 2; Judge Tom Cooper, Division 1.

Prosecuting Attorney -- Erin Hunter, Clayton Tinkes, Jana Bradford.

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[275] REMINGTON MODEL 1100 12GA SHOTGUN
[276] WINCHESTER MODEL 50 SHOTGUN
[277] REMINGTON MODEL 870 MAG 20 GA SHOTGUN
[278] WINCHESTER SUPER X MODEL 1 12GA SHOTGUN
[279] WINCHESTER MODEL 12 12GA SHOTGUN
[280] KNIGHT 502 CAL BLACK POWER
[281] HOPKINS & ALLEN 16GA SHOTGUN
[282] REMINGTON MODEL 760 30-06 RIFLE
[283] REMINGTON 11-87 SPORTSMAN 12 GA SHOTGUN
[284] BROWNING GOLD HUNTER 12GA SHOTGUN
[285] WINCHESTER 12GA SUPERX MODEL 1 12 GA SHOTGUN
[286] KNIGHT 50 CAL BLACK POWER
[287] LC SMITH DOUBLE BARREL 12GA SHOTGUN
[288] MARLIN 30-30 MODEL 336 RIFLE
[289] BRNO MODEL ZH 101 12GA OVER & UNDER SHOTGUN
[290] WINCHESTER MODEL 64 32WS
[291] ITHACA MODEL 37 FEATHERLIGHT 12GA SHOTGUN
[292] STURN&RUGER MIN 14 223 CAL RIFLE
[293] BROWNING 12 GA SHOTGUN
[294] REMINGTON WINGMASTER 870 16GA SHOTGUN
[295] WINCHESTER MODEL 100 308 CAL RIFLE
[296] ITHACA MODEL 37 FEATHERLIGHT 12GA SHOTGUN
[297] REMINGTON 870 SUPER MAGNUM
[298] WINCHESTER MODEL 12 20GA SHOTGUN
[299] WINCHESTER MODEL 12 20 GA SHOTGUN
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[313] REMINGTON MAG WINGMASTER 870 12GA SHOTGUN
[314] REMINGTON MODEL 1100 12GA SHOTGUN
[315] REMINGTON MODEL 1100 12 GA SHOTGUN
[316] WINCHESTER MODEL 70 375 H&H MAG
[317] REMINGTON MODEL 1100 12GA SHOTGUN
[318] SAUER 202 30-06 RIFLE
[319] BROWNING MAG TWENTY 20 GA SHOTGUN
[320] REMINGTON MODEL 870 12GA SHOTGUN
[321] WINCHESTER MODEL 12 12GA SHOTGUN
[322] BROWNING 22 PISTOL
[323] SMITH & WESSON 22 PISTOL
[324] COLT 22 PISTOL [325] SMITH & WESSON 22 PISTOL
[326] COLT POLICE SPECIAL 38 PISTOL
[327] FABRIQUE NATIONALE 22 PISTOL
[328] BERETTA MODEL 21-A 25CAL PISTOL
[329] JC HIGGINS DOUBLE 16GA MODEL 311-A
[330] REMINGTON MODEL 100 12GA SHOTGUN
[331] BROWNING 16GA SHOTGUN
[332] WINCHESTER MODEL 97 12GA SHOTGUN
[333] FRANCHI 206
[334] WINCHESTER MODEL 37 12GA SHOTGUN
[335] RUGER 223 RIFLE
[336] WINCHESTER MODEL 12 20 GA SHOTGUN
[337] REMINGTON SPEEDMASTER 22 RIFLE
[338] REMINGTON SPEEDMASTER 22 MODEL 552 RIFLE
[339] REMINGTON SPEEDMASTER MODEL 552 22 RIFLE
[340] THOMAS CENTER ARMS 22 CLASSIC
[341] BLUE STREAM 5M PELLET GUN
[342] CROSMAN STORM XT PELLET GUN
[343] JONATHAN BROWNING 50CA MOUNTAIN RIFLE
[344] MOUNTAINEER COMPOUND BOW
[345] PERSON COMPOUND BOW [346] RECURVE BOW
[347] RECURVE BOW [348] FORT KNOX SUN GUN SAFES HOLD 24 GUNS
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Bill aims to cut federal red tape

Rep. Bruce Westerman

Over the past several months, the House Natural Resources Committee has been tirelessly at work to introduce, and ultimately pass, a once-in-a-generation piece of legislation called the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act. As this is such a notable bill, it has been a great honor to lead the charge in getting this legislation across the finish line that will cut burdensome federal red tape and get America – and Arkansas – building again.

Christmas came early as the House voted this week

to pass this piece of legislation that received letters of support from all fifty states.

A bill for every American can across every industry, reforming the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) permitting process through the SPEED Act will ultimately reduce unnecessary delays and make it easier for local governments to access the resources they need in order to complete economy-stimulating projects in a timely manner.

Passing this bill means improving road conditions for farmers hauling equipment and goods to market. It's faster completion of bridge repairs and rural road resurfacing projects. Permitting reform means enhanced access to economic opportunity instead of being tied down by delays in permitting that hold back local governments. And it means a more responsive

government that can work at the speed our communities need instead of the pace of Washington's red tape.

The SPEED Act is a commitment to empowering our local leaders, supporting our rural economy, and ensuring that communities across the Fourth District aren't left waiting for infrastructure that should have been built years ago. It's been an honor to work on such a vital piece of legislation that will have direct impacts on dinner table issues. I look forward to seeing the SPEED Act move quickly through the Senate so that we can get this bill signed into law.

State AG leads effort to jam cell phones in prisons

Attorney General Tim Griffin

issued the following statement after co-leading a letter to Federal Communications Chairman Brendan Carr in support of the FCC's proposal that would allow prisons to utilize jamming technology to address the use of contraband cell phones in correctional facilities.

The letter was co-led by Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr and signed by 21 other attorneys general.

"The problem of contraband cell phones in prisons is not new, and these devices are consistently used to orchestrate crimes both inside and outside the prison walls. The Federal Communications Commission's new proposal will allow correctional facilities to utilize jamming technology to combat this critical public safety issue.

"I am grateful to the other attorneys general who signed on to this letter and added their support. As top law enforcement officials in our states, we each recognize

the importance of the adoption of this rule, which will undoubtedly serve to protect citizens across the United States.

The Arkansas Department of Corrections identified 230 gang leaders incarcerated in maximum security facilities who were caught and found guilty of multiple charges of possession of a cell phone in over 538 individual instances. These 230 inmates were from known threat groups including Bloods, Crips, Aryan Circle, and White Aryan Resistance, along with the largest group Gangster Disciples. Further investigations showed evidence of these leaders conducting illegal activities on the contraband cell phones, including drug trafficking, drone drops into the facilities, witness intimidation, and coordinating the movement of money and other gang activities throughout Arkansas and the United States.

"Other states are replete with their own examples. Inmates use these contraband cell phones to conduct and coordinate violent crimes, including murder, child sexual exploitation, drug trafficking, kidnapping, aggravated battery of law enforcement officers, and other crimes such as money laundering, wire fraud, and identity theft. We commend the FCC for taking action to help address the critical threat to public safety caused by contraband cell phones. This is a major

step in the right direction for keeping citizens and corrections personnel safe."

Joining Attorneys General Griffin and Carr on the letter were the attorneys general of Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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'It's really special and will be like no other – we have gone out of our way to make it special. It's not just four walls.'

Murfreesboro's new grocery store to open next week

By PJ Tracy

Murfreesboro Diamond

MURFREESBORO – The

wait is almost over.

As the clock counts down

the time to Chimney Rock

Grocery's opening on Jan.

14, workers are busy putting

the final touches in places

in preparation.

"This is exciting because

it's all new, and something

special for Murfreesboro,"

said owner Jack Bonds. "It's

an absolutely great project,

new from the roof all the

way down to the floor. It's

been a complete remodel

utilizing a historic building

[the former Piggly Wiggly

grocery store]. We've been

able to make something old

as fresh as frost on a pump-

kin."

Bonds said the project

was a labor of love that

solves a great need for the

community.

"It's really special and

will be like no other – we

have gone out of our way to

make it special. It's not just

four walls."

While some work still had

to be accomplished – such as

installation of the new auto-

matic sliding doors – Bonds

definitively states that the

store will be open on the 14th

of this month.

He also states definitively

the contents of the store will

be worth the trip.

"Produce will be fresh,

we will have a good variety,

and if there is something

we don't have, all you have

to do is ask. We will try to

get it."

Meat will also be a big selling focus for the store. Meat will be cut fresh daily, and specialty cuts will be done to specification.

"If someone calls and wants a two-inch thick t-bone steak, or four one-inch pork chops, we will get it done, even while you wait if you wish" said meat butcher Nathaneal Allen.

"Much of the meat we will carry will be choice. Just getting meat cut these days is special, as everyone has gone to prepackaged meats."

The meat and deli department will also feature rotisserie chicken and ribs, along with deli sliced meat and cheeses. There will also be ground turkey and turkey bacon / sausage for those who can't eat beef or pork.

"We expect people to travel to come to our full-bore butcher shop," said Bonds. "I expect people to drive from up to 50 miles away to buy their meat here."

Allen said it's not just quality, but also pricing that will bring the customers back for more.

"We will have the most competitive meat and produce prices around."

The store is in the process of completing the process of being able to accept Women, Infants and Children (WIC) funds as well as insurance cards. SNAP and EBT cards will also be accepted after the paperwork filing is completed.

Perhaps the most unique

piece of the store is the rock chimney fireplace in honor of the store's name.

"It's a warm and fuzzy spot, and it's just something different. People will come in and see that it's not just a generic store. If men want to come in and sit down by the fire while their wives shop, there will be a rocking chair available. There's no pressure ... you can just sit there and relax. It makes it feel very hometown. The whole point of this venture is to be a hometown grocery store with big city prices."

Store manager and co-owner Tim Allen – former manager of Cash Saver – said it more simply.

"This is Murfreesboro's grocery store."

Bonds said the inclusion of Tim Allen, along with son Nathaneal, was crucial for the store's future by bringing Allen's 30 years of experience in the grocery store business. "Anybody can buy a bus, but if you don't have a driver, what good was it? That's the reality of it all. I'm most excited about Allen and the crew he has assembled – he knows the market business and that's the key to making this whole thing work."

Allen said the whole process was exciting to him on a personal level.

"We get to bring a great grocery store to Murfreesboro. I live here and saw the dire need. So, Jack and I got together and made it happen. This wasn't just an

overnight deal – this was a year and a half long process. There were stumbling blocks along the way ... but it finally came together. Sometimes the stars just have to align."

"It's taken this long to put together all these quality people [employees]," said Bonds, proudly noting about the creation of approximately 15 new jobs in Murfreesboro. "That's also a very important thing."

Allen reiterated Bond's point about keeping good and wanted content in the store.

"Let us know what we don't have and we will do our very best to get it."

One of the other big questions, according to Allen, is if the store will offer a delivery feature. The answer is yes, eventually.

"The warehouse is working on a program right now for delivery – it is in the early stages – as soon as it is developed, we will give it a shot and try it."

Allen also said the other big question is the cost-plus addition at the counter upon checkout.

"We are not cost-plus – what you see on the tag is what you get, we will not add another fee on products at the register."

The store will of course feature national brands, but their private label items – Best Choice and Always Save -- will provide the greatest values in the store.

"We are also working on getting crazy good specials,"

Bonds said. "The goal is to have them every week."

The store will also offer special meat sales on the weekend – along with the weekly advertised specials.

"Not everyone can get here on Tuesdays," said Allen. "So, it's an effort to benefit everyone."

Bonds, however, for his part, wants no credit for the opening – opting simply with a joke.

"I'm just one guy in town – and I wanted a store open because I'm hungry."

He does feel the store opening is a feather in the cap for the community in more ways than one.

"Outside of the convenience of having a grocery store locally, I truly believe that a quality grocery store can help extend the lives of the local residents by offering healthier options outside

preprocessed fare that you can get everywhere else."

Allen added that a few residents have stated they were well on their way out their way to greener pastures – or at least a town with a grocery store.

Down the road, perhaps a full grocery store will – at least in part – help attract another business in Murfreesboro.

For now, however, local residents can at least take solace in the fact they can get the vast majority of the shopping done at home at their full-service market.

"We are committed to being Murfreesboro's grocery store, and are service oriented people. The customer is everything to us," Bonds said. "Tim has done a great job in making this something that the community can really be proud of."

Bougie Boutique
is moving to a
New Location,
Inside Trendsetters
at 601 N. Main St.
Open Tuesday, January 13

BOUGIE BOUTIQUE
DESIGNER RESALE

601 N. Main St. • Nashville
Open: Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Attend Church This Sunday!

HOLY MASS

St. Martin's Catholic Church
1011 W. Leslie • Nashville

Sunday (Eng.) - 9 a.m.

Sunday (Esp.) - 11 a.m.

Wednesday - 6 p.m.

Thursday - 8 a.m.

1st Friday - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday (Esp.) - 6:30 p.m.

Fr. Salvador Vega, Pastor
Welcome • Bienvenidos

LOCKESBURG FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ 11:00 A.M.

& **Mt. CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** 12:15 P.M.

TOMMY HALSELL, PASTOR

Everyone is always welcome!

You are invited to worship with us at...

Center Point Missionary Baptist Church

211 Church St. • Center Point

Pastor: Jaron Tipton

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Evening Service 5:00 p.m.

-- Non-Denomination --

New Life in Jesus Christ Church

913 South Main St. • Nashville, AR

Sunday Morning Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.

Pastors: Lankford & Mary Alice Moore

EBENEZER UMC

318 West Dodson • Nashville

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

Scott Memorial (Paraloma Community)

First & Third Sundays Monthly

Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.

Pastor: Ellis Ray Floyd



First Baptist Church

415 N. Main • Nashville

Come Worship With Us!

Sunday school 9 a.m.

Morning worship 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Evening worship 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Kevin Sartin

Come worship with us!

First Church of God

Community Oriented & Christ Centered

946 MLK, Hwy 355, Tollette, AR

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m. • Youth 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening service 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Charles Green, Pastor

HOLLY CREEK Missionary Baptist Church

705 Main St. • Dierks • 286-2010

Sun. School 10:00 a.m.

Sun. Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.

Sun. Evening 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday WOW 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Bro. Brian Finn

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

Visit us at: www.hollycreekmbc.net

First Christian Church

500 N. Main • Nashville

(Corner of Main & Bishop)

845-3241

Sunday Bible School - 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Pike County couple arrested for suspected child endangerment

By John Balch
News-Leader staff

Allegations of child abuse and neglect has led to the arrest of a Murfreesboro couple.

Timothy Mason Phillips, 54, and Mary Louise Phillips, 49, were arrested Dec. 31 on suspicion of felony first-degree endangering the welfare of a minor.

The couple made a court appearance Monday, Jan. 5 in Pike County and were ordered by Judge Tom Cooper to return to court Jan. 26 with an attorney.

As of Tuesday morning, the couple had not been charged in the case.

According to affidavits of arrest obtained from the Murfreesboro Police Department, an investigation into the couple started after an 8-year-old female child under their care was reported missing from their Third Avenue home.

The incident touched off a massive search that concluded with the child being found just steps from her home.

On Dec. 4 around 8:11 a.m., local law enforcement was made aware of the missing child by the mother at the Pike County Sheriff's Department. The child was described as being 3'2" and

weighing 38 pounds and reportedly wearing no clothes. A search got underway soon after and concluded at approximately 12 noon when the child's father located her, covered in a blanket hidden behind a pool pump in a shed in the backyard.

The child was immediately placed in an ambulance to be evaluated and her body temperature registered at 98 degrees when "the outside ambient temperatures was between 37-39 degrees during the course of the search," according to the affidavits.

The child and her biological siblings were removed from the home that day by the Arkansas Department of Human Services until an investigation into allegations of abuse and neglect could be completed.

The siblings were interviewed Dec. 5 regarding events related to the child's disappearance the day before and allegations of neglect and abuse at home.

A summary from the statements by the child in question stated she had gotten in trouble with the mother that morning for having an accident in the bed. She said the mother made her go outside, take off her clothing and was twice told to get in the swimming pool to clean

up. The child followed the instructions and when the mother went back inside the home she said she grabbed a small blanket and hid behind the pool pump until she was located by her father around 12 p.m., according to the files.

The child reportedly said she was not allowed to use the bathtub inside to clean up when she had accidents and that she would not be allowed to eat breakfast and sometimes lunch.

The child also claimed she had been locked inside a closet by her parents for days and weeks at a time and only allowed out to eat, according to the affidavits.

The child also claimed the father had built a small room inside the home that was used to lock her up when she was being punished.

She further alleged that she had been required to stand outside in one spot from the time she woke until dark for multiple days at a time, as a form of punishment.

The child's claims were corroborated by the siblings.

As part of the investigation, ADHS reviewed medical records with results that indicated the child is below a one percentile relating to child growth data.

State's work zone camera technology now able to detect phone usage

by-mail system.

The camera detects when a driver is holding a cell phone or handheld device, sends an alert to an officer downstream, and the officer can safely pull over the driver when they exit the work zone.

Signs will alert drivers when they are entering a work zone with camera enforcement. Arkansas law stipulates that data captured from these cameras shall not be retained except when it is against Arkansas law to use a handheld device in a work zone," said AHP Chief Jeff Holmes. "Until now, the hands-free law in work zones has been relatively difficult to enforce. This new technology will help us keep road workers and the traveling public safer."

The cameras used for speed enforcement and detection of the use of a handheld device are solely used to assist officers in enforcing laws in work zones. An officer must be present for a warning or ticket to be issued. This is not a ticket-

Food boxes coming to M'boro Jan. 28

Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building.

Check-In starts at 7:00.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Regular Meeting of the Housing Authority of the County of Howard's Board of Commissioners has been called.

The meeting will be held as follows:

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF HOWARD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

Bobby Keaster Community Center

1010 S. Pope St., Nashville, AR 71852

Chambers
IT Services

- computer repair
- sales
- network administration
- websites
- PC & Mac Troubleshooting
- commercial business only

Jon Chambers,
Owner/
Operator
870-557-3109

jon@chambersitservices.com

AGE AS OF 5/1/26
FEE -\$75

DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 11TH

QUESTIONS? CALL US 870-845-7405

NASHVILLEPARK.RECDESK.COM

NASHVILLE PARKS & RECREATION
USSSA 5U T-BALL, 6U & 8U COACH PITCH
10U, 12U & 14U PLAYER PITCH
BASEBALL REGISTRATION
OPEN NOW!!

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FEE -\$75

DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 11TH

QUESTIONS? CALL US 870-845-7405

NASHVILLEPARK.RECDESK.COM

Monday - Friday • 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAYS • 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

1021 W. Sypert • Nashville • 870-845-2290



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REGISTER HERE

**Nashville Parks & Recreation
Baseball Registration NOW OPEN.**

Use the above QR to register.

Divisions:

5U T-Ball

6U & 8U Coach Pitch

10U, 12U & 14U Player Pitch

Age As of 5/1/26 • \$75 Entry Fee

Deadline Feb. 11 Questions: Call 845-7405

Stavely and Associates



#25047692 - Brick home with approx 1,240 sq ft of living space, highway frontage, minutes from downtown Delight, offers 3 bedrooms and 1 bath, 3 acres and a nice detached 2 car garage/shop building. Home offers spacious living room, large kitchen with gas stove top, built in oven, lots of cabinet space, breakfast bar and separate dining area. Newer heat pump, rural water, metal 20x70 outbuilding with garage door, dog pen situated on a nice level yard. Contact our office for more details or to schedule a showing. **ADVERTISED PRICE \$149,900.**

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

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

102 North Main Street • Nashville 
870-845-1188

NEWS-LEADER CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS SERVICES

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

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

**SMITH MINI
STORAGE**
**Boat/RV
Climate Control**
870-845-5075
903-826-3481

PUBLIC NOTICE

Howard County is accepting bids on the construction of a 24' x 90' foot bridge for Reservoir Road. Bid requirements include:

- Possess Arkansas commercial contractor's licenses that are for bridge construction.
- No subcontracting permitted
- Contractor who wins the bid must perform actual work
- Piles must be driven to 90-ton refusal. Pile Driver must be rated 90-ton refusal.
- Contractor must supply \$2 million coverage for General Liability Insurance and Worker's Compensation. Proof of coverage must name Howard County as covered party.
- Establish start date and finish date.
- Howard County is responsible for the supplying and hauling of gravel, rip rap, and bridge beams.

Sealed bids will be opened on Wednesday, January 21st, at 10 a.m. in the Howard County Judge's office, at 421 North Main in Nashville. For additional information, contact the judge's office at 870-845-7500.

Howard County reserves the right to reject any or all bids. (This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$76.05) (pd. 29)

FOR SALE

10 acres 1/2 mile east of Centerpoint on Bluegrass Road. Lots of pine and white oak timber on a hill which would make beautiful building sites or hunting spot.

Electric and Rural Water.

\$57,500.

CALL 870-703-1628

Annual Umarex Big Squirrel Challenge set for Jan. 9-10

It's almost time to go nuts, or acorns, for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's annual statewide squirrel hunting competition, The Umarex Big Squirrel Challenge. Now in its fifth year, this celebration of the bountiful bushytail has become a favorite January event for families across The Natural State.

The concept is simple: Grab a hunting partner, hit the woods and spend the afternoon and following morning searching the treetops for the fattest three acorn-fueled acrobats you can find Jan. 9-10.

"You're welcome to harvest your full limit of 12 squirrels per day during the event, but we're only weighing the biggest three," Eric Maynard, AGFC assistant chief of the Education Division, said. "We have divisions

for fox squirrels, gray squirrels and mixed bags. Hunters are welcome to enter multiple categories if they have enough squirrels to enter, but each squirrel can only count toward one entry."

You can hunt solo, but squirrel hunting, like squirrel and dumplings, is so much better when it's shared. There are specific age divisions for Adult Teams and Youth Teams (two hunters under 16, or a youth with an adult mentor).

There's no need to register beforehand or pay an entry fee. Just start hunting at noon on Friday, Jan. 9, and show up to one of the 13 weigh-in stations by noon Saturday, Jan. 10, ready to weigh in. Squirrels must be field-dressed with their skin on before weighing.

"We'll hand out medals for first and second place in each category at each weigh-in location," Maynard said. "The top teams in the state for each category also will win high-powered Umarex air rifles."

Even if you don't take home the top prize, just showing up pays off. Every hunter who weighs a squirrel is entered for door prizes at each location.

"It's a competition, sure, but it's mostly about having a good time and getting to know the outdoors," Maynard said. "Plus, everyone loves a door prize."

The area weigh-in station is at Columbus Rick Evans Grandview Prairie Nature Center, 1685 CR35N, Columbus, AR 71831

Hunters must be in line with their harvest by noon on Jan. 10 to qualify.

Pesticide training session for private applicators Jan. 16 in Nashville

The Howard County Extension Service will offer a pesticide applicator training session for private applicators on Friday, Jan. 16 at 9 a.m. at the EH House, 425 North Second St, Nashville.

The cost will be \$20.

To register or for more information, call (870) 845-7517.

Featured LISTING!

101 S. Jones St., Nashville



1532 sq ft home sitting on a corner lot in the heart of Nashville. This home offers 3 bedrooms, 1.5 upgraded bathrooms and a large bonus room. Galley kitchen has been upgraded with granite countertops and a beautiful glass backsplash. The living room has a ton of natural light coming in from the double door that leads out to concrete patio. This home is a must see to fully appreciate. **PRICE \$165,000.**

www.murrayandcompanyrealty.com
Murray & CO. REALTY
Carol Murray, Principal Broker
122 North Main • Nashville
Office: 870-451-9000 • Cell: 501-993-6183
Tammy Lansdell, 870-200-4888
Kristi "Noelle" Couch, 870-557-7193
DeAnn Simmons, 870-557-4968
Allana O'Neal, 870-557-7162

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY,
ARKANSAS CIVIL DIVISION

CHARLES SMITH, PLAINTIFF

VS. CASE NO. 31 CV-25-100

KEVIN SMITH and JANIE ELLEN SMITH,
JULIE ANN SMITH, LAURIE BROOKE WHITE, and
BRITTANY PRUITT, DEFENDANTS

WARNING ORDER

TO: Laurie Brooke White

You are hereby notified that Charles Smith, Plaintiff, whose attorney is Turner & Turner, P.A., has filed a Complaint herein, a copy of which shall be delivered to you or your attorney upon request. You are also notified that you must appear and defend by filing your Answer or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days of the date of the first publication of this Warning Order; and in the event of your failure to do so you may face entry of judgment by default or otherwise be barred from asserting your interest or defense. This Warning Order has been authorized pursuant to the Order of the Howard County Circuit Court entered in this case on December 22, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and seal as Clerk of the Court on this 23rd day of December, 2025.

Angie Lewis, Howard County Circuit Clerk

CHARLES SMITH

c/o Turner & Turner, P.A.
Attorneys for the Plaintiff
518 South 6th Street
P.O. Box 480
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
(TT: 28, 29)

PUBLIC NOTICE

2013 Dodge Durango Vin-1C4RDHAG9DC657373

2008 GMC Envoy Vin-1GKDT13S482144294

2011 Cadillac DTS Vin-1G6KD5E6XBU129952

2016 Chevy Cruze Vin-1G1BES5M7G7274202

2003 Ford Expedition Vin-1FMPU15L23LB29187

2022 Ram Pickup Vin-3C6UR5CLXNG368836

2019 Nissan Versa Vin-3N1CN7AP0KL841988

ARE BEING HELD AT NEELEY SERVICE CENTER, 321 S. MAIN ST., NASHVILLE, AR 71852, 870-845-2802, DUE TO ABANDONMENT. VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CLAIMED WITHIN 10 DAYS, FAILURE TO RECLAIM VEHICLES WAVE ALL RIGHTS, TITLE, & INTEREST IN ABOVE VEHICLES. VEHICLES MAY BE RECLAIMED DURING BUSINESS HOURS BY PROVIDING OWNERSHIP, AND BY PAYING ALL CHARGES AGAINST VEHICLES.

(NSC: 29)

FOR SALE

This 60 acres near Old Washington and 2 miles from Grandview Wildlife Management Area is a **Hunter's Dream**. Lots of oak and pine timber and a beautiful creek running through the middle plus a pond. Access is through a locked gate with a gravel timber

company road that dead ends into the property. The area around the property is leased and controlled which makes this place

very private. **\$165,000.**

CALL 870-703-1628.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**PROPOSED BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES
WITH TAX LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING JULY 1, 2027 TO AND INCLUDING
JUNE 30, 2028**

The Board of Directors of Nashville School District of Howard County, Arkansas, in compliance with the requirements of Amendments No. 40 and No. 74 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas and of Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-622 has prepared, approved and hereby makes public the proposed budget of expenditures, together with the tax rate, as follows:

1. Salary Fund Expenditures	\$ 9,003,669
2. Instructional Expense	\$ 5,309,856
3. Maintenance & Operation Expense	\$ 1,956,153
4. Dedicated Maintenance & Operation Expense	\$ 0
5. Pupil Transportation Expense	\$ 1,153,764
6. Other Operating Expense	\$ 2,533,865
7. Non-Bonded Debt Payment	\$ 0
8. Bonded Debt Payment	\$ 809,719

To provide for the foregoing proposed budget of expenditures, the Board of Directors proposes a total school tax rate (state and local) of 31.70 mills on the dollar of the assessed value of taxable property located in this School District. The proposed tax includes the uniform rate of tax of 25.00 mills (the "Statewide Uniform Rate") to be collected on all taxable property in the State and remitted to the State Treasurer pursuant to Amendment No. 74 to the Arkansas Constitution to be used solely for maintenance and operation of schools in the State. As provided in Amendment No. 74, the Statewide Uniform Rate replaces a portion of the existing rate of tax levied by this School District and available for maintenance and operation of schools in this District. The total proposed school tax levy of 31.70 mills includes 25.00 mills specifically voted for general maintenance and operation and 6.70 mills voted for debt service previously voted as a continuing levy pledged for the retirement of existing bonded indebtedness. The surplus revenues produced each year by debt service millage may be used by the District for other school purposes.

The total proposed school tax levy of 31.70 mills represents the same rate presently being collected.

GIVEN this 17th day of November, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NASHVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Jerry Wilson

President of Board

Nick Britt

Secretary of Board

(NSD: 29)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Conservation District Election Notice

Notice of Availability

To all landowners within the boundaries of the Mine Creek Conservation District, notice is hereby given that petitions for securing a ballot position for the election of conservation district directors are available at the Mine Creek Conservation District office located at: 101 S. Washington, Nashville AR 71852, 870-845-4121, Ext. 3. Email: Louise.morris@nacdnet.net (MCSC: 29, 30, 31)

2025 Nashville Fire Department Awards Banquet



32 Years Service Pin
Fire Marshall Justin Thornton with Bobby Chambers



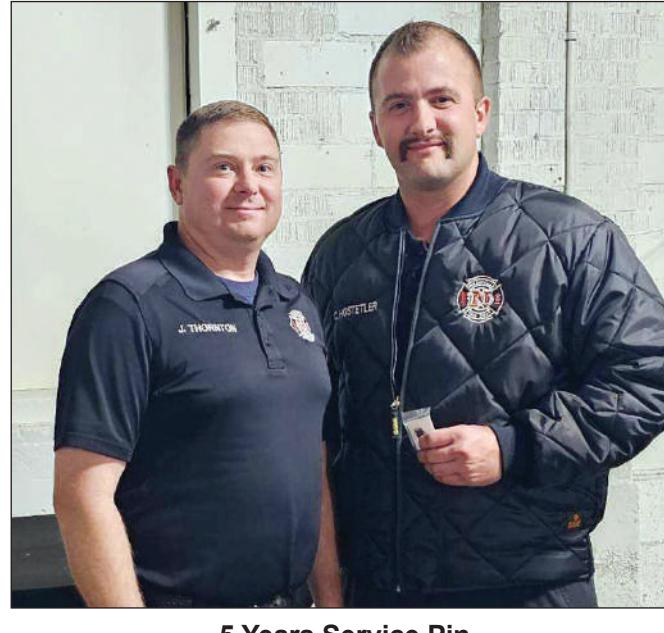
25 Years Service Pin
Fire Marshall Justin Thornton with Matt Smith



Attendance Award
Kelly Hostetler
Photos Courtesy of NFD



5 Years Service Pin
Fire Marshall Justin Thornton with Lee Worley



5 Years Service Pin
Fire Marshall Justin Thornton with Clint Hostetler

Be prepared before the next power outage.

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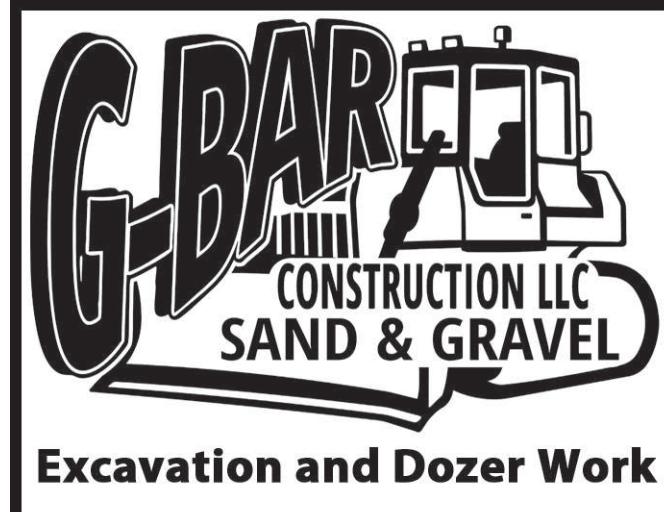
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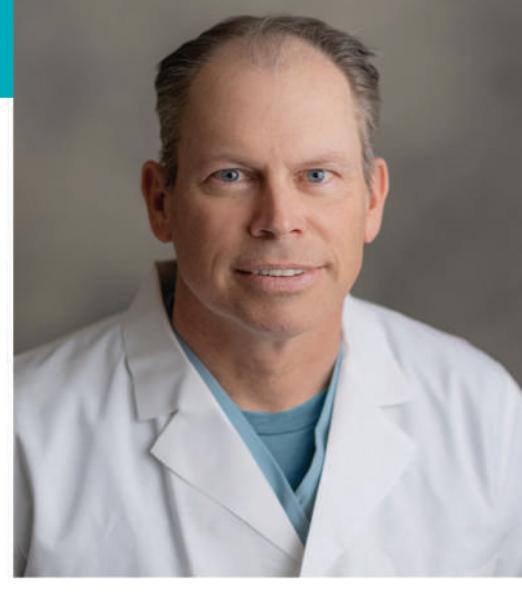
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