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Obituaries



Mary Elizabeth Haynes Ponder

“Well done, good and faithful servant” were likely the words Mary Elizabeth Haynes Ponder heard Jan. 5, 2026, arriving in heaven!

She was born to John F. and Fleda Haynes in Bingen, Ark., Feb. 2, 1924. Mary was the fourth child, following Wendell, Chester and Paul. Following Mary were sisters Sara and Frances. Mary was a faithful and active member of First Baptist Church in Nashville, Ark., as long as her health allowed.

Preceding Mary in death were her parents, three brothers, sisters-in-law, Bette Haynes and Joyce Haynes, who was more like a sister than sister-in-law. Mary also was preceded in death by her ex-husband, Coy Ponder.

Mary is survived by her three sons, Danny (Nell), David (Debbie) and Tim (Carla). Her grandchildren, Benjamin (Amy), Jacob and Beth Ann Davenport (Josh), Devin (Emily) and Kevin (Ali). Also Melanie Fox (Jacob), Hayden Ponder (Tabitha), Hannah Worthen (Dustin) and Kaitlin Couch (Colton).

Mary also has 17 great-grandchildren to carry on her legacy.

She is also survived by her sisters Sara Young and Frances Aylett, along with numerous nephews, many nieces and friends.

Mamaw and Papaw instilled in all six of their children the need for them to love Jesus, their family and friends!

To many people in Nashville Mary, Sara and Frances were affectionately called “the sisters” due to their closeness and willingness to help so many. Often these people were much younger than them.

Mamaw and Papaw’s influence on all of their children resulted in Mary’s nieces, Becky Parnell, Karen

Shofner and Tammy Bowden to giving Aunt Mary so much love and attention. Also, great nephew Brodie Backus brought great joy and happiness to Aunt Mary and many other nursing home residents over many years with his hugs and affection.

Her family is extremely grateful to the staff at Nashville Nursing Home for their love and care. Hospice nurse Betsy McJunkins was our earthly angel!

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 Celebration of Life will follow at 2 p.m. in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Nashville. Interment will follow at Restland Memorial Park, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Mary Ponder Educational Fund, C/O Ouachita Baptist University, 410410 Ouachita St., Box 3754, Arkadelphia, AR 71998.

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



Jo Simpkins

Jo Simpkins, age 88 of Mineral Springs, Ark., passed away peacefully on Jan. 6, 2026. She was born on March 18, 1937, in Mineral Springs to the late Lonnie and Mattie (Henderson) McCullough.

She was a faithful member of the New Shiloh Baptist Church and found joy in both her church family and listening to God’s word. She loved her church and church family and listening to the word of God. She was a woman of great faith. Jo was a very outgoing person and loved to talk with everyone she met. She enjoyed working at Mineral Springs Hardware and Dox.

She loved bowling with her late husband and their friends, reading books,

walking, working crossword puzzles and camping. She was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan. Win or lose, she would be sitting in her chair cheering them on. But most of all, she cherished her family.

Jo will be sadly missed as a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She leaves behind a trail of beautiful memories and will live forever in our hearts. Memories are timeless treasures of the heart and she blessed our hearts with her life, laughter and love.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, Jim Simpkins; one son, Bob Simpkins; one grandchild, A.J. Simpkins; one great-grandchild, Tori Simpkins; a sister, Ann Jackson; and a nephew, Tracy Weems.

Those left to cherish her memory include her daughter and son-in-law, Marnell and Bobby Pierce; two stepsons and their wives, James and Linda Simpkins and Roy and Connie Simpkins, Sr.; four siblings, Judy (William) Tabler, Sherry (Johnny) Higginbotham, Eugene McCullough and Patty Brett; six grandchildren, Christie (Cris) Stinnett, Chad (Shelley) Pierce, Scott (Lisa) Simpkins, Ferris (Angela) Simpkins, Roy Lee (Laura) Simpkins and Sal Simpkins; 17 great-grandchildren Hayden, Eleanor, Eliette, Paige, Juliana, Val, Lauren, Walker, Ty, Garrett, Tristian, Zachary, Codi, Tatum, Kailee (Trace) and Amanda; Two great-grea-grandchildren, Rhett and Henry; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories with her children.

Funeral services to honor Mrs. Simpkins will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Nashville with Chad Pierce and Dwayne Parish officiating. Interment will follow in Mineral Springs Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home.

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

Reola Morrison

Reola Morrison, 85, of Nashville died Jan. 7, 2026.

She was born May 30, 1940, in Nashville, the daughter of the late William Draper and Lillie Tucker.

She was preceded in death by her son, Johnny Keel; and her sister, Janie Nunally.

Survivors include: six daughters, Nadine Morrison (Benny), Mary Harris (Tommy), Shirley Morrison (Ralph), Bonnie Cunningham (Terrance), Ellen Morrison (Ira Dale), and Barbara Coulter; her son, Malcolm Coulter; also grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, from 3-5 p.m. at M&H Memorial Chapel

in Hope.

Funeral services will be Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at 10 a.m. at Maranatha Baptist Church, Nashville. Burial will be at Crofton Cemetery in Tollette. Arrangements by McFadden & Hitchye Funeral Enterprises, Hope.



Gary Lynn Revels

Gary Lynn Revels, age 77, of Lockesburg, Ark., passed away on Jan. 7, 2026, at St. Michael’s Hospital.

Gary was born on Aug. 22, 1948, in Nashville, Ark., to Thomas Edwin “Buddy” Revels and Ellen Francis Revels. He was raised in Lockesburg, Arkansas, where he proudly graduated as a Blue Darter, a title he carried with pride throughout his life.

Gary was a devoted husband to Terri Lynn Revels and a loving father to his only child, Gary Thomas Revels and his wife, Jennifer. He was a proud Papa to five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, who were the center of his world. His schedule -- and his heart -- were always guided by their needs and activities.

He is also survived by his sister, Brenda Brackett; his sister-in-law, Sandra Revels; and numerous nieces and nephews who loved him dearly.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Edwin “Buddy” Revels and Ellen Revels; his sisters, Judy Ford and Sadie Yates; and his brother, Jerry Revels.

Gary dedicated his life to service. He honorably served 26 years in the Army National Guard and Army Reserves, as well as 29 years with the Arkansas Highway Police, protecting and serving his community and country with quiet strength and integrity.

A man of few words, Gary was known for his wit, kindness, encouragement, and steady presence.

He was always neatly dressed in his signature starched jeans and carried himself with humility and purpose. He enjoyed time with the Rusty Relic Tractor Club, treasured mornings with his coffee shop buddies (The Gossip Guys), and was a faithful member of First United Methodist Church.

Above all else, Gary loved the Lord and his family. He devoted his life to being an amazing husband, father, and Papa. He was the calm in the chaos, offering wisdom through gentle words and steadfast love.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Jan. 9th, from

6-8 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Lockesburg, Ark.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 10, at 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Lockesburg, Ark., with Bro. Tommy Halsell officiating. Burial will follow at Odd

Fellows Cemetery.

Gary Lynn Revels leaves behind a legacy of service, faith, and unwavering devotion to those he loved. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

You may leave a condolence online at www.wilker-sonfuneralhomes.com.

Auction, dinner at Cross Point Church is benefit for two men

There will be a benefit auction and dinner for two members of Cross Point Cowboy Church who are facing medical issues.

The event benefitting Baccor Faulkner and Bubba Cox will be Saturday, Feb. 7. Dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. followed by a live auction.

The meal cost will be for donation, and features smoked chicken quarters with trimmings.

The church is located west of Nashville on Hwy. 371. For more information contact Charlie Chambers, 870-490-1248. The public is invited.



SCRAPPER BASKETBALL. Nashville boys basketball coach Aaron Worthen spoke to the Nashville Rotary Club, last week, about the team which at the time had a 10-1 record. The coach brought two of his senior Scrapper players -- Johntae Taylor and Demetrus Shelley to the meeting which was held at UA-Cossatot. The team has had to play through some injuries, he said. The club will host the annual Scrapper Football Banquet on Jan. 24.

Ladies Night Out is set for Feb. 6 with inspirational speaker

Cross Point Cowboy Church will host a ‘ladies night out’ on Friday, Feb. 6, with a humorous and inspirational talk by Tammy Whitehurst.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the church located west of Nashville on Hwy. 371.

The event will include a meal, music and fellowship. Admission is \$10 at the door, and reservations are requested. A ‘QR Code’ for reservations is included in the church advertisement elsewhere in this issue of the newspaper.

The theme is “Broken by the World; Mended by His Grace.”

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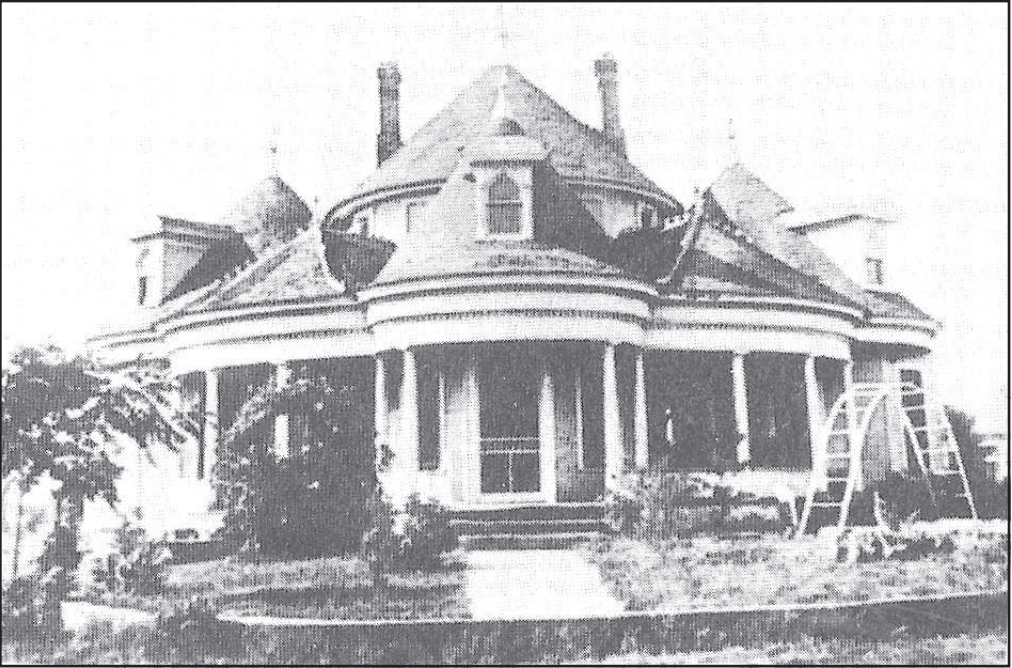


THE CECIL “BIRDDOG” HARRIS MEMORIAL

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 John F. Reese House on North Main, Nashville

120 years ago; January 1906

The brickwork on Howard County’s new courthouse was finished Saturday afternoon, the last brick being laid at 4:35 by Frank Hodge. The carpenters have the framework for the roof and the petitions almost completed, and the work of putting on the roof will begin in a few days. It is thought the building can be ready for court, which convenes on February 19.

(Adv.) We are Headquarters for Dry Goods, Clothing, Furnishings, Saddles, Harness and Groceries. “We are value-giving people,” Best Flour, per barrel \$4.00; Royal Blue Matches, per dozen boxes 40¢; Good coffee, 10 pounds \$1.00. Come see us, Gosnell Mer. Co. Nashville.

76 years ago; January 1946

Senator John L. McClellan gave a masterful address before a large crowd at the meeting of the Howard County Farm Bureau at the Whiteside Hall Tuesday night.

Senator McClellan told his hearers that now the war is over, the Congress is besieged by selfish groups of well-organized people seeking special privileges and protection for their groups and some were doing everything possible to destroy our form of government under very attractive propaganda bearing such titles as “Freedom and Liberalism.” He said he was fighting very hard for a return to free enterprise and the right of everyone to run his own business without dictation from Washington.

(Adv.) At the Howard Theatre, Friday and Saturday, Sunset Carson in “Rio Grande Raiders.” Plus “The Tortoise Wins Again.”

63 years ago; January 1963

A recent survey indicated that Nashville High School ranks 10th in Arkansas in the number of graduates who earned their doctorate degrees since 1957.

Graduates who have gone on to complete their work on doctoral degrees within the years since 1957, their fields

and schools include Dr. Charles E. Ferguson, 1946 graduate, economics at University of North Carolina 1957; Dr. George R. Haynes, 1946 graduate, chemistry, University of Texas 1957; Dr. William E. Martindale, 1941, biology, University of Alabama, 1962; Dr. John L. Ferguson, 1944 graduate, history, Tulane U. 1960; Dr. James T. Tollett, 1953 graduate, agricultural science, University of Illinois, 1961.

43 years ago; December 1983

Trisha Henry was named winner of the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. The local contest was sponsored by VFW Post 9823. She will compete for the District 8 title.

Henry was the 1982 district winner, and she placed fifth in the state contest. Second place winner this year was Brett Cauley, and Robert Fruen was named third place winner. All are students at Nashville High School.

The contest, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliaries, is in its 37th year.

Honor roll named at NJHS

The honor roll has been announced for the second nine weeks at Nashville Junior High School.

Students include the following:

9th Grade All A's

Giovani Aguilar, Gualupe Arroyo-Martinez, Abigail Bailey, Owen Bauer, Madden Brassfield, Emily Byers, Tyler Castleman, Landry Craven, Abishai Cruz, Bo Dean, Miranda Dukes, Addison Gammage, Aniyah Gilliam, Jacob Hale, Gemma Harberson, Jady Johnson, Brayley Lowery, Molly Marion, Ace McKinnon, Brooklyn Morgan, Elijah Muresan, Karson Pack, Cason Parker, Adrian Perez, Emiline Petty, Sadie Phelps, Copelin Reeder, Andrew Reese, McKynlee Scott, Keontae Sockwell, Ava Stucky, Addison Sullivan, Savannah Taylor, Luke Wallis, Kaegan Waters, Harlee Webb.

A's & B's

Rayniah Alvarez, Aron Barajas, Zakyrius Beasley, Colton Brown, Jonathan Bustamante, Jose Bustamante, La'Tiana Cheatham, Weller Chesshir, Luke Cooley, Kaylie Couch, Braiden Friend, Alan Green, Ledger Green, Zania Green, Hudson Halter, Yerik Hernandez, Royce Johnson, Thomas Johnson-Matthews, Warren Jones, Maddie Lovelis, Daisy Maruffo, Raven McFadden, Bay Nolte, Corban Perez, Emily Perez, Ivana Pineda, William Prescott, Aubrie Reed, Tahya Riggins, Yuliana Rojas, Xavier Rubio, Taylon Schooley, Christopher Singleton, Mallory

Smelser, Micah Thompson, Ma'Layah Trotter, Emory Wallis, Kharizma Wynn, Rhett Young.

8th Grade All A's

Brynlee Bagley, Wyatt Chesshir, Carson Clifton, Parker Giddens, Connor Gordon, Dieucotie Green, Kallen Horn, Kimber Jones, Gage Kinkade, Lucas Lowrey, Harmony Martin, Emily Mendoza, Caleb Mounts, Loraine Natividad, Kaylee Pizarro, Carter Reeves, Abigail Sartin, Dawson Smith, Hunter Stone, Bella Topor, Z'onna Williams.

A's & B's

Addison Banegas, Selina Berruquin, Chloe Bohn, Mollie Boone, Heavenly Brett, Bailey Carver, Tarlaycia Chipps, Autumn Dilard, Davin Dowdy, Brantley Goodwin, Emma Gunter, Hudson Harrison, Kale Hughes, Jayce Jones, Macey Keeton, Xzabrea Langston, Avery Mascarenas, Destiny Mercado, Jhoan Murillo, Jaxson Parker, Kennedy Porter, Chloe Russo, Olivia Simmons, Braylee Smith, Kennedy Smith, Minka Stanley, Alonzo Stroud, Brayan Thomas, Olivia Trimble, Cherish Tucker, Imani Un-

derwood, Terra Vanderziel, Nicolas Vilar, Khamille Wynn.

7th Grade All A's

Nora Bauer, Hank Bell, Xiomara Bretado, Blakelee Britt, Lilliana Gonzalez, Robb Hainen, Georgiana Hawthorne, Madalynn Propps, Knox Stinson, Adyson Winton, Kamryn Wright.

A's & B's

Kaisen Allen, Adrian Aranda, Addison Bieck, Brynlee Billings, Abrial Brown, Aron Chandler, Raeley Clements, Quinn Coffee, Cooper Cogburn, Kevi Delarosa, Santiago Dukes, Miguel Garate, Brylie Garner, Lenyx Green, Madison Hawkins, Adeyani Hernandez, Sean Hopson, Lakyn Hugg, Genesis Alonso, Ivan Jiang, Emari Johnson, Evelyn Lima, Maddie McDaniel, Jolie McLelland, Layla McNeal, Brody Moody, Maecee Myrick, Sienna Norton, Nhi Phan, DaMiyah Piggee, Georgia Pinegar, Mia Portillo, Mollie Revels, Victor Sanchez, Racie Scott, Russell Vallee, Yael Velazquez, Weston Wallace, Jagger White, Kameron Willard, Rajon Witherspoon, Hudson Worley, Olivia Wright.



Excavation and Dozer Work

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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 Jan. 1-7, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included:

Marriage Licenses
(*Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office*)
Dec. 31, 2025. Bradley A. Wilbanks, 43, Nashville, and Samantha Jolene Pham, 33, Nashville.

Civil Court
CV26-01, Jan. 2. Janice Ramage vs. Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative (SWAT), et al. Negligence.

CV26-02, Jan. 2. Capital One vs. Billy Knight. Debt.
CV26-03, Jan. 5. Capital One vs. Larry White. Debt.
CV26-04, Jan. 6. First National Bank of De Queen/ Dierks vs. Penney Musick, et al. Mortgage foreclosure.
CV26-05, Jan. 6. Bankers Healthcare Group vs. Micheal R. Whisenhunt and Tammie J. Whisenhunt. Debt.

Domestic

Relations Court
DR26-01, Jan. 5. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Ben C. Simmons. Support.
DR26-02, Jan. 6. Jennifer Theresa vs. Martin Azansa. Divorce.
DR26-03, Jan. 7. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Kendell Branch. Support.

Criminal Court
No new criminal cases filed since CR25-125, Dec. 31.

Land/Property Transactions
Quitclaim Deeds

Jan. 01. Stacy Melvin Smith and wife, Kimberly Smith; to Southern Glass & Mirror, LLC; Lots 1-2-3-4, Block 2, George H. Bell First Addition, City of Nashville.
Jan. 02. Jimmy M. White, widow of Maryland C. White, Jr.; to James Charles White; Lot 11, Block 25, SWREDC Addition, Town of Nashville.
Jan. 05. Kenneth R. Wilson and Tiffany B. Wilson,

Trustees of The Kenneth and Tiffany Wilson Trust; to Elizabeth Wilson Overton; 20 ac. in S29 T8S R27W.

Jan. 07. Anthony Empty; to Jessica Empty; 0.568 ac. in S26 T9S R27W.

Beneficiary's Deed
Jan. 06. Sylvia Voudrie, surviving spouse of Clarence Voudrie; to Valerie McCammack; 20.75 ac. with exceptions, S12 T9S R28W.

Warranty Deeds
Jan. 02. Shaun Pettit and wife, Kyra Pettit, fka Kyra Brown; to Corey Williams; Lot 1, Block 8, and part of Lot 12, Block 14, SWREDC Addition, Town of Nashville. \$35,000.

Jan. 05. Ramona Hardin, surviving spouse of Kenny Hardin, deceased; to John Robert Middleton; property in S3 T9S R27W. \$251,500.

Jan. 06. Mark Edwin Dale and wife, Shawn Dee Dale; to Emily Michelle Vaughn; Lot 7, Block 10, Greenwood Addition, City of Nashville. \$189,000.

Five sentenced in criminal court

Sentences were handed down for five defendants who gave guilty or true pleas in criminal court here last week.

On the bench Wednesday, Jan. 7, for the regular day of court for Howard County was Judge Tom Cooper.

John Elva Morris, 59, white male, Hazen, was charged with fleeing, a class D felony. He was sentenced to three years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) plus three years suspended imposition of sentence.

Franklin Mitchel, 40, white male, Mineral Springs, was charged with failure to register as a sex offender, a class C offense. He was sentenced to one year in the ADC plus nine years suspended imposition of sentence.

A guilty and a true plea both were given by LaCourtney Rodgers, 19, black male, Nashville.

In 2024 he was put on probation for a conviction of theft by receiving. In 2025

he was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to five years in the ADC.

For failure to meet the probation terms of his 2018 conviction for non-support, Charles Brown, 56, black male, Wilton, was sentenced to 60 days in a regional punishment facility. He was released to await space at the facility.

Also for failure to meet the probation terms of his conviction in 2021 for a pair of class D drug offenses, Kenny Clardy, 48, black male, Nashville, was sentenced to a \$1,000 fine and

suspended imposition of sentence of five years.


Trial dates set
Tiffany Green, 36, white female, Dierks, is charged with second degree forgery. Pretrial motions will be heard April 8.

Colby Westbrook 59, white male, De Queen, is charged with residential burglary and theft of property. Motions will be heard April 8.

Alex Allen, 23, white male, Ashdown is charged with residential burglary and theft of property.

Motions will be heard April 8.

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Point of view

Missing BBQ event

Another fine tradition just slips away quietly

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and here’s what I’m worried about these days.

Not the squandering of America’s prestige abroad; not the puzzling pardons for insurrectionists; not the abduction of another country’s leader, as evil as he was; not the threat of military force to ‘take’ Greenland; not whether it was a Minnesota homemaker or a terrorist that was shot in the face by ICE; not if Franklin County will be forced to host a state prison; etc.

NOOOOOO! What I’m worried about is the loss of a community tradition I’ve held dear for mucho years.

Mine Creek Revelations

By Louie Graves

It is the announcement that there will be no 4-H BBQ Bowl this year. It was a great community event, and I thank the 4-H’ers for having this event for so many years.

In case you didn’t know:

Moms and Dads in the 4-H Foundation would gather up all of the portable smokers in the county and line them up at the fairgrounds or beside the radio station on a cold Saturday morning.

Cornish game hens were donated by our good neighbor industry, Tyson, and the 4-H program purchased the ribs. Lots of preparation.

The cooks were fired up at about 5 a.m. by the Moms and Dads. It was usually raining or sleeting. The meat smoked until about 11 when purchasers dropped by to pick ‘em up.

For many years this went on until rib prices skyrocketed.

“We’ve just got to do something else,” County Extension Agent-4-H Samantha Horn explained to me this week about the need for a 4-H fund-raiser.

If I remember correctly, the event was originally called the Super Bowl BBQ because it was held on the Saturday before the Super Bowl by the late great Nashville Kiwanis Club. Maybe it was the late great Nashville Lions Club.

The late great Norman Adamson would notify me when to start publicity.

We lovingly keep some events -- like the Golden Gathering -- and some gradually go away -- like the Evelyn Ramsay Tasting Brunch.

It is really important for a community to put forth great effort to keep events and organizations alive.

Without them we’re just an empty shell of a town.

I speak with such 4-H BBQ Bowl knowledge because I myself am a 4-H alumni.

It was long long ago, I admit.

In fact it was so long ago that it was just 3-H.

ONE THING you can count on is that as soon as you get a little confidence in the Razorback Basketball Season, the team goes to Auburn, Ala., and plays like they made pregame bets on the Tigers.

It’s taken a long time but I’m pretty confident now that we’ll give up late-game TDs in football or not show up for a hoops game. I hope to goodness this doesn’t continue for baseball.

And I’m afraid I’d jinx the Lady Razorback basketballers, volleyball and soccer teams, softball team, tracksters or water polo team.

WHERE IS SHE? I sometimes still lose sleep over the whereabouts of Amelia Earhardt and Jimmy Hoffa.

If you have any information please call the Lost Sleep Hotline.

VETERANS, circle Friday, Feb. 13, on your calendar. It is the date for the annual Texarkana area veterans chili and gumbo cookoff /contest. Last year the group added the gumbo competition. Admission is \$8 and proceeds go to purchase of a van to take veterans to VA offices in Shreveport.

Originally this event was sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America chapter in Texarkana, but veterans organizations of all eras were later added.

I’ve gone for my fill of chili for at least a decade, and I plan to go again. The event is held in the Truman Arnold Student Center at Texarkana College from 11-1.

The campus cops there are no longer looking for me, but the Shore Patrol may be lurking in hopes of taking back my Navy Good Conduct Medal which the Navy insists was actually -- and obviously -- issued in error.

Maybe THIS Friday-the-13th will be lucky for me and the Navy will declare that I really was an ideal sailor. Then those pesky Shore Patrol guys can go home. I’m getting tired of dodging them.

MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: TOOTHACHE -- The pain that drives you to extraction.

WORD GAMES. I love oxymorons: When I demanded proof that the world was flat I only got an Eloquent Silence.

HE SAID: “Women, the way I see it, are very evolved people. They’re more mature, they’re more aware of their feelings, in touch with their feelings. They’re connected to things that matter more in life. They know what’s important. Men basically run around like idiots until we meet somebody who can show us that those things are important.” Rob Reiner, actor and director

SHE SAID: “You don’t see too many atheists on the deathbed. They all start cramming then.” Dolly Parton, singer and actress

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Nashville News-Leader

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

John Balch, associate editor

Tracy Denny-Bailey, advertising manager

Pam McAnelly, office manager

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Presented in the public interest by the Nashville News-Leader

Some state laws from 2025 session became effective at start of new year

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

Most laws from the regular 2025 legislative session become effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns *sine die*; some include language that make them effective on a certain date, and some officially became law on January 1st.

One of the most impactful new laws is Act 1008, the removal of 0.125% sales tax on groceries. This removes language regarding the tax from state laws; however, local sales taxes will remain unchanged.

Another law, Act 631 allows for those using SNAP benefits to meet work requirements by volunteering at any public entity that receives state funding.

Act 708 changes an unemployment benefits law that requires a person receiving benefits to report at least five work search contacts weekly and the state job board should match open jobs with those on benefits.

Legislators also passed, Act 427, the Strengthen Arkansas Homes Program. This allows state officials to provide financial grants to certain property owners and nonprofit organizations to assist

with and promote the mitigation of losses to insurable dwellings due to catastrophic wind events.

Act 875 increases the disability onset age to 46 years old instead of 26 years of age. This means that if the disability occurred before that age, they can be eligible for the Achieving a Better Life Experience Program. That program allows individuals to create a “tax-advantaged savings account” to cover qualified expenses.

Act 748 allows for a law enforcement agency that trains an officer to seek reimbursement from each law enforcement agency that subsequently employs the law enforcement officer within 24 months after the completion of the training.

Act 880 allows for property owned by a trust or limited liability company to qualify as a homestead for purposes of the property tax exemption for disabled veterans and surviving spouses and minor dependent children of disabled veterans in certain circumstances.

Another new law creates an income tax credit to encourage corporations to relocate their headquarters to Arkansas. Act

881 allows for a corporation that relocates with an income tax credit of up to 50% of the payroll for new full-time permanent employees. The corporation would have to meet certain requirements to be eligible. The director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may also offer a tax credit of up to 10% to the company.

Several new changes to health-care laws will also be effective January 1, 2026, including:

Act 866 mandates coverage for baby deliveries in a licensed birthing center under a health benefit plan.

Another law, Act 424, mandates coverage for all modalities, types, and techniques of healthcare services provided for breast reconstruction surgeries.

Legislators approved Act 628, which mandates coverage for treatment of diseases and conditions caused by severe obesity under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026, and establishes requirements for a covered person to qualify for coverage. The law applies to those 18 years old or older.

MLK’s iconic ‘I Have a Dream’ speech

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered the “I Have a Dream” speech Aug. 28, 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial. The nation will observe Martin Luther King Day Monday, Jan. 19.

The following are excerpts from the speech, a key moment in United States history.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. . .

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into

an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, . . . one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. . . With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. . .

This will be the day when all of God’s children will be able to sing with a new meaning, “My country,

‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim’s pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.”

And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!

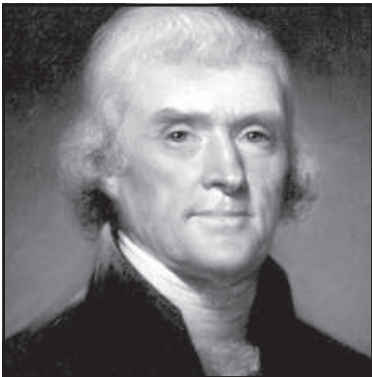
Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California!

But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”



“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.

Florida

Continued from page 1

Welcome to the Sunshine State in the summertime. And it's expensive. If you and Momma and the Munchkins are wanting to visit the Magic Kingdom, then you'd better start saving big bucks right now or plan on taking out a second mortgage. Yes, it's that expensive.

And if you plan on going "on the cheap" with a simple beach vacation, then you'd better think again. Summertime crowds mean much higher prices for condos, and unless you and the wife and kiddos plan on fasting for a week, then get ready to spend some money at the restaurants.

But there is another Florida, one that's only open from September through April, and it has some distinct advantages.



News-Leader photo/DON HALL
Jaree Hall of Nashville looks out on a Florida beach on a quiet January afternoon.



News-Leader photo/DON HALL
Where are the people? Florida from September through April offers pleasant weather and nearly deserted beaches.
*Beach weather on a recent afternoon
55 degrees, 11 miles per hour winds*

wear the hoodie. For those of you who are "frugal" (read: tight as the bark on a tree), this second Florida is the one you've been waiting for.

While the summertime crowds guarantee that everything will be expensive, the smaller crowds from September through April mean that prices will drop.

The restaurant bill won't go down much, but get ready to be pleasantly surprised at the cost of a place to stay.

The same condo in January can cost half as much as it does in July.

If the beaches or the Happiest Place on Earth are calling your name, then you're not alone. But if you can plan a trip to Florida in the fall or spring, then do it.

You might just be starting a habit.

Still, as good as it is to visit the Sunshine State, it's not Howard County, Arkansas. But it's nice.



Bundled up fans with Nashville connections await the start of Monday night's NFL playoff game between the Houston Texans and Pittsburgh Steelers at Acrisure Stadium in Pittsburgh. The group includes (front) Graham Yenser, Beth Graham Yenser, Max Yenser and Gaye Graham; (back) Boomer Brown, Brad Chesshir, Doug Graham and James "Bunch" Nichols. Beth Yenser is the wife of Zach Yenser, the Texans' assistant offensive line coach. Houston won 30-6 and advances to the next round.



News-Leader photo/DEEDE ROBINSON
The Nashville Scrappers hoist their trophy after winning the Southwest Arkansas Invitational Tournament Jan. 3 at Mineral Springs. Nashville defeated the host team 78-53 in the championship game.

System

Continued from page 1

"We're committed to keeping our community safe and informed," said Pinkerton. "This system gives us the tools to share critical information instantly, so everyone can take the right steps to protect themselves and their loved ones."

Pinkerton encouraged everyone in the county to sign up for the service and said the

process has been made simple with the use of QR code (found with this article) or by following this link: https://embeds.regrouplcloud.com/orgs/howardcoem/channels/howard-county-residents/signup_embed

Pinkerton said it is important to note that when signing up that the last step will be a "municipality" box which lets users pick their location. Users may select Nashville, Mineral Springs, Dierks or Tollette, but if you don't live within one of the cities you should select "Howard Coun-

ty" as your location.

For those needing help signing up, Howard County Emergency Management Coordinator Roddy Smith will be at the following locations next week to offer assistance:

- Jan. 21, Dierks City Hall, 8-10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 21, Wildcat Den, Umpire, 11-1:30
- Jan. 22, Mineral Springs Fire Station, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 22, Tollette City Hall, 1-3 p.m.

For more information, contact the county judge's office or Smith at (870) 845-7524.

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Howard County District Court

Jan. 8, 2026

BF=Bond Forfeited

Howard County

Banks, Lataya Sheree, 44, Hope, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of DWI, fined \$1,110, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$285

Chipps, Shania Shontel, 29, De Queen, guilty of no seat belt, fined \$85; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Faulkner, Dustie E. 25, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,075 balance; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of speeding, fined \$240; guilty of DWI, fined \$1,110, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Griggs, Stacy Autumn, 29, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,374 balance; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460

Hernandez, Adrian, 21, Nashville, \$210 BF, expired vehicle tags/ no tags

Hernandez-Hernandez, Jairo, 48, Nashville, \$360 BF, unsafe vehicle

Martinez, David L., 29, Nashville, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months; guilty of violation of ignition/interlock device, fined \$560

McClure, Danica Lane, 35, Texarkana, \$275 BF, speeding

Mobbs, Braxtyn Tim, 18, Seminole, Okla., \$255 BF, speeding

Reyes, Guadalupe Cervantes, 33, Dierks, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Riley, Asiashanna R., 22, Texarkana, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$555 balance; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Smith, Brandon, 39, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$4,195 balance, committed to jail-suspended conditions

Thomas, Jaquaysha Lexus, 20, Ashdown, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Wilkerson, Heath A., 51, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of non-payment of fines, \$5,895 balance, committed to jail-suspended conditions; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445

Williams, Jadin D. Juan, 18, Mineral Springs, \$525 BF, second-degree terroristic threatening

City of Nashville

Abalos, Karla, 20, Nashville, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$210

Banks, Lataya Sheree, 44, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$3,590 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$300

Carthorne, Sekerria S., 25, Ashdown, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,725 balance

Cherry, Tiffany, 42, Nashville, possession of controlled substance, deferred adjudication for six months to dismiss, fined \$1,090

Combs, Stephenie, 46, Murfreesboro, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$745 balance, committed to jail-suspended conditions

Finley, Lance Todd, 43, Mineral Springs, guilty of expired vehicle tags.no tags, fined \$210

Lemons, Nicholas, E., 32, Nashville, guilty of failure to appear, fined \$300; guilty of non-payment of fines, \$4,980 balance

Moore, Jamar, 26, Nashville, guilty of no vehicle license, fined \$200; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360

Osborn, Justin Wayne, 40, Nashville, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$210; guilty of no seat belt, fined \$85

Pittman, Linda Diane, 79, Nashville, guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$135; guilty of theft of property, fined \$175

Wilkerson, Heath A., 51, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445

City of Dierks

Morris, Wanda S., 55, Dierks, no contest, non-payment of fines, \$955 balance

Whisenhunt, Robin, 49, De Queen, guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$195

City of Mineral Springs

Carthorne, Sekerria S., 25, Ashdown, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months; guilty of possessing open container of alcohol in vehicle, fined \$235

Cheatham, Nyeisha N., 24, Mineral Springs, guilty of violation of ignition/interlock device, fined \$360

Riley, Asiashanna R., 22, Texarkana, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$210; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Taylor, Hershel L., 47, Nashville, \$360 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$210 BF, expired vehicle tags/ no tags

Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

Camp, Landon, 16, Emmet, \$235 BF, gun plug requirements

Cheatham, Tamara Reed, 46, Mineral Springs, \$385 BF, hunting from road in WMA

Bench Trials

Howard County

Pate, Shane A., 48, Lockesburg, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$2,505 balance

Thomas, Codey W., 24, Mena, possession of controlled substance, deferred adjudication for six months to dismiss, fined \$1,090

City of Nashville

Johnson, Alaza S., 24, Nashville, no child restraint, deferred adjudication for six months to dismiss, fined \$210

Parker, David A., 47, Dierks, guilty of violation of protection order, fined \$1,035

Self, Amanda M., 45, Murfreesboro, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,125, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

City of Mineral Springs

Maxwell, Amarion Dwayne, 19, Mineral Springs, guilty of disorderly conduct, fined \$285



Nashville Chamber of Commerce

Citizen Awards Nomination Form

Complete Form & Drop Off or Mail to:
NCC, 107 S. Main, Nashville 71852

OR EMAIL YOUR NOMINATION:
chamberdirector@nashvillearcoc.com

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominated By _____

Nominated For: (Check One)

Man of The Year

Woman of the Year

Orange & Black Award

(Someone in schools who has contributed to the community, or someone in the community who has contributed to the schools)

Lifetime Achievement Award

Short narrative for why this person should receive the award:

Use More Space If Needed

Awards to be presented

at the annual NCC Awards Banquet

Monday, Feb. 16

Fairgrounds & Country Sounds Jan. 31

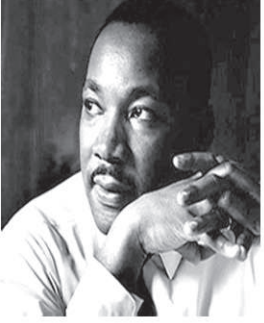
Benefit tickets now on sale


A benefit for the Howard County Fair Association and the upkeep of the fairgrounds - "Fairgrounds & Country Sounds" - will be held Saturday, Jan. 31 at 6 p.m. at Midtown Social in Nashville.

The cost of the fundraiser, which will include a steak dinner, will be \$60 for individuals or tables from 6-top \$300 to 10-top \$500. Tickets should be purchased by Jan. 23 and are available from fair association members Mark Kitchens, Karter Castleberry, Sydney Reed, John Raulerson, Beth Lamb, Kaitlin Miller, Karlie Worley or Robert Womack.

Honoring a Man and His Dream

January 19, 2026





Howard Memorial hospital

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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING IN NASHVILLE AND DIERKS

Applications may be picked up at the Howard County Housing Authority office located at

1010 S. Pope Street, Nashville, Arkansas (off of Hope Hwy).

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


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



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Jason Lenderman, CPA

Howard County Launches New Mass Notification System to Enhance Community Safety

Howard County has partnered with Regroup to launch a new mass notification system designed to keep the community informed and prepared during critical events. This advanced platform delivers urgent updates through phone calls, text messages, emails and more—ensuring fast, reliable communication when it matters most.

From severe weather and road closures to emergencies and community alerts, the system provides real-time notifications that help safeguard families, businesses, and residents. Powered by Regroup's trusted technology, the platform strengthens Howard County's ability to respond quickly and effectively to any situation.

"We're committed to keeping our community safe and informed," said Howard County Judge Brent Pinkerton. "This system gives us the tools to share critical information instantly, so everyone can take the right steps to protect themselves and their loved ones."

Howard County encourages all residents to register today to stay prepared and connected. Together, we can build a more resilient and informed community.

https://embeds.regroucloud.com/orgs/howardcoem/channels/howard-county-residents/signup_embed

For media inquiries, please contact:
Roddy Smith Jroem@howardco.org | 870-845-7524

Click on link or scan the QR code fill out form. On Municipality click on the city you live or if you live in the county click on Howard County.



Howard County Emergency Management Coordinator
Roddy Smith

will also be at the following to assist any residents who may need help in signing up:

January 21st: Dierks City Hall 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

January 21st: Wildcat Den at Umpire 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

January 22nd: Mineral Springs Fire Station 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

January 22nd: Tollette City Hall 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



News-Leader photos/NIKKI FIELDS

ATOP THE STANDINGS. The senior high Dierks Lady Outlaws are currently in first-place in the 7-2A standings with an 14-5 overall records and a perfect 5-0 conference mark. The team's last wins were over Kirby (73-2), Spring Hill (67-26) and Foreman (74-7). Pictured in action here against Spring Hill are (top left) Addison Hill; (top) Presley Pugh; and (bottom left) Raylie Walston.

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Remembering
Martin Luther
King, Jr.
Monday, January 19




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*A Dream, A Movement,
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Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of equal rights for all Americans inspired millions to challenge racism and change the fabric of a nation. A leader of the American civil rights movement, Dr. King encouraged progress through non-violent resistance to unjust laws. He created a campaign of "dignity and discipline" that spoke to people of all ages across America and around the world. His words and actions sparked a progression toward racial equality that truly "let freedom ring" for all Americans. Today, Dr. King's dream continues to inspire positive change, the powerful legacy of a man committed to making our world a better place, with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Larry Dunaway
& City of Nashville



Estate of Dr Jack & Betty Sue
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Estate Sale Sisters in conjunction with Todd Morris Auction Company is holding an online estate auction now until the closing on Thursday, January 22 at 6 p.m. Beloved lifelong residents of Murfreesboro. Dr. Jack and Betty Dillard - with a special estate auction featuring their personal collections and household treasures. Dr. Jack Dillard, a respected dentist who served the Murfreesboro community from 1955 to 1991, Dr. Dillard devoted more than three decades to caring for generations of families. Outside of his practice, he enjoyed photography. This online auction will include a variety of vintage photography equipment, cameras, and accessories. Betty Sue, known for her warmth, hospitality, and creativity..she loved sewing, entertaining, and reading. Her estate includes many sets of dishes, beautiful home decor, a variety of kitchen and entertaining pieces, and books.

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JANUARY 31, 2026
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Board Members: Beth Lamb, Kaitlin Miller,
Karlie Worley, or Robert Womack
Or call or text John Raulerson at (870) 557-2405
or Robert Womack at (870) 451-3936.

Did You Know? Study finds food waste compost less effective than potting mix alone

By Maddie Johnson
University of Arkansas System Division
of Agriculture Arkansas Agricultural
Experiment Station

With an estimated 30 to 40 percent of the United States’ food supply ending up as waste, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, food science and horticulture experts teamed up to study if it could lay the foundation for growing the next bunch of crops.

“It’s capturing food waste that would otherwise go to landfill and produce greenhouse gases and cause harm to the environment in some capacity,” said Matt Bertucci, assistant professor of sustainable fruit and vegetable production with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

“Instead, we are utilizing it to generate an organic substrate, an organic amendment compost that can then be utilized for propagating seedlings,” he said.

Bertucci is part of the department of horticulture within the Division of Agriculture’s research and outreach arms — the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service — and the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

The study, “Assessing Food Waste Compost as a Substrate Amendment for Tomato and Watermelon Seedlings,” was published in HortTechnology last year.

Researchers grew tomato and watermelon seedlings in pure food waste substrate, pure commercial peat moss-based potting mix, and blends of the two with varying ratios to compare seedling germination, growth and nutrient uptake. The pure food waste substrate was made up of food scraps from a commercial partner and wood chips from a tree service company.

The study found that while food waste compost might not be viable as a standalone alternative to commercial potting mix, it could be suitable as part of a substrate mix.

Results showed that mixtures with less than 50 percent food waste compost produced better seedling emergence and growth and had better biomass accumulation than pure food waste, a key indicator of a plant’s health and potential yield.

Still, Bertucci underscored the value of composting food waste, which he said prevents waste from going to landfill and offers a usable byproduct.

“Compost is the sweet spot for sustainability,” he said.



COMPOST STUDY. Watermelon seedlings are seen in trays with pure food waste substrate, pure commercial peat moss-based potting mix, and blends of the two with varying ratios in a study to compare seedling germination, growth and nutrient uptake. (U of A System Division of Agriculture photo)

Pike County now offering class 1 garbage permits for two free trips to regional landfill

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard has announced a new plan for county citizens to dispose of their trash following the announcement that the Pike County Landfill will no longer accept class 1 household trash.

Residents may now have a permit that may be picked up at the County Judge’s office at the Pike County Courthouse in Murfreesboro. The permit will allow Pike County citizens to take two free trips each month to the Upper Southwest Regional Landfill in Howard County.

When a resident goes to get their permit, they will need to bring at least one of the following -- proof

of residency, driver’s license or utility bill.

“This is to help someone who has class 1 trash but can’t take it to the Pike County landfill, due to us not being able to take class 1 garbage anymore,” Howard said on social media.

Residents will be required to have the actual permit with them to be able to utilize the dump for free by showing it at the landfill office.

They will punch out a spot for each time you utilize the service.

Howard reiterated that the permit is only good for those taking refuse to the Upper Southwest Regional Landfill.

Attend Church This Sunday!

HOLY MASS
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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
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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.

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Scott Memorial (Paraloma Community)
First & Third Sundays Monthly
Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.
Pastor: Ellis Ray Floyd

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Nashville

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*Facts About The***BIBLE**

BY JOHN LEHTI

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of II Kings intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

The Shunammite's Son

THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO A SON, JUST AS ELISHA HAS PREDICTED, AND HE GROWS INTO A FINE HEALTHY, YOUNG, BOY, NOW....

...AS ELISHA GOES ABOUT THE COUNTRY SIDE DOING THE LORD'S WORK

...IN DISTANT SHUNEM....

...THE LAD IS THE CENTER OF LOVING INTEREST IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE....

...AND ONE DAY HE FROLICS AND PLAYS IN THE HOT SUN, WHILE GOING TO VISIT HIS FATHER....

MY HEAD, MY HEAD!

...WHO IS OUT IN THE FIELDS WITH HIS REAPERS, BUT ALL THE ACTIVITY UNDER THE HOT SUN, WITHOUT PROTECTION FOR HIS HEAD, WEAKENS THE BOY AND, BY THE TIME HE HAS REACHED HIS FATHER'S FIELDS, HE BECOMES ILL

Next Week
HAND OF TRAGEDY!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

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

**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

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

Be our Guest at Cross Point Cowboy Church

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

To Advertise your Church or Business
Call Tracy
at 870-845-0600

Unity Baptist Church

380 Buck Range Road
Pastor:
Bro. David Cassady

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

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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

To Advertise your Church or Business
Call Tracy
at 870-845-0600

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.

Pike County EDC membership drive Jan. 19 in Murfreesboro

Formed in 2024, group already reaching positive milestones

By PJ Tracy
Murfreesboro Diamond

The Pike County Economic Development Commission (PCEDC) Board of Directors will host a membership drive luncheon and meet and greet on Monday, Jan. 19.

The event will start at noon in Connections Coffee on the Square, located at 19 Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro.

Amanda Chandler, volunteer acting director for the group will be the speaker at the event. Free sandwiches will be provided for those in attendance.

For more information or to RSVP for the event, please contact Chandler at (870) 356-9646 or e-mail her at amanda@pikecoaredc.com.

Attendees to the event will be provided with a community interest form for feedback on comments/questions/suggestions and how they feel the PCEDC can best serve Pike County.

The PCEDC was established in August of 2024, in an effort to develop strategic economic growth and community development for Pike County. Since its inception, the group “has accomplished remarkable milestones that position it as a catalyst for positive change in the region,” according to a press release.

Focusing on building a solid organizational foundation from the outset, a board of community leaders with diverse experience from throughout the county began by developing comprehensive bylaws to guide their operations and decision making processes. They also secured 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in order to serve the community while

maintaining fiscal responsibility, transparency and accountability.

The group also created a comprehensive economic development strategy along with the University of Little Rock’s Institute for Economic Advancement. The strategic partnership brought professional expertise and economic analysis to complete a roadmap that identified opportunities, addresses challenges and establishes clear priorities for Pike County’s economic future that align with the county’s unique strengths and needs.

The PCEDC is developing a website to serve as a platform for economic growth. The plan is for it to support job creation, retention an expansion efforts throughout the county by providing businesses the information and resources needed to thrive. The website will also showcase the county’s advantages and connect employers with workforce opportunities.

The group recognizes that Pike County is in transition, like much of rural America, facing the challenge of demographic change while trying to maintain a diverse economic foundation. According to numbers provided by the group, the county had a population of 10,066 in 2021, a 10.8% decline from the 2010 census. Furthermore, the decline is suggested to continue, with projections of 9.661 population by 2027.

The group states that the county’s population is aging, with a median age of 43.6 years. Working-age population (18-64 years) is 57.4% of the residents, but that youth (21.9% under 18

‘The group recognizes that Pike County is in transition, like much of rural America, facing the challenge of demographic change while trying to maintain a diverse economic foundation.’

years) and seniors (20.7% over 65 years) represent significant segments. Males (50.1%) and females (49.9%) are split evenly in the county, with minorities comprising 13.8% of the population.

According to the PCEDC, the county economy centers on manufacturing, employing 448 workers at the median wage of \$45,832 yearly. Manufacturing has shown modest growth of 5.5% over the past five years, but the group said slight contraction may be coming. The group states that economic diversity exists with manufacturing, retail, education, healthcare and agriculture.

The groups of agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting employ 251 with a median annual income at \$51,680. Finance and insurance features 155 workers at a \$53,640 median annual income.

Stating that there are economic challenges, the group points to a median household income of \$46,672 falls below many state and national averages and that 13.8% of families in Pike County live below the poverty level. While the unemployment rate stands at 2.6%, still 14.3% of households rely on SNAP benefits, that indicates “significant economic distress among residents.”

Educationally, 87.9% of residents have completed high school, while only 19.5% hold bachelor’s degrees or higher. The group says that “suggests potential workforce development challenges as industries evolve and require higher skill levels.”

The county’s workforce is care-dependent, traveling an average commute time of 28.1 minutes with 80.3% of workers having to drive to work. Those numbers underscore the rural nature of the county and the limited public transit infrastructure.

While housing remains relatively affordable with median home values of \$86,900, which are significantly lower than state and national averages, housing cost burden is high in the county. Some 23.8% of homeowners have a mortgage of more than 30% of their income while 50.6% of renters fall into the same cost-burdened category, despite a median rent value of \$633.

Of the county’s 4,042 housing units only 0.9% of homeowner properties and 6.9% of rental properties remain unoccupied, leading the group to feel stable housing demand despite the population decline.

The group feels that Pike County stands at a crossroads -- the 4% predicted population decline through 2027 will start to affect services, infrastructure and economic vitality. Meanwhile, the aging population

will likely increase demands for healthcare services while potentially reducing the available workforce.

The group feels that the manufacturing sector’s historical strength provides a foundation for economic stability, however diversification and workforce development will be critical for long term prosperity.

As such, the group feels that the community’s challenges -- population decline, modest incomes, housing cost burdens for renters, and limited higher education attainment -- are balanced against assets including low employment, diverse industries, affordable housing and strong agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Therefore, strategic economic development efforts will need to address workforce skills development, support for existing industries, attraction of higher wage employment opportunities and enhanced quality of life amenities to retain and attract residents in an increasingly competitive regional landscape.

The PCEDC board of directors include: Johnny Plyler, President, Glenwood Dr. Clayton Sorrells, Vice-President, Glenwood Phil Terrell, Recorder/Treasurer, Murfreesboro Amanda Chandler, Acting Director, Unincorporated Pike County Scott Howard, Member at Large, Delight Darwin Hendrix, Member at Large, Antoine Karen Barlow, Member at Large, Unincorporated Pike County



ARKLATExOMA FLY TYERS

ArkLaTexOma fly-tyers hosting celebration of Little Missouri River Feb. 6-8 in M'boro

The ArkLaTexOma Fly Tyers & Fly Fishers (ALTO) will present their “Home Waters 2026 -- A Celebration of the Little Missouri River” conference Feb. 6-8, in Murfreesboro

The event will be held at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building, 204 E. Main Street. Admission is free to all who wish to attend.

Anyone interested in attending is invited to join ALTO members for a week-end of tying, fishing, fellowship and fun. The event will feature expert tyers, vendors, seminars, and raffles.

The groups welcomes all tyers to demonstrate their skills and also to help with instruction at a “beginners’ table”.

In addition to some exceptional tyers, the event will see several FFI Certified Casting Instructors available for some beginner instruction, or if your cast just needs a little tune up.

Tyers and presenters are asked to bring a new (or slightly used) item to contribute to the raffle.

The group has made arrangements with the Queen of Diamonds Motel for an ALTO Special. You must call (877) 336-3105 to access the special rates of \$84/night with no breakfast (Code FF84) or \$94.00/night with breakfast (Code FF94).

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APARTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW


Howard County Housing Authority has VACANCIES for one-bedroom units in Nashville and Dierks

Please visit the Housing Authority office at 1010 S. Pope Street in Nashville for more information or to apply.

HCHA is an equal housing opportunity provider.

When ice and heavy snow bring down limbs and power lines, safety is a consideration indoors and out. Make sure you know how to weather the storms.

When outside, stay away from downed power lines:



- A power line need not be sparking or arcing to be energized. Equipment near power lines can also be energized or dangerous.
- Lines that appear to be “dead” can become energized as crews work to restore power or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators. Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed or sagging line, contact your utility.
- If you are in an auto accident involving a downed power line, your vehicle is usually the safest place to be (unless it is on fire.) If it is safe to do so, stay in your car, call 9-1-1, and wait for electric utility personnel to arrive to deenergize the power. If you step out of the car and the ground is energized, you could become the electrical current’s path to ground and you could be electrocuted. If your car is on fire or you see smoke, make a solid, clean jump from your vehicle and hop away with your feet together as far away as you can. If you run or walk away, you could get electrocuted.
- Motorists should never drive over a downed line, as snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.








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African and American Folktales

In America, we are lucky to have folktales from around the world. As people come here to live, they bring stories they have heard and shared before. These stories tell about life and nature. African Americans have a wealth of folklore from Africa to share with their families and others. Some also share stories from their history as slaves and free people in America. As most slaves could not read or write, they told tales of Africa as well as new stories of life as experienced here.

Many of these stories have been collected and written down. The tales in children's story books are beautifully illustrated for all to enjoy. Ask a librarian for help in finding some of these folktales... you'll be glad you did!

What is your favorite folktale? Did you hear it from your parents or grandparents?

Many parents and grandparents tell folktales to the children in their family. Storytellers spin them for listeners of all ages. **A folktale may have:**

1. _____ solved
2. _____ of things that are hard to understand
3. _____ for an unkind person
4. _____ learned
5. a _____ for a good person
6. _____ who can overcome anything
7. _____ spells
8. _____ animals

Folktales often use animals to make a point. The animals are used to show what people are like or how they behave.

A cat may be sneaky.
A dog may be too trusting and get tricked.

Which animals may be used to stand for these traits?

1. stubborn, fearful
2. misleading, gets others to do what he wants
3. timid, loyal
4. playful, clever
5. wise, brave
6. tricky, greedy, lazy
7. proud, cruel
8. sneaky, clever
9. honorable, swift
10. patient, plotting

Follow the dots to see what John Henry held:





Unscramble the word.

MMHAER

John Henry: An American Legend by Ezra Jack Keats




Which Folktale?

1. This folktale explains why an insect does what it does! Study the pictures and letters to help you fill in the title.

W +    

_____ o _____ u i o _____

Bzzz _____ i n _____

   _____ : _____

A West African Tale: by Verna Aardema

Visit our website to print new puzzles: African Animals word search and Kitchen Flair! crossword. Don't forget to print out the new winter reading log and certificate set too: www.readingclubfun.com

2. This magical folktale has a chicken house full of these. To find out what, fill in each blank with the letter of the alphabet that comes before the one given.

U I F U B M L J O H F H T

by Robert San Souci

More Free Puzzles!

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Brother Eudy is Back

...and he’s giving away his ‘life’s work’ for free

By John Balch
News-Leader staff

“Please enjoy my life’s work, it’s free!” says local musician and artist Mike Eudy about his brand new album, “Hillbilly Hard Rock Revolution,” which is now available on all streaming platforms alongside his other five albums.

During his 20-year career of professional recording with either The Heathens or solo, Eudy said he had accumulated the “15 absolute bangers” that make up Hillbilly Hard Rock Revolution, which was recorded in Little Rock with Jason Tedford at Wolfman Studios.

The album took more than a year to record and produce “using top notch studio musicians,” Eudy added.

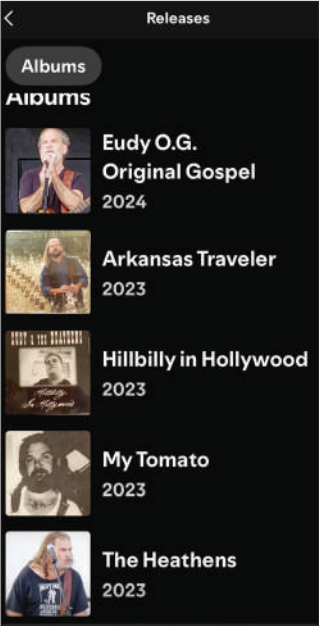
Eudy, a De Queen native who now resides part-time in Nashville and at a family home in the Ouachita Mountains near Caddo Gap, said he was so proud of the

finished product that he decided to “release it for free on every streaming platform on earth, Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, Pandora, etc.”

Eudy, a former Nashville elementary art teacher, is a seasoned veteran of the music scene. He rocked his way through high school as a member of the band STEELE. He went on to form and front Eudy and The Heathens (which eventually just became The Heathens) during a stint in Athens, Ga.

He was also a member of The Front Porch Pickers old-time radio show with the late Billy Herrrell of Billy’s House of Guitars, which is depicted on the cover of Eudy’s latest album.

The albums he has produced over the years were all uploaded to streaming services in 2023 and include “Eudy O.G. - Original Gospel,” “Arkansas Traveller,” “Hillbilly in Hollywood,” “My Tomato,” and “The Heathens.”



LINED UP
Brother Eudy's other albums are also found on virtually all streaming platforms.



READY TO SPIN.
Brother Eudy's cover art for Hillbilly Hard Rock Revolution, as seen on the Spotify streaming platform.

Sign-up dates for M’boro ball season

Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation will have softball, baseball and tee ball sign up on Saturday, Jan. 17th from 1:30-4 p.m. and on Tuesday, Jan. 20 from 4-6 p.m.


Both times will be held at the Murfreesboro park office.

Fees are \$70 for softball and baseball and \$30 for tee ball. Fees and form due at signup.

You may also sign up at the park during business hours (8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. on Mondays-Fridays from Jan. 18-30. No forms will be accepted after 4 p.m. Jan. 30.

- Age groups are as follows:**
- T-ball boys and girls (ages 4-6) must be 4 years old by April 1
 - 6U (ages 5-6) coach pitch
 - 8U (ages 7-8) coach pitch
 - 10U (ages 9-10)
 - 12U (ages 11-12)
 - 16U (ages 13-16)



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#25047787 - Brick home located in the heart of Nashville with in walking distance to the city park. Home offers approx. 1,860 sq ft of living space, 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Home is move in ready with New furnace and HVAC system in 2022, New Roof and bathroom remodel in 2023, New siding, gutters and guards and new bay window in 2024, new concrete driveway and sidewalk and new tankless gas hot water heater in 2025. This home has a spacious living room, kitchen includes: electric stove top, wall oven, refrigerator and dishwasher, lots of cabinet space, dining/den area with fireplace w/gas insert. Both bathrooms are updated, tile and laminate flooring through out the home. Double garage, outside storage/laundry including washer and dryer, covered patio, fully fenced backyard and storage building. This home is a must see, contact our office for more details or to schedule a viewing. **ADVERTISED PRICE \$217,500.**

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

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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.

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Electric and Rural Water.

\$57,500.

CALL 870-703-1628

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.

Featured LISTING!

405 Doe Run St. Nashville



This beautiful 4BR/3BA home offers the perfect blend of comfort, space, and privacy. The living room features vaulted ceilings, recessed lighting, and a cozy gas-log fireplace, creating a warm welcoming atmosphere. A large separate dining area with a wall of windows that provides stunning views of the backyard and the covered patio deck that is perfect for gatherings or relaxing outdoors. The kitchen includes abundant counter space, a pantry, and a stylish tile backsplash. Primary suite offers spacious room, a large walk-in closet, plus a private bath with a soaking tub, separate shower, and double vanity. The upper level of the home offers a full bedroom, full bath, a large bonus area that can serve as a game room, or additional living space. This home offers a separate area that could be used for an office space or hobby room. There is ample closet and storage space throughout this thoughtfully designed home. Although this home is located in a subdivision, the property sits on 1.86 acres with lots of privacy. **PRICE \$405,000.**

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DeAnn Simmons, 870-557-4968
Allana O’Neal, 870-557-7162



PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF: CLEATHA LAMB 31 PR-26-6

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent:
810 N 8th Street Nashville, Arkansas 71852

On January 7, 2026, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributee was filed with respect to the Estate of Cleatha Lamb, deceased, with the Clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Howard County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. §28-41-101. The legal description of the real property listed in the Affidavit is as follows:

Lots 18, 19, 20, and the West 12 ½ feet of Lot 21 in Block 44 of the Town of Nashville, Howard County, Arkansas, according to the Official Plat thereof.

All persons having claims against the Estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the Distributee or her attorney within three months from the date of first publication of this Notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the Estate. Provided, claims for injury or death caused by negligence of the decedent shall be filed within six months from the date of the first publication of the notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate.

This notice first published on January 14, 2026

The name and address of the Distributee or attorney is:
Linda Pate, by
Brasel Law Firm, PLLC
Aaron R Brasel
Post Office Box 813
Nashville, AR 71852
(870) 845-4100 – Telephone
(AB: 30, 31)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF: JIMMY ROGERS TALLANT 31 PR-25-69

NOTICE OF PROBATE-TESTATE

Last known address of decedent: Blue Bayou, Nashville, Howard County, Arkansas
Date of death: August 28, 2025

An instrument dated March 6, 2018, was on November 10, 2025, admitted to probate as the last Will of the above named decedent, and the undersigned has been appointed Executor thereunder. A contest of the probate of the Will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

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



This notice first published the January 14, 2026.
David Tallant and Keith Tallant, Co-Executors, by
Aaron R. Brasel, ABN 2009138
Post Office Box 813
Nashville AR 71852
(870) 845-4100 – Telephone
(AB: 30, 31)



Retail store front located on Main St. (High Traffic) with approx. 2,968 Sq. Ft. of space. Central A/C & Heat.
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Robert Crocker 870-283-5779
Melinda Bennett 870-451-2226

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@ar.nacdn.net (MCSC: 29, 30, 31)

PUBLIC NOTICE

1988 CHEVROLET GMT 400
VIN#1GCDK14H7JZ110994

2003 FORD MUSTANG
VIN#1FAPP40433F321537

2008 PACE TRAILER
VIN#47ZAB20248X057823

2007 CADILLAC CTS
VIN#1G6DP577970174756

ARE BEING HELD AT BYPASS DIESEL & WRECKER SERVICE, INC. 9224 HWY 278 WEST NASHVILLE, AR 71852, 870-845-1597, DUE TO ABANDONMENT. VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CLAIMED WITHIN 10 DAYS. FAILURE TO RECLAIM VEHICLES WAVES ALL RIGHTS, TITLE, & INTEREST IN ABOVE VEHICLES. VEHICLES MAY BE RECLAIMED DURING BUSINESS HOURS BY PROVIDING OWNERSHIP, AND BY PAYING ALL CHARGES AGAINST VEHICLES.
(BD: 30)

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the Dierks School District, Dierks, Arkansas, will receive sealed bids for football field renovations.

Mail bids to:
Dierks High School
ATTN: Grover Hill/School Board
P.O Box 124
Dierks, AR 71833

Bid Submission:
Sealed bids will be received until 12:00 p.m on February 4, 2026. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud during Februarys school board meeting.

Bid Security:
Each bid must be accompanied by a bid bond or cashier’s check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid.

Performance & Payment Bonds:
The successful bidder will be required to furnish performance and payment bonds in accordance with Arkansas law.

Right to Reject:
The Dierks School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive irregularities, and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the District.

Non-Discrimination:
Bidders must comply with all applicable state and federal laws, including non-discrimination requirements.

If you have any questions, contact Grover Hill at 870-286-2191 or at grover.hill@dierksschools.org.
(DSD: 30, 31)

Retirement party planned in Lockesburg Jan. 15 for grocery store owner

There will be a retirement celebration honoring Gary Lathrop, longtime owner of Lockesburg Grocery, on Thursday, Jan. 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Lockesburg Senior Center, located at 115 Northwest Ave.

5 sentenced in Pike County

Five defendants were sentenced during the Jan. 12 session of Pike County Circuit Court.

Rex Ann Charles, 61, of Murfreesboro, pleaded guilty to the charge of delivery of methamphetamine. She was sentenced to 20 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with 10 years suspended.

Bobby Wilkerson, 55, of Murfreesboro, pleaded guilty to the charge of internet stalking of a child. He was sentenced to 20 years in the ADC with eight years suspended and will be required to register as a sex offender upon release.

Cody Smith, 31, of Amity, pleaded guilty to second-degree sexual assault and was sentenced to 10 years probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs. A no-con-

tact order was also issued for his victim.

Leah Ann Ransom, 25, of Glenwood, pleaded guilty to charges of theft of property and forgery. She was sentenced to 10 years probation, fined \$2,500 and ordered to pay \$1,100 restitution on the forgery charge, and six years probation and fined \$1,000 on the theft charge.

Marion Scott, 42, of Nashville, pleaded guilty to failure to comply with registration reporting requirements of being a sex offender. He was sentenced to eight years probation and fined \$1,500 plus court costs.



News-Leader photo/NIKKI FIELDS

GRAND ENTRANCE. Dierks High School pulls out all the stops for their sports teams, including the Outlaw basketball team pictured here opening the night of play amid fog, music and lights. See more Dierks basketball pictures on Page 7.

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SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department


Karstyn Scrivner, Nashville



Karstyn, a Scrapperette senior, scored 14 points at De Queen in Nashville's 69-42 win over the defending Class 4A state champions Friday night, Jan. 9.



This weekly feature sponsored by **McDonald's of Nashville**
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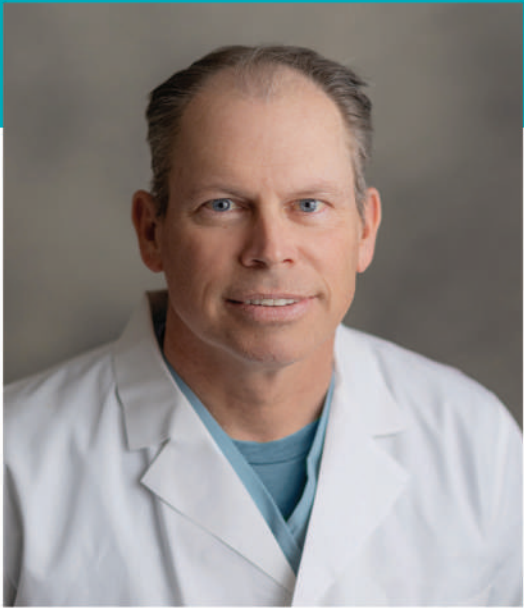
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Emma Chambers (0) scores in the Scrappettes' District 7-4A opener Jan. 9 at De Queen.



Coach Aaron Worthen watches the Scrappers against De Queen in Nashville's 61-55 conference win Jan. 9.

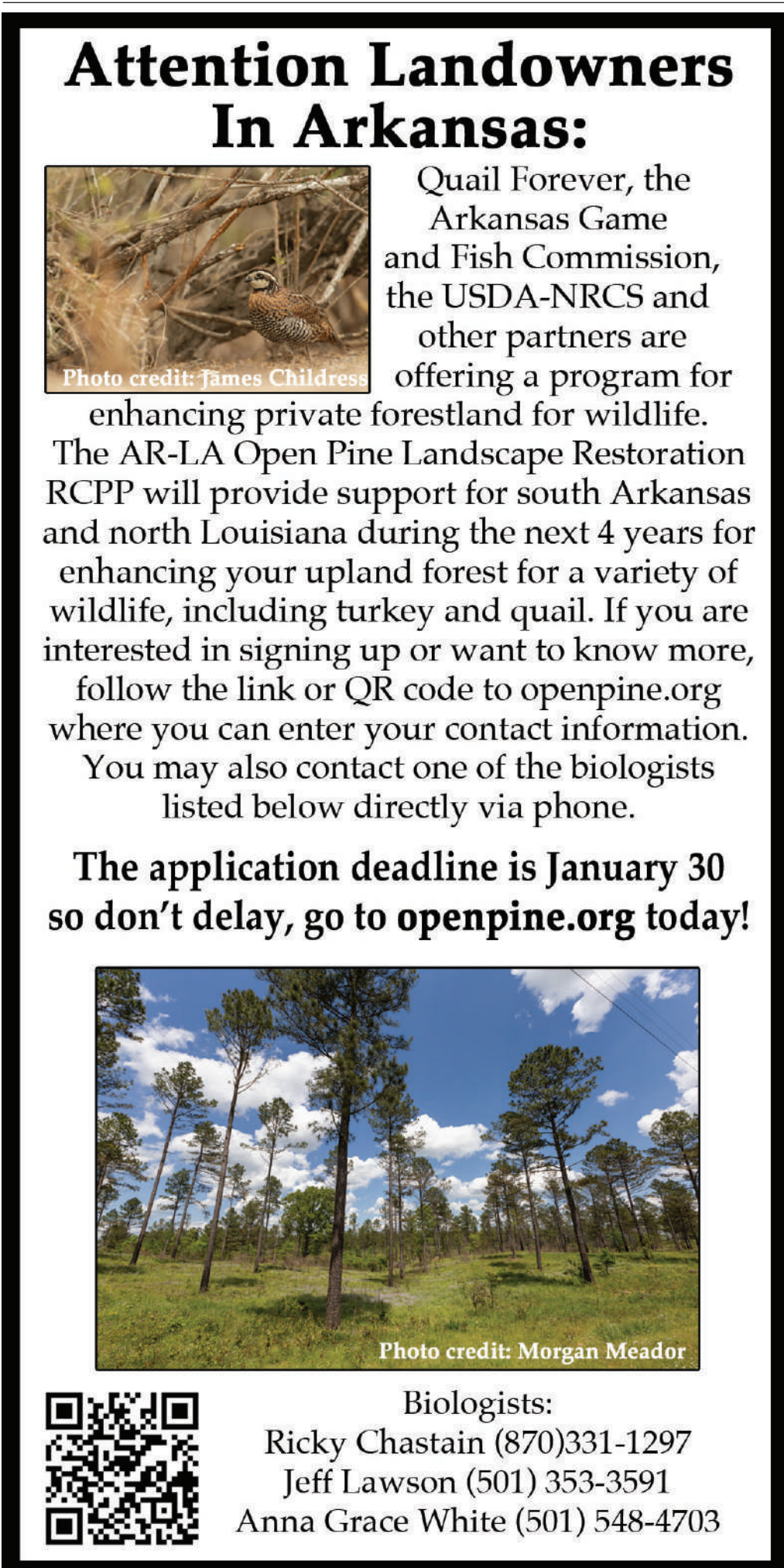


Photo credit: James Childress offering a program for enhancing private forestland for wildlife.

swarkansasnews.com

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FIND NEW ROADS