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News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON

News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMON

News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMOM

News-Leader photos/DON HALL

(Left) The chancel of the St. George Island United Methodist Church. Many of the congregants come to the island for part of the year, usually in winter.



# Obituaries

**Darlene Marie Reynolds**  
Darlene Marie Reynolds, 69, of Nashville died Jan. 28, 2026.

She was born Oct. 13, 1956, in Denver, Colo., the daughter of Albert Reynolds and Bernice Jackson-Taylor.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Joe Reynolds.

Survivors include: her two daughters, Tracy Snell (Tandell Marshall) and Chiquita Thurman; her sister, Martha Dixon; also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Cremation arrangements are by Latimer Funeral

Home of Nashville.  
Online at [latimerfuneral-home.com](#).

**Loretta I. Corbin**  
Loretta I. Corbin, 88, of Nashville died Feb. 1, 2026. She was born June 7, 1937, in Nashville to the late William “Bill” Icenhower and Ruth Goodson Icenhower.

She was a member of the Sunset church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her son, Byron Corbin.

There will be no public service. Burial will be in Wilson Cemetery in Lewisville.

Online at [latimerfuneral-home.com](#).

## Children’s Center board will meet February 10

The Howard County Children’s Center board of directors will meet in regular session on Tuesday, Feb. 10. The meeting will be in the conference area Building 2 at the center beginning at noon.

The meeting is open to the public.

Officers and directors of the board include: Josh Tice, president; Riley Jamison, vice-president; Lisa Chandler, secretary; Donny Woods, treasurer; and directors Carol Murray, Bill Craig, Dena Tollett, Sarah Myers, Andy Troutt, Zack Pinegar, and Melissa Hamilton.



**ROTARY HEARS COUNTY CLERK.** Howard County Clerk Keri Teague explained the 2026 Preferential Primary Election and election procedures at the Wednesday, Jan. 28, meeting of the Nashville Rotary Club. Teague was elected county clerk in 2017 and spent two years as a deputy in the office before being elected. She answered questions about political races and election dates in her talk, and said that a low percentage of eligible voters usually participate here. Early voting for the Preferential Primary begins Feb. 17, and election day is March 3.

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# Ice

Continued from page 1

“The state will notify me when they are coming,” Smith said.

He has recorded: 13 collapsed chicken houses, some containing birds; 45 other farm buildings including barns and shop buildings; 33 awnings and carports; two greenhouses; plus the damage at the combined fire station and community center at Umpire.

Some parts of the county experienced short electrical outages, and some areas in the south county on the SAWS water system experienced interruption of service.

“We have met the threshold of damage to qualify for FEMA assistance,” he said.

Many area agencies and governments were involved in public safety during and after the ice storm which began in the dark hours of Friday, Jan 23.

According to the National Weather Service, a total of one-inch of precipitation fell in the form of sleet and ice over two days. Coupled with frigid temperatures the ice hardened and encased streets. The year’s low temperature of 12 degrees was recorded on the mornings of the 26th and 27th. There was little or no electrical power outage.

**The storm in Howard County**

County Judge Brent Pinkerton said that the ice sheath was as hard as concrete, and that graders and other equipment had trouble scraping it off the county’s 442 miles of roads.

He said that road crews put in long hours every day for about a week using lots of different equipment. Possibly the worst road, he said, was Mission Drive west of Nashville which has lots of banked curves.

Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway said that by Thursday city crews were able to do some street clearing in neighborhoods after first clearing Main Street and other travel arteries.

The city also obtained an electric generator to run pumps if needed to bring water from the Little Missouri River to the treatment plant. There were no issues with water, he said.

Although city crews put in long hours “The city got through this with flying colors.”

Joey Davis, chief deputy of the Sheriff’s Department, said that officers worked minor accidents and escorted emergency vehicles. The department also helped feed trucks from the poultry companies as they traveled to rural farms to make deliveries when feed supplies got low.

Lots of loggers got out with their skidders to help the feed trucks,he said.

“Lots of people were stranded,” he said, “from one end of the county to the other.”

Officers were also on hand to help in extricating Hays Boyd of Dierks who was in a collapsed horse barn. He was flown by helicopter ambulance to medical treatment.

Arkansas National Guardsmen were in the area to safely escort Pafford ambulances to scenes where there were medical needs.

“It was awesome to see people helping each other,” Davis said.

Nashville Fire Marshal Justin Thornton said that firemen faced no fires but were kept busy with medical calls, mostly with people hurt in falls.

**Ambulance service**

Jennifer Revels of the executive team of Pafford Medical Services said that during the storm the ambulance service maintained continuous emergency medical coverage across the county.

Planning and coordination began early in the week, with operational preparations underway by Monday ahead of the most hazardous conditions.

Additional staffing resources were deployed where conditions allowed, including an additional ambulance staffed in Howard County to help ensure coverage throughout the storm.

In the county alone, Pafford ambulance crews responded to 114 emergency calls over a one-week period, including high-priority 911 responses and welfare checks.

Throughout the event, Pafford teams were supported by local businesses, community partners, and fellow first responders, who provided meals, logistical assistance, and coordination, she added.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Local business owners: Don’t overlook retirement plans

and help improve employee retention.

Many plans also provide access to financial education tools and resources, helping your employees make informed decisions about saving, investing and planning for retirement. This support can lead to greater employee satisfaction and productivity, contributing to a positive work environment for your business.

More flexible than state-sponsored options. If you live in a state requiring an employee retirement program, you might be considering a state-sponsored plan. While these programs can provide a starting point, they typically offer fewer investment options, lower contribution limits and limited design flexibility.

Establishing your own workplace retirement plan lets you customize features for your business needs to control administrative costs, set contribution limits and offer employees a wide range of investment options.

This added control in plan design can lead to better outcomes for your business and your employees.

Reducing a hidden risk in your own retirement planning. Business owners often have as much as 80% of their net worth tied up in their businesses, according to the Exit Planning Institute. While that demonstrates commitment to success, it also creates significant financial risk to the owner.

Relying solely on a future business sale to fund your retirement can be precarious. Market shifts, timing challenges or limited buyer interest could derail those plans. By building personal assets through your employer-sponsored retirement plan, you can gain financial flexibility and reduce the risk of having your retirement lifestyle depend entirely on one event.

Getting started. With various retirement plan options available, determining which one fits your business best can feel overwhelming.

## MS church will distribute food boxes February 4

The Mineral Springs Church of Christ will distribute pantry boxes Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 2-5 p.m. Meals will not be served that day.

Those who pick up boxes must have an ID with them.

The soup kitchen regular schedule with meals only will resume Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 2-5 p.m.

Meals and pantry boxes will be available Feb. 25.

The church is located at 318 Bridgeman Drive in Mineral Springs. For more information, call 870-451-4441.

**Congratulations to Georgiana and Addison, Gold Medalists at the Region V FCCLA STAR Event Competition.**



**Wishing you the very best of luck as you advance to the State Competition in April.**

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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



Centennial Belles chapter between Robinson's and Nashville Drug

123 years ago: January 1903

For several days past the Alabama Minstrels, a troupe composed of managers and a large number of performers, have been laying over at Hope on account of excessive rains.

On Monday night the residences of several prominent citizens of Hope were burglarized and many valuables stolen. The circumstances indicated that the robberies were committed by members of the minstrel troupe, and several of them were arrested.

A rope was placed around the neck of one, and he confessed to the robberies, implicating other members of the troupe.

A number of the stolen articles were recovered in the private car belonging to the company.

Will Manning, a painter and paper hanger, shot himself in the breast with a revolver with suicide intent in the yard of the Johnson Hotel at Lockesburg last Sunday night.

He was still alive Monday morning when the gentle-

man who brought the news to this city left Lockesburg.

89 years ago: January 1937

The Gem Theatre has been greatly improved in appearance and comfort recently, the work consisting of repainting the entire front and otherwise beautifying it, and new carpets have been placed in the vestibule.

Great personalities long noted as “royalty” in the sporting world, whose names appear almost daily in the sports-page headlines of the newspapers, have added their knowledge and experience to the Twentieth Century-Fox expose’ of the prize-fight ring. “Woman-Wise” will play at the Gem Theatre Tuesday, featuring Rochell Hudson and Michael Whalen.

(Adv.) \$10 to \$100 for your old radio on a Philco automatic tuning radio. Most amazing radio trade-in offer ever made! Six latest 1937 Philco models-all with Automatic Tuning. Terms as low as \$1 a week. Gaines Radio Co.

67 years ago: February 1959

Joda has opened his new dining room on the north side, more than doubling his capacity for folks with appetites.

Cecil Burkhardt dodged a falling tree limb while trimming big trees at the Barney Smith home on South Main Thursday morning, but when he dodged he either fell or jumped 20 feet. He escaped injury except for some bruises that temporarily ended his tree trimming. When he tumbled, he took his saw with him.

54 years ago: February 1972

DeGray Dam on the Caddo River between Amity and Arkadelphia will be formally dedicated on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> in daytime ceremonies.

Some political figures plan on being there, then on to Nashville for the Poultry Festival that evening.

From Editorial page: “Drivers are safer when the road is dry—but the roads are safer when the driver is dry.”

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DeVile Estate Auction

\*\*Online Only Auction at toddmorrisauction.com\*\*

Bidding Ends: Thursday, Feb. 12 at 6:00 p.m.

512 Pine St. • Wintrop, AR

The DeVile’s lived in the area for over 20 years, after the passing of Greg DeVile, Mrs. DeVile is relocating to Texas.

In-Person Preview Dates: Saturday, Jan. 31 - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 8 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

TRACTORS, SHOP TOOLS & EQUIPMENT:

Mahindra Off road w/Cab Kit Wench, Mahindra Tractor 3550 PST w/3550 L Loader - Pallet, Forks & Bucket - 4x4 - Power Shuttle Shift w/ (2) Remotes and Canopy, King Cutter Bush Hog 5 Ft., Honda Pioneer 1000EPS, Husqvarna Z554 w/Kawasaki FX751B Engine - 54inch cut, 7’x16’ Cargo Trailer w/Ramp Door - E Truck on Walls, 20 Ft Pipe Top Equipment Hauler w/ 2 7,000 Axles/Spare Title, Yard Wagon, Cattle Water Trough, 14 Ft. Tandem Axle Side Loading & Rear Gate, 5 Ft. Rhino 3 Pt.Cutter, Small Tandem Axle ATV Trailer - Homemade, 3 Pt. Gin Post, 4 Ft. Blade 3 Pt., Hand Tools, Dollop, Gas Pressure Washer, Tool Boxes w/Tools, Patio Heater, Shop Fan

TAXIDERMY:

Deer Mounts & Euro Mounts, Black Bear Cub Mount, Duck Mounts, Pheasant Mount, Tom Turkey Full Mount

GUNS, AMMO & FISHING:

#1) Ruger Super Black Hawk 44 Mag Revolver in Leather Holster, Hunting Knives, #2) Remington #30 Pump, #3) Stevens Single Shot Shotgun, #4) Baretta Nano Pistol 9 mm, #5) Hipoint #JCP40 S&W Pistol, #6) Ruger .30 car, New Model Black Hawk Revolver, #7) Smith & Wesson 44 mag, #8) Glock 1710 Australian 9x19 Pistol & Case - Extra Clips, #10) Ultra R92 22 Long Rifle - 9 Shot Revolver in Case, #11) Encore 209X50 Magnum w/Nikon Scope, #12) Remington 22g Barrel 3 in. shells, #13) Encore 25 Auto, (goes w/#11), #14) Fiocchi 9mm Long Shot, #15) Savage #340 30/30 Bolt Action w/Loop Hole, #16) K98 44 Cal Bolt Action - Standard Service Rifle - Army Type - 6847 Model German WW11 Rifle Kar98K, #17) SKS 7.62x39 w/2-5x18 Scope, #18) Remington #550-1 22 Automatic Long Rifle, #19) Savage 17 Mag Bolt Action w/Vortex - Synthetic Scope - 2-8 x 32 Scope, #20) Knight 50 Cal Black Powder Stainless Steel w/Scope w/Black Powder Supplies, #21) Mossberg 20g Pump, #22) Mossberg 20g Single Shot, #23) Knight MK 85 54 Cal Inline Muzzle Loader, #24) Russian 7.62, #25) Antonio Zoli 58 Cal Black Powder Muzzle Loader, #26) Winchester #12 12g Pump Shot Gun, #27) Winchester #12 12g Pump Shot Gun, Misc. Clips, Several boxes of Misc. Ammo, Gun Cleaning Kit, Tackle Boxes, Gun Safe, Guns, Gun Reloading - Lots of Misc., Fishing Poles - Nice Open Face Abu Garcia, Several Crawfish Pots, Game Decoys, Gas Cans, 30 HP Marinare Killer, Climbing Deer Stand, Tool Boxes, Duck Blind, Welding Helmets, Misc.

FURNITURE:

Barrel Chairs - Hi-Fashion Home, Navy Velvet Couch, Gold Bunching Table - Pair, End Table Pair, Pair of Lamps, Smart TV, (2) Electric Recliners, Bird Feeder w/Camera, Air Purifier, (2) Side Chairs and Table, (2) Leather Side Chairs - \$500 pair, (4) Matching Bar Stools, Black Side Board, 6 Chairs & Table - \$600 Set, Flower Pots, Books, Navy Ottoman, (2) Patio Chairs & Table, Pit Boss KC Combo - Pellet Grill or Propane, Rockers, Gas Fire Pit, Wood Fire Pit, Fan, Plastic Chairs, Decor, Sleep Number Bed - Queen Size and King Size, King Size Headboard, Bench, (2) Night Stands, (2) Lamps, White Velvet Chair and Ottoman, TV, Full Size Bed and Bedding, TV, Rugs, (2) End Tables & White Matching Dresser, White Large Reading Chair & Ottoman, Round Ottoman, 4 Drawer Stand, Large Canisters, Heater, Garbage Disposal, Some Kitchen Items, Roaster, Christmas Lights, 9 Ft. Christmas Tree, Matching Dresser & Chest, Gas Log Insert, Refrigerator, Electric Push Mower, Several Yeti Ice Chests, Bird Feeder, Swing Bed, Razorback Bend Picnic Table, Corn Hole Boards,Razorback Bar & Stool Set, Pool Table, Turkey Blanket, Love Seat, End Table, Queen Size Bed Headboard, (2) Side Tables & Lamp, Storage Bench, Washer/Dryer, Ladder, (6) Plastic Tables w/Benches, Cast Iron Pots, Electric Cat Bed

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FOR MORE INFO

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Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Arkansas, courthouse during the period Jan. 22-28, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses

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

No marriage licenses issued during the period.

Civil Court

CV26-12, Jan. 26. Capital One vs. Samantha Humphries. Contract

CV26-13, Jan. 26. CKS Prime Investments vs. Brandi Carver. Debt.

CV26-14, Jan. 27. LVNV Funding vs. Justin Hawthorne. Debt.

CV26-15, Jan. 28. Bank of America vs. William Parker.

Contract.

CV26-16, Jan. 28. 21st Mortgage Corporation vs. Cody Blair, et al. Mortgage foreclosure.

Domestic Relations Court

DR26-09, Jan. 28. Michele Green vs. Alan Green. Divorce.

Criminal Court

No new criminal cases filed since CR26-04, Jan. 14.

Land/Property Transactions

Quitclaim Deed

Jan. 22. Seborn Stanley Gregory; to Seborn Stanley Gregory, et al; 3.355 ac. in S35 T8S R28W, Town of Center Point.

Jan. 23. Samantha Denise Adams; to Parliment Leasing, LLC; aggregate 2.18 ac. in S17 T10S R27W.

Warranty Deed

Jan. 22. Laurie Johnson, fka Laurie Kirkpatrick, and husband, Jason Johnson; to Sharon Snow; Lot 1 and part of Lot 2, Block 5, Murray’s 2nd Addition, Town of Dierks. \$34,000.

Jan. 23. Ben Youngblood and wife, Darbi Youngblood; to Judd Hickerson and Joy Hanson-Hickerson, husband and wife; 4 ac. in S28 T5S R30W. \$140,000.

Jan. 23. Timothy Wayne Beene, et al; to Ralph Watson and wife Trisha Watson; aggregate 43.6 ac. in S24 T9S R28W. \$200,000.

Jan. 23. Lonnie Jackson and wife Regina M. Jackson, husband and wife; to Jan Ella Stewart; 2 tracts; part of Block 56, Town of Mineral Springs.



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON

A mix of snow, sleet and ice covers a pond bank last week during Southwest Arkansas’s bout with wintry weather. Schools were closed the entire week; city, county and state offices were closed, along with numerous businesses.

2025

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# Point of view

## ‘Our’ winter event

### Well-fed, warm and grateful for so much

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I am officially notifying you that I am sick and tired of winter.

Us Arkies are accustomed to uno, ein, one (1) snow or sleet event per winter. In these parts, winter is supposed to go away in March, if not before.

Normally in a few weeks I could take a country drive just to see the green fuzz that would be emerging on tree limbs.

Won’t be able to take that drive until late April, probably due to the compacted ice still lingering on some shady roads through the dark woods.

Nashville Chamber of Commerce executive director Tim Pinkerton has a good idea to get rid of those huge heaps of ice left over from the city’s grading of Main Street: Scoop it up and put it in the ponds that are still low.

It would also transfer lots of rich soil leftover on the streets.

One pond that is always low is in former-Mayor Billy Ray Jones’s front yard out on the Murfreesboro highway. If there are any fish in that pond they must’ve learned how to swim and breathe in slushy mud.

Both of my regular readers are hopeful that I will share some nutrition tips for existing during an ice storm.

Here it is: I try to cut down on needless exercise which just wastes calories.

Of course before the storm hit I laid in a supply of M&M Peanuts -- enough to last me until Lent when I will lie to the Creator about giving up M&M Peanuts until Easter. I can’t even joke about how grateful I am that we did not lose electricity.

But I am extremely grateful.

Times like this make you appreciate electric workers, cops, firemen, first responders, ambulance drivers, doctors, nurses, paperboys and psychic advisers who work tirelessly through winter storms. Notice I didn’t say anything about the mail.

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ART FOR ART’S SAKE. When he was a young man, Michaelangelo-lololololo hammered and chiseled and coaxed so many statues out of giant blocks of hard marble that later in life his hands were obviously swollen and in perpetual pain.

He suffered from what we now know as ‘osteoarthritis.’

His affliction was been discovered hundreds of years later by experts who examined his paintings closely and were apparently able to detect tiny changes in style due to the condition of his hands which limited their dexterity.

They were also able to note subtle tell-tale clues of his hands in paintings OF him, including his hands, done by other artists of the day. This is also a tribute to the powers of observation and the remarkable skill of those other artists.

Still, Michaelangelololololololo was able to paint masterpieces such as the Sistine Chapel by mentally overcoming the ache in his hands.

One article says that later in life, he couldn’t even write letters. Friends would write for him. He would merely attach his signature to the letters. He did not have a Presidential signature-machine.

And still he worked. He was seen hammering stone up until three weeks before his death at age 89. That was Feb. 18, 1564, and no one knew much about osteoarthritis then.

There were certainly not many television commercials about osteoarthritis, osteoarthritis cures, or lawyer firms who were willing to sue anyone for persons who had contracted osteoarthritis because of sculpting and painting. “It costs you nothing because if we don’t win your case, we don’t get a dime.”

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WHERE IS SHE, CHAPTER TWO? One thing the ice storm did was encourage me to watch more British mystery shows on tv. Lots of them were written by a UK lady author, Dame Agatha Christie, who was the subject of one mystery, herself.

She disappeared for 11 days once -- maybe affected by the near-simultaneous death of her mother and her husband’s announcement that he wanted a divorce.

Dame Agatha’s car was found abandoned and wrecked in the English countryside, but there was not a sign of her.

She was missing for 11 days before being ‘discovered’ in a rehab hotel, claiming amnesia from the car accident.

But, she subsequently recovered and wrote her great mysteries.

Now, all we need to is to find Amelia Earhardt. I’m betting one of these days her ill-fated aircraft will finally be found.

The remaining question is: What kind of car did Agatha drive? (This was before she became Dame Agatha).

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MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

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WORD GAMES. I love oxymorons: The veteran Razorback football fan hoping for a national championship was a cheerful pessimist.

● ---- ● --- ●

HE SAID: “Happiness is not a matter of intensity but of balance, order, rhythm and harmony.” Thomas Merton, theologian and monk

● ---- ● --- ●

SHE SAID: “I am determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may find myself. For I have learned that the greater part of our misery or unhappiness is determined not by our circumstance but by our disposition.” Martha Washington, nation’s first First Lady

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SWEET DREAMS, Baby

*Mine Creek Revelations*



By  
Louie Graves

## Love Thy Neighbor, and GET THE COVID VACCINE!

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



**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

# AGFC midwinter survey shows changes in waterfowl population

**By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.**

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) Wildlife Management Division staff reported on the 2026 midwinter survey. The survey includes the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (the Delta), Arkansas River Valley, and southwest Arkansas. The midwinter survey is usually when biologists see peak waterfowl numbers, and found overall numbers were down from last year.

The most recent data, released January 21, 2026, found dramatic changes in the waterfowl population since the previous report only 2 weeks prior. The January survey estimated 574,940 ducks in Arkansas, with 351,900 of those being mallards. The December survey found 1,030,824 ducks in the state.

A total decrease in ducks of approximately 455,884 and a decrease of approximately 143,835 mallards. Staff noted that the deficit in numbers was possibly skewed from the December count.

According to the AGFC waterfowl coordinator, “We have less confidence in our December

estimate because it may have been biased high due to dry conditions with large amounts of birds around limited water sources.” Making it more difficult to estimate is that each state has varying survey methods. Overall, most states are seeing fewer birds during peak migration this season. Also, a decrease in duck numbers is expected due to drought on the Canadian prairie, where ducks hatch on the PotHole Region.

Biologists were back in the sky last week (as long as the weather held up) for the annual late January survey, the last of three AGFC waterfowl surveys for the season. Arkansas continues to face extremely dry conditions this winter with little rainfall. Many regions of Arkansas faced their second-to-third driest December on record, dating back to 1893, and there has been little precipitation in January. To see the latest survey and maps of duck distribution around the state, visit: <https://www.agfc.com/>.

**36th Annual Big Buck Classic**  
The Arkansas Game and Fish

Foundation’s (AGFF) 36th Annual Big Buck Classic will take place February 6-8 at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds. The children’s area provides hands-on for the next generation of hunters and anglers. There is an indoor trout pond where children can catch live rainbow trout, an inflatable BB gun range, and a hover ball archery shoot. There will be expert instruction provided by Bowfishers of Arkansas and the Arkansas Bowhunters Association.

It is a great environment for newcomers to learn about our state’s traditions. In addition to the kid’s zone, state biologists will be on hand to promote conservation programs, and attendees can learn about the new Deer Management Assistance Program, where deer clubs can get professional guidance on managing deer herds and improving the wildlife habitat.

There is no charge to participate in the AGFF Kids Zone, but admission to the show is \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids 5 to 12 years old. Admission for children under 5 is free.

# State receives health care funding

**By U.S. Sen. John Boozman**

Health care is an increasingly difficult landscape to navigate, particularly in rural communities. That is a reality for 1.3 million Arkansans – roughly 45 percent of our population – who live, work and raise families away from urban or suburban communities. Across the country, millions of Americans face similar challenges.

Our state’s doctors and nurses work tirelessly to provide medical care that saves, prolongs and improves our quality of life, especially for rural residents. The good news is that more help is on the way.

The recent announcement that Arkansas will receive more than \$208 million through the Rural Health Transformation Program in 2026 will make a big difference.

This program was established through the Working Families Tax Cuts, legislation I supported and helped pass into law last year. Designed to strengthen rural health-care systems with a specific focus on outcomes, quality and access, my colleagues and I were pleased to champion this commonsense effort to address the substantial challenges facing patients and providers in rural areas.

The program includes a \$50 billion investment in rural health nationwide, and each of the 50 states applied for and will receive funding, underscoring the widespread understanding that rural health care requires sustained and increased attention.

Arkansas is receiving an out-sized funding commitment that places us in the top 20 states nationwide and will be well utilized through a variety of targeted initiatives.

The Healthy Eating, Active Recreation, and Transformation (HEART) program will improve health outcomes through community-driven approaches that focus on nutrition and physical activity.

The Promoting Access, Coordination, and Transformation (PACT) program will use this investment to increase efficiency and data sharing in rural communities to support specialty care.

The Recruitment, Innovation, Skills, and Education for Arkansas (RISE AR) program will strengthen our rural medical workforce.

The Telehealth, Health Monitoring, and Response Innovation for Vital Expansion (THRIVE) program will strengthen telehealth services and technology-enabled

monitoring, which we know is key to expanding access to quality treatment.

I look forward to seeing these investments support health care delivery, modernize tools and infrastructure, and enhance approaches to sustain health outcomes, in order to make a discernible impact in every corner of the state.

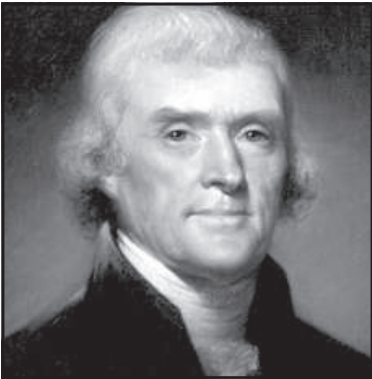
As a former healthcare provider, I know firsthand how important it is to ensure quality care is available close to home.

I have been proud to work across the aisle on solutions that improve the system for both patients and providers. This program is another significant step toward that goal.

Across the nation, more than 66 million Americans reside in areas defined as rural.

We must ensure rural communities are thriving, with adequate resources to address all types of needs from maternal and infant health to specialty care, behavioral health and more being an integral part of the formula for success.

This monumental investment in rural health will help meet clear needs and transform the way rural Arkansans receive lifesaving care.



“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](mailto:jrs@nashvilleleader.com)

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

## Nashville News-Leader

◆  
Louie Graves and Jane Graves (2007), co-publishers  
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News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMON

Coach Adam Greenfield visits MVP and Outstanding Defensive Lineman Makhi Johnson at the Rotary Football Banquet Jan. 31. (Related story and pictures, page 1; more pictures page 12.)

## Chamber

Continued from page 1

Keeping with the America250 theme, ticket sales for the event will be capped at 250. The cost will be \$30 per ticket or \$180 for table of six and may be purchased from a link provided on the chamber's Facebook page or its website: nashvillearcoc.com.

For more ticket information, call the chamber office at (870) 845-1262.

This year's banquet will be the last hurrah for Pinkerton, who is retiring his executive director position after three years on the job. He was also a chamber board member for six years, including a stint as president in 2012.

Pinkerton will surely be missed and so will his homemade cakes, which have raised big money in the past. One year, a Pinkerton-made hummingbird cake sold for \$5,100 and then the next year an Italian creme creation went for \$5,000.

Money raised by the cakes goes to a designated group, and this year's beneficiary will be the Nashville High School cheer squad, who will be waiting tables and working for tips.

"I'm thinking 'chocolate' this year," advised Pinkerton, who noted that cake stock might go up as several elected officials and candidates are expected to be in attendance on Feb. 16.

The annual awards to be presented include the following: Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Orange & Black Award, and Lifetime Achievement. Pinkerton said all nominations are in and were tallied Monday.

The event will be catered by the Elior Group, which manages food service for the Nashville School District, with chicken donated by Tyson Foods and drinks and rolls from Chicken Express.

Pinkerton added the chamber's auction will also take place Feb. 16, and the list of items continues to grow and will be published before the event.

## Valentine's Day benefit for HMH

A night of Bingo, food, music and more will be in a fund-raiser for the Howard Memorial Hospital Foundation on Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14.

The event will feature entertainment by Chris Gunn, plus prizes, a live and silent

auction. Food will be provided by Tyson and Chef Walline Williams.

Tickets are \$60 and may be purchased by calling Sandy Webb, 870-845-8006 at Howard Memorial, or Sandyw@howardmemorial.com.

## Island

Continued from page 1

After a year of traveling, he's now a full-time pastor again, and in the year and a half that he and wife Donna have lived there, he's become a volunteer first responder with the island's fire department.

Nancy is the church secretary, and she knows everybody. She grew up in Tallahassee, then was a nurse in the Air Force for more than 20 years.

After retiring, she moved back to Tallahassee to help care for her young granddaughters. When they got a little older, she moved to the Island.

Ed Lyon, a retired college music professor, leads the music at SGIUMC. After having taught at a number of colleges and universities, including Ouachita Baptist University, he retired to the Apalachicola "Forgotten Coast" area.

Some people in the congregation, like Jane, are permanent residents of St. George. Paula and Michael, from South Florida, are permanent residents also, but most folks you meet only spend a part of each year there.

Tom and Jody have a home in Duluth and a beach house in St. George, where they live from October through March each year.

The rest of the year, they're in Duluth, and they rent out the beach house. "We try to break even," Tom says.

It turns out his dad grew up in Wickes, and one of his best friends on the planet is Bill and Mary Blakely's son Jeff, whom he worked with in New York City. As the song says, "It's a Small World After All."

Karen and Doug, also Duluth residents, spend two months each year on the island.

Jackie and husband Keith, from north Georgia, stay several weeks each winter, while Keith works remotely in the insurance industry.

Bob is from Indiana and he's now in his 80s. Each spring when he heads back north he says his goodbyes to everyone and says he won't be back. Then in January, here he is again.



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

St. George Island United Methodist Church has congregants from across the country, many from Northern states who go to Florida in winter to escape the cold.

David and Laura are from Michigan and this is their first extended stay.

"I love Michigan in the summer, but not in the winter," I tell them.

"Us, too," says Laura with a laugh. They're two weeks deep into their month on the island, and they've already made reservations for January of 2027. Spending time on St. George in the wintertime is habit forming, especially for snowbirds.

Some people own property on the island and rent it out when they're not there, but most who only stay for a month or two don't own a house at St. George; they rent someone else's. It all works out well.

So what do you do for a month or two at the beach in the winter?

The short answer is, you do whatever you want to. You sleep late, sit on the balcony and enjoy the sun and the surf, you read, go for walks on the beach, eat at local restaurants, cook fresh seafood in your condo, and walk or bike on the 22 miles of paved paths on St. George Island. Sounds tough, doesn't it? You visit East Point 10 minutes away or Apalachicola, another 6 or 7 minutes farther, and eat at more great restaurants.

Then there is Tate's Hell State Park to explore. More about that next week.

One thing you don't do is go to Walmart. The closest one is in Tallahassee, an hour and a half away, but that's okay. "Dollar General in



Don and Jaree Hall of Nashville stand by the board of name tags for members at St. George Island United Methodist Church. Their names are in the upper right.

East Point is our Walmart," one resident told us. "We get everything we need there."

Something you need to be prepared for: even in a great town like ours, when we see someone in Walmart that we don't know, we tend to look down or in the other direction. At St. George, whether on the beach, at church, or on the bike path, people are trying to make eye contact with you and say hello.

That's even true at the St. George Community Center, also known as the Piggly Wiggly, which you'll find yourself visiting at least every other day. PS: their

seafood is great!

How do you know when it's time to head home? Simple. When your Walmart stretchy pants get hard to pull up over your ever-widening hips, then it's time to get back to the real world.

Getting old(er) definitely has its challenges, but it has some perks, too.

If you've never considered an extended stay at the beach in the winter, then you might want to think about it.

But don't think it'll be a one-off; you'll probably wind up like Bob from Indiana and be back next January.

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**1010 S. Pope Street, Nashville, Arkansas**  
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Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon,  
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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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Election time is fast approaching in Pike County. The 2026 Preferential Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 3, with early voting beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Early voting may be conducted at the Pike County Clerk's Office in Murfreesboro or at the Bainum Library and Learning Center in Glenwood. On election day, the four vote centers will be open across Pike County in Murfreesboro, Glenwood, Delight and Kirby. Registered county voters may participate at the vote center of their choice. In the event of a runoff election, early voting would begin on Tuesday, March 24, with the runoff election day set for Tuesday, March 31. New to the process this year is a semi-closed primary by the state Republican party. This means that those that have declared themselves as Democrats on their Pike County voter registration form cannot choose a Republican ballot, which will hold several key county races. However, the less than 100 Pike County registered Democrats may, according to the Republican ticket. Current Pike County Sheriff/Collector Travis Hill will face off against Murfreesboro Police Chief Randy Lamb on the Republican ticket. The Republican ticket will



**COLLAPSED UNDER ICE.** One of Murfreesboro's newest business, Connections Coffee, was temporarily closed last Friday following the collapse of the business's awning. No injuries were reported.

as Democrats on their Pike County voter registration form cannot choose a Republican ballot, which will hold several key county races.

However, the less than 100 Pike County registered Democrats may, according to County Clerk Randee Edwards, change their party registration to "optional" at her office prior to the election or at any of the Pike County voting centers on election day.

This would allow for voting in the Republican primary. That status may be changed back after the primary elections should a voter desire.

Additionally, the only way a voter can participate in a runoff election is limited to their previous choice of Republican or Democratic tickets.

There will be several contested races on the ballots, including three challengers for Pike County Judge Eddie Howard's position.

Howard will face Robert Shelby, Wade Stewart and Keith Couch on the Republican ticket.

Current Pike County Sheriff/Collector Travis Hill will face off against Murrefreesboro Police Chief Randy Lamb on the Republican ticket.

The Republican ticket will also feature three Justice of the Peace races.


Roger Floyd and Payton Eckert will each seek the Justice of the Peace Dist. 1, seat vacated by Chief Lamb.

Incumbent Kip Holbrook and Ron Parker will vie for the District Six seat, while incumbent Richard Mohlenhoff and Robert Irvin will seek the District Seven position.

On the school board side of things, both South Pike County and Centerpoint School Districts will see contested races.

Incumbent Alyssa Dugan will face off against Carrie Tidwell for the Zone Seven seat for South Pike County.

For Zone Four in the Centerpoint School District, incumbent Larry Harvey will face challenger Pake Sutton.

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## HOLY MASS

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# Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

359

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of 11 Kings intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

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## The Shunammite's Son

HAVING FAINTED FROM BEING OUT IN THE HOT SUN WITHOUT A HEAD COVERING, THE SHUNAMMITE'S YOUNG SON IS CARRIED HOME BY A WORRIED FATHER, NOW....

...AS THEY NEAR THE HOUSE, A SERVANT HURRIES ON AHEAD....

YOUR SON HAS FALLEN ILL!

...THE FATHER GIVES THE LAD INTO HIS MOTHER'S CARE....

...AND THERE, ON HIS MOTHER'S LAP, HE DIES....

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<p>-- Non-Denomination --</p> <p><b>New Life in Jesus Christ Church</b></p> <p>913 South Main St. • Nashville, AR</p> <p>Sunday Morning Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Pastors: Lankford &amp; Mary Alice Moore</b></p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b></p> <p>415 N. Main • Nashville</p> <p><b>Come Worship With Us!</b></p> <p>Sunday school 9 a.m.</p> <p>Morning worship 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Evening worship 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Rev. Kevin Sartin</b></p>	<p><b>HOLLY CREEK</b></p> <p><b>Missionary Baptist Church</b></p> <p>705 Main St. • Dierks • 286-2010</p> <p>Sun. School 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Sun. Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.</p> <p>Sun. Evening 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday WOW 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Pastor: Bro. Brian Finn</b></p> <p>Radio Program: 9:45 Sunday Morning • B99.5 FM</p> <p>Visit us at: <a href="http://www.hollycreekmbc.net">www.hollycreekmbc.net</a></p>	<p><b>To Advertise your Church or Business Call Tracy at 870-845-0600</b></p>
<p><b>EBENEZER UMC</b></p> <p>318 West Dodson • Nashville</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.</p> <p><i>"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"</i></p> <p><b>Scott Memorial (Paraloma Community)</b></p> <p>First &amp; Third Sundays Monthly</p> <p>Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.</p> <p><i>Pastor: Ellis Ray Floyd</i></p>	<p><i>Come worship with us!</i></p> <p><b>First Church of God</b></p> <p><i>Community Oriented &amp; Christ Centered</i></p> <p>946 MLK, Hwy 355, Tollette, AR</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 a.m.</p> <p>Worship 11:00 a.m. • Youth 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday evening service 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Rev. Charles Green, Pastor</b></p>	<p><b>Be our Guest at Cross Point Cowboy Church</b></p>  <p>Sunday Services 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study for all ages at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Hwy 371 W. of Nashville</p> <p><i>"Pointing People to the Cross"</i></p> <p><b>Pastor Don Jones</b></p>	<p><b>First Christian Church</b></p> <p>500 N. Main • Nashville (Corner of Main &amp; Bishop)</p> <p><b>845-3241</b></p> <p><b>Sunday Bible School - 9:45 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Minister: Jim Pinson</b></p>
<p><b>Futrell Marine</b></p> <p>Hwy. 371 Nashville</p> <p><b>(870) 845-3122</b></p>	 <p><b>First United Methodist Church</b></p> <p>1403 W. Sunset St. • Nashville</p> <p><b>870-845-3030</b></p> <p><a href="http://nashvillefumc.org">nashvillefumc.org</a></p> <p><b>Pastor: Pam Estes</b></p> <p>Sunday school 9:45 a.m.</p> <p>Worship 10:50 a.m.</p> <p>Facebook Live or listen to 98.7 FM</p>	<p><b>To Advertise your Church or Business Call Tracy at 870-845-0600</b></p>	<p><b>MINERAL SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST</b></p> <p>318 Bridgeman Dr. • Mineral Springs</p> <p>870-287-5652</p> <p>Sunday Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.</p>



## Pike County District Court

**Jan. 20, 2026**  
*BF=Bond Forfeited*  
**Pike County**  
Bowling, Bobby Gene, 27, Amity, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to pay; \$750 balance  
Buck, Jeremy B., 37, Amity, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,065 balance  
Larry, Angel Renee, 35, Cypress, Texas, \$125 BF, no child restraint device  
Motes, Emily Rebekah, 27, Hot Springs, \$180 BF, speeding  
Ransom, Janell Laken, 26, Hot Springs, guilty of failure to pay; \$990 balance  
Sharp, James M., 26, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,420 balance  
**City of Murfreesboro**  
Teer, Carl R., 32, Fouke, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345  
Watts, Holly Nicole, 44, Nashville, guilty of speeding, fined \$170; guilty of drinking in public or on highway, fined \$255; guilty of open container in motor vehicle, fined \$255C  
**City of Glenwood**  
Bowling, Bobby G., 27, Amity, guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$625; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
Buck, Jeremy B., 37, Amity, no contest, failure to carry liability insurance, fined \$340; no contest, failure to appear, fined

\$205; no contest, failure to appear, fined \$205; no contest, failure to appear, fined \$205; no contest, failure to pay; \$770 balance; no contest, failure to appear, fined \$205; no contest, failure to appear, fined \$205  
Stuart, Ellery, 35, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay; \$2,960 balance; committed to jail  
**Bench Trials**  
**Pike County**  
Rinkle, Meggan Lorene, 26, guilty of passing stopped school bus, fined \$650  
**City of Murfreesboro**  
Combs, Stephenie Gosnell, 46, guilty of violation of city ordinance-animal, fined \$80  
Duncan, Caden Michael, 16, Waxahachie, Texas, careless prohibited driving, under advisement for 60 days to dismiss, fined \$160  
Floyd, Marshall D., 38, Murfreesboro, guilty of violating of city ordinance-animal, fined \$580  
**Arkansas Game & Fish Commission**  
Dillard, Kyla Jane, 62, Glenwood, guilty of wasting edible portions of game/fish, fined \$385  
Epperson, Benjamin M., 48, Mena, guilty of hunting from road, fined \$635  
**City of Glenwood**  
Cognburn, Mary B., 30, Amity, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$160  
Huskey, Desiree Ann, 40, Hot Springs, speeding, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss, fined \$170  
Reed, Elle Nichols, 20, Glenwood, \$335 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$145 BF, speeding



### APPLY UNTIL APRIL 10 FOR TRIPLE TROPHY AWARD

Before your thoughts stray from the deer woods, be sure to fill out your Triple Trophy Award application if you managed to fill at least one deer tag with each of the main hunting methods. The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission will accept applications for the award at [www.agfc.com/tripletrophy](http://www.agfc.com/tripletrophy) until April 10. Hunters who qualify for the Triple Trophy Award must, within a single annual deer season, take at least one deer by each of the following hunting methods: modern firearm, muzzleloading firearm and archery/crossbow tackle. Qualifying hunters receive a patch and a certificate suitable for framing. Deer harvested with straight-walled rifles count toward the hunter's modern gun harvest number for consideration toward a Triple Trophy Award. Only guns loaded through the muzzle are considered for the muzzleloading firearm portion of the award. Visit [www.agfc.com/tripletrophy](http://www.agfc.com/tripletrophy) to learn more and apply.

## Active SnapChat account results in charge for M'boro sex offender

A Murfreesboro man has been charged in Pike County with failing to meet requirements of being a sex offender. Timothy Tigue, 53, who is a Level 3 sex offender residing on John Ashley Road, was charged Jan. 23 with failure to comply with registration and reporting requirements - refusal to cooperate with assessment process. According to case information, Pike County's investigator and sex offender coordinator, Jason McDonald, found Tigue to be out of compliance due to him not reporting an active SnapChat account maintained in his name. Tigue is considered "at high risk to reoffend" and is currently free on bond from a previous arrest for failure to register, according to case information. On Jan. 30 in Pike County, Jamie L. Adil, 26, of Hope, was charged with felony non-support for allegedly being arrears with child support in the amount of \$28,458 over a seven-year timeframe.

## Elect Randy Lamb Pike County Sheriff & Collector

As a lifelong resident of Pike County, I am committed to making our county a better and safer place to live. I am a 2003 graduate of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Academy. I have 23 years of experience as a law enforcement officer with the past 15 years serving as the Chief of the Murfreesboro Police Department. Within the past few years, the number of shootings in Pike County has increased along with other criminal activity. NOW is the time for a change in the Pike County Sheriff's Office. As Pike County Sheriff, I will work alongside my Deputies and bring leadership to a competent and professional department. I will work with both state and local agencies while also focusing patrol efforts to the towns and more rural areas of the county. I will maintain a proactive department in order to deter criminal activity. As Sheriff, I will seek to save tax payers dollars by applying for State and Federal grants. I will operate with the set budget and work to cut unnecessary spending. I will utilize the Pike County Jail (first and foremost) to house Pike County Prisoners, instead of releasing them back onto the streets, with prisoners from other counties being housed on a secondary basis. I am not seeking the position of Pike County Sheriff just to sit around and reap the rewards, I will bring to the office a strong work ethic, experience, leadership, and create a department that Pike County citizens will be proud of.



**Thank  
You  
for  
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Support!**

**I respectfully  
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# Livestock in The Cold: ‘Feels like’ temperature tells real story

**By Dawson Bailey  
Howard County Extension Agent – Agriculture**

Ruminant livestock can tolerate temperatures much colder than we can. The heat generated by the rumen can keep them warm at temperatures well below freezing if they have a winter coat and an acceptable body condition score. The “feels like” temperature tells the real story.

A Thermal Cold Index (TCI) can be used to identify when environmental conditions have deteriorated to a point where livestock may not be able to adapt. The TCI provides

a “feels like” temperature using thermometer readings and wind speed.

Much of the research looking at cold stress has been done with beef cattle, but this information can be used to make general conclusions about other livestock including small ruminants. The low critical temperature for beef cattle has been determined to be 18-20 degrees.

According to researchers at North Dakota State University, mature beef cattle in good body condition during mid-gestation can tolerate temperatures down to minus 6 degrees on a calm, dry day.

If animals do not have their winter coat or are wet, the critical low temperature can be up to 59 degrees.

When the TCI drops below the critical lower limit, producers need to implement management changes to help livestock through those days. Livestock will usually eat 2.5% of their body weight per day. As the temperature decreases, animal’s intake can increase to 3.5%.

For each degree below the low critical temperature, livestock’s average energy requirement will also increase by about 1%. In addition to providing more feed, producers

should provide higher quality feed.

Producers should also give their livestock access to dry ground because muddy hair or wool is just as bad as having a wet coat.

Livestock need shelter from the wind.

Shelter can come in many forms such as barn access, wooded areas, brushy fence rows, or a row of round bales.

Access to plenty of water is also important. Depending on how the livestock is watered, producers should utilize stock tank heaters, heated waterers, or regularly bust up the ice.

## Pike County 4-H member raising funds by selling chances on show hog to be processed

Murfreesboro 4-H student Carsyn Ballard will be utilizing a unique idea to help fund her 2026 show animals.

Ballard will be selling chances on her hog, which will be processed on March 9 at Centerpoint School in the manner desired

by the winner. Ticket for the raffle are \$10 each and only 150 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held after the tickets are

completely sold. To purchase tickets, contact either Cory Ballard at (870) 285-5618 or Shannon Ballard at (870) 200-2419.

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION

Early voting for Howard County: February 17 - March 2, 2026

Locations:

Carter Day - Vote Center All Ballots  
200 Lake Nichols, Nashville, AR 71852

Tuesday02/17/20268 am- 6 pm

Wednesday02/18/20268 am- 6 pm

Thursday02/19/20268 am- 6 pm

Friday02/20/20268 am- 6 pm

Saturday02/21/202610 am- 4 pm

Monday02/23/20268 am- 6 pm

Tuesday02/24/20268 am-6 pm

Wednesday02/25/20268 am- 6 pm

Thursday02/26/20268 am- 6 pm

Friday02/27/20268 am- 6 pm

Saturday02/28/202610 am- 4 pm

Monday03/02/20268 am- 5 pm

(Last day of Early Voting)

Election Day - Vote Centers/All Ballots

Carter Day  
200 Lake Nichols  
Nashville, AR 71852

03/03/20267:30 am- 7:30 pm

Mineral Springs Methodist Church  
101 South Church St  
Mineral Springs, AR 71852

03/03/20267:30 am- 7:30 pm

Dierks Community Center  
102 W. 2nd St  
Dierks, AR 71833

03/03/20267:30 am- 7:30 pm

Umpire Fire Department  
15790 Hwy 278 W  
Umpire, AR 71971

03/03/20267:30 am- 7:30 pm

If you have moved or had a name change, please come to the  
Howard County Courthouse, 421 North Main Rm 10, Nashville, AR 71852  
870-845-7502

Last day to register to vote is Monday February 2, 2026, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Election Officials appointed to conduct early voting, election day voting, and all other required duties will be posted for public viewing in the County Clerk’s Office and at CountyVote.com, on February 9th and remain posted for not less than 10 days. An objection must be filed with the County Clerk in writing prior to the following deadlines. An objection that an official is a spouse of the county election commissioner, a party chair, or a spouse of the county party chair must be filed within 7 days of February 9th. An objection that an Official is married to a candidate or related to a candidate within two degree of blood relations must be filed within 10 days of February 9th.

Absentee Ballots will be canvassed on 03/03/2026 at 5pm at Howard County Annex Building, 421 North Main, Nashville AR 71852

To request an absentee ballot, or to see if you are qualified to vote absentee contact the County Clerk’s office. (870) 845-7502.

If you would like to look at your sample ballot, go to the website below, put in your first name, last name and date of birth click on look up scroll to the bottom of the page.  
D- Democrat  
Np- Non-Partisan  
R- Republican

<https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/voterview/>  
Thank you.  
Keri Teague

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR LESLIE RUTLEDGE- LIEUTENANT GOVENOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL TIM GRIFFIN- ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE TREASURER JOHN THURSTONN- STATE TREASURER  
AUDITOR OF THE STATE DENNIS MILLIGAN-AUDITOR OF STATE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MADDOX-STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 86  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEANN VAUGHT-STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 87

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NASHVILLE SCHOOL MILAGE

31.70 Mills School Tax

The total rate proposed above includes the uniform rate of tax 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 the 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.

DIERKS SCHOOL MILLAGE

43.0 Mills School Tax

The total tax rate proposed above includes the uniform rate of tax (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 is available for maintenance and operation of schools in this District. The total proposed school tax levy of 43.0 includes 32.0 mills specifically voted for general maintenance and operation and 11.0 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 43.0 mills represents the same rate presently being collected.

COSSATOT SCHOOL MILLAGE

44.0 Mills School Tax

The total tax rate proposed above includes the uniform rate of tax (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 44.0 mills includes 25.0 mills specifically voted for general maintenance and operation and 19.0 mills voted for debt service previously voted as a continuing levy pledged for the retirement of existing bonded indebtedness, which debt services mills will continue after retirement of the bonds to which now pledged, will be a contiinuing debt service tax untill the retiremen of the bonds to be issued in the principal amount of \$4,325,000. and which will mature over a period of 30 years, and will be issued for the purpose of constructing and equipping a new multipurpose building and new CTE building; paving parking lots; and constructing,refurbishing, remodeling and equipping other school facilities. The surplus revenues produced each year by the debt services millage may be used by the District for other school purposes.

The total proposed school tax levy of 44.0 mills represents the same tax rate presently being collected.

ISOLATED SCHOOL BALLOT QUESTION

To create a new school district in the territory that formerly made up the Umpire school district and to detach the territory from the Cossatot River School District pursuant to Act 919 or 2025.

MINERAL SPRINGS SCHOOL MILLAGE

34.0 Mills School Tax

This represents no changes from the previous year. The total tax levy proposed above includes 25.0 mills for the maintenance and operation of schools, O mills dedicate for O purposed, and 9 mills for debt services previously voted as a continuing debt service tax pledge for the retirement of existing bonded indebtedness. The district may use surplus revenues produced each year by debt services mileage for other purposes. The total proposed school tax levy is 34.0 mills representing the same rate presently being collected.

CONGRESSMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN-US CONGRESS DIST 4  
GOVERNOR SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS-GOVENOR



# Dierks’ Jo Ann Walters Elementary School Honor Roll

**All A Honor Roll Kindergarten**  
Bentley Adams, Broncs Alexander, Lukas Billings, Dixie Chandler, Lyanna Clemons, Taylee Deputy, Kason Ellis, Sawyer Gadbury, John Glasgow, Austin Greene, Josey Gurley, Luna Hernandez, Emma Hill, Paisley Hughes, Cooper Jones, Jiren Kennedy, Riverlynn Leslie, Rowdy Moore, Mailee Neal, Paisley Pearson, James Rufo, Bellamy Smith, Asher Stapp, Archer Stewart, Lander Stone, Shiloh Tedford, Emery Westbrook, Dani Wester, Emaire Wheeler

**1st Grade**  
Emery Adams, Wyatt Clark, Riley Davis, Jhett Fields, Henry Gurley, Michael Hipp, Taytum Myers, Ethan Ware, Lawson Wheeler, Hudson White, Holly Willis

**2nd Grade**  
Aurora Bowers, Sauyer Davignon, Hazel Fonseca, Harvey Glasgow, Jaxtyn Kesterson, Keatyn Mounts, Delilah Plumely, Saprina Williams

**3rd Grade**  
Paitlyn Cox, Kirklyn Davis, Hunter Gamble, Jaron Herrington, Lucas Mitchell, Pyper Revels, Gunner Stuard, Quentin Tyson

**4th Grade**  
Jaxon Christopher, Rubie Glasgow, Stella Greene, Conn-

ley Heifner, Clayton Jones, Kix Kersey, Kennedy Nutt, Rex Simmons, Lawson Stone, Kadien Williams

**5th Grade**  
Natalie Arnold, Ashton Dinger, Jaylee Kesterson, Logan Lee, Alexander Quintanilla, Cooper Reid, Hayden Sitzes, Gracelynn Webb, Addison White, Copelan Winer

**6th Grade**  
Annsley Alexander, Luke Allen, Bryce Castleman, Kyptin Heifner, Judah Herrington, McKenna Icenhower, Ella Manasco, Hadley Mitchell, Emma Sayre, Elijah Steffler, Tyler Tedford, Cash Thatcher

**A/B Honor Roll Kindergarten**  
Tyler Deputy, Gabriel Fulgium, Koda Nolan, Ruger Parson, Madilynn Smith, Arthas Taylor, Thunder Williamson

**1st Grade**  
Avie Allen, Remington Archer, William Carver, Anthony Gurley, Kimberly Gurley, Lane Hipp, Tyler Kesterson, Alexander Pacheco, Jazmin R. Gonzalez, Knoxley Richards, Andrew Sharp, Makayla Smith, Evan Springer, Emerson Stokes, Bradley Winer

**2nd Grade**  
Brooklynn Deer, Jennifer Diaz, James Dowdy, Trista Fatherrree, Lilah Faulkner, Dylan Johnston, Leila Mayes,

Jerry Nolan, Collin Nuttall, Mia Pond, Lilly Power, Aubrie Simmons, Logan Walston, Riley Walton, Brailyn Ward, Gabriel Ward

**3rd Grade**  
Layla Billings, Haston Castleman, Ariana Delgado, AnnMarie Downing, Joey Gilbert, Maxx Hill, Tommy Icenhower, Remington Janes, Zahira Ortiz, Addis Rojo, Arlen Sitzes, Paisley Skaggs, Zaylee Stapp, Paisley Tugman, Bradi White, Brynlee White-Leever

**4th Grade**  
Marshall Brinkley, Jazmine Castillo, Noah Downing, Jayden Gilbert, Noah Godwin, Emory Halcombe, Levi Hipp, Fallon Jones, Kollin Jones, Ailsinn Rojo, Brody Simmons, Stevi Simmons

**5th Grade**  
Brystal Anderson, Emily Carver, Sophira Conatser, Jesus Delgado, Chandler Gardner, Miller Graham, Bentley Jester, Chris Mendoza, Isai Penaloza Perez, Jayden Runnels, Eli Shankles, Westin Shankles, Hagen Simmons, Kash Simmons, Emersyn Smith, Cannon Tipton

**6th Grade**  
John Carver, Colton Chandler, Hunter Davis, Brian Downing, Aiden Jernigan, Cash Nuttall, Remington Runnels, John Woods

# Murfreesboro Elementary School Honor Roll

**Kindergarten Honor Roll**  
Laykyn Ables, Payten Argo. Taylor Agudio, Pyasleigh Copeland, Ainsley Campbell, Allie Brown, Conner Buck, Ember Gatliff, Eva Vaught, Max Williams, Nayte Bates, Nora Kosters, Reece Bromley, Suttten Womack, Bentley Wastian, Skylar Jackson, Rowan Gillard, Piper Williamson, Willa Kidd, Clyde Henderson, Raylee Mitchell

**All A Honor Roll 1st Grade**  
Charli Buck, Welden Caldwell, Blakeleigh Francis, Sage Howard, Asher Jones, Callie Lingo, Hazel Milner, Drakon Potter, Wyndell Rowton, Penny Rymer, Moxon Turbeville, Joseph Varner, Emmaline Walker, Jones Watson, Roman Zacarias

**2nd Grade**  
Grayson Buss, Connor Deal, Avary Dinger, Renee’ Floyd, Gatlin Frachiseur, Bryson Holder, Van Paruk, Addison Pruitt, Mia Quiroz, Jace Watson, Bradley Young

**3rd Grade**  
Jolee Watson, Emery Mitchell, Kinly McRae, Brielan Caldwell

**4th Grade**  
Townes Allgood, James Brewer, Amiley Jones, Kayden Morton, Jameson Motley, Tatum Silva, Max Stone, Anthony Trejo

**5th Grade**  
Jaili Lamb

**6th Grade**  
Cassidy Beene, Addeline Cox, Charlotte Cox

**A/B Honor Roll 1stGrade**  
John Furr, Beau Harris, Scarlett Katzer, Alaina Kerner, Wiley Lamb, Rosalene Robinson, Cooper Stokes, Lux Stone, Spencer Stone, Jaxson Schoenberger

**2nd Grade**  
Tristan Boham, Kenzie Boyd, James Haney, Leonardo Hernandez, Geordyn Hutcherson, Marilyn Lowry, Garrett Melson, Sawyer Posey, Dlaney Rymer, Cooper Stokes, Elijah Summers, Dawson Vancamp, Otto Vitzthum, Darlin White, Dylan Wilson

**3rd Grade**  
Dawsyn Breshears, Kizer Cheek, Serenity Combs, Kirbi Cox, Aiden Pendergast, Jaxin Treece, Landon Watts, Colton

Nolan, Gracie Hill, Rylee James, Larkin Haney, Chaston Craig, Kassidy Campbell, Delta Whaley, Holdon Williams

**4th Grade**  
Cutter Bailey, Brody Bennett, Keith Coleman, Charles Cross, Christopher Fultz, William Gaddis, Evan Harris, Weston High, Noah Hill, Rhett Jones, Lincoln Lamb, Caiden Lamphier, Malaysia McKnight, Emmitt Morris, Brylee Nuttall, Alice Oliver, Gemma Riley, Avery Stokes

**5th Grade**  
Bentley Buss, Harrison Coleman, Ares Collins, Delilah Evans, Henley Frachiseur, Kynzlee Fultz, Holland Hill, Samuel Hoover, Jayce James, Khloee Kuykendall, Jake Lockwood, Diego Mata, Thea McKinnon, Stevi Pass, Lillian Pendergast, Mia Smith, Grayson Stone, Urijah Thomas, Kyle Turbeville, Luke Whitten, Elias Williams, Peyton Wright

**6th Grade**  
Cade Robert Couch, Abby Cox, Allyson Cross, Jacey Heaston, Jaxon Hoover, Adley Humphry, Annabelle Lockwood, Lily McRae, Brooklynn Pierce, Kora Stone, Nathan Sweeden, Sadie Varner, Lacy Walters, Braylee Ward, Ellie Woods

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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. **NEW PRICE \$374,500.**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE  
OF PATRICIA ANN BLAKELY, Deceased  
No. 31PR-26-9

#### NOTICE

Last known address of decedent:  
1407 Wildwood Dr.,Nashville, AR 71852  
Date of Death: November 21, 2025

On the 12th of January, 2026, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributee was filed with respect to the estate of Patricia Ann Blakely, deceased, with the clerk of the probate division of the circuit court of Howard County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. §28-41-101.

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

This notice first published 28th day of January, 2026.  
The name, mailing, address, and telephone number of the distributee’s attorney is:

Gardner Milner, PLLC  
By: Sara Gay  
P.O. Box 17037  
Jonesboro, AR 72403  
(870) 972-8180

(pd: 32, 33)



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Melinda Bennett 870-451-2226

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
JIMMY DALE ESKEW, deceased 31PR-26-12

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND FILING OF CLAIMS**

Estate of JIMMY DALE ESKEW, deceased  
Address of decedent: 1236 Hwy 84 E, Howard County, Umpire, Arkansas 71971

Date of Death: MAY 8, 2025

The undersigned person was appointed Administrator of the estate of the above-named decedent on the 20th day of January, 2026.


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. Provided, that claims for injury or death caused by the negligence of the decedent shall be filed 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 28th day of January, 2026.

John Eskew Executor  
P.O. Box 810, De Queen, AR 71832  
Mailing Address  
**Prepared by:**  
Erin Hunter  
Attorney at Law  
(EH: 32, 33)

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

**P.O. Box 1316 Hope, AR 71802**

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Photos Courtesy of HCFA

**BIG TURNOUT AT FAIR FUNDRAISER.** The “Fairgrounds & Country Sounds’ fundraiser held Saturday for the Howard County Fair Association raised proceeds to be used for renovations to the fairgrounds’ hog barn and new lights at the rodeo arena. The total amount raised by the event was still being tallied this week. The event featured a steak dinner with John Maines and friends (at left), with special guest Lauren McCullough, supplying the entertainment for the packed house. A live auction was also held for the event, which had a 1980s-90s country theme. “Thank you to everyone who bought tickets, attended, donated and bought auction items or just made donations,” said fair board member Karlie Worley. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to the Howard County Fair Association at P.O. Box 38, Nashville or by contacting any fair board member, which includes (at right) President Mark Kitchens, Karter Castleberry, Beth Lamb, Karlie Worley, Sydney Reed, Kaitlin Miller, John Raulerson and Robert Womack.

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SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Makhi Johnson, Nashville

Makhi, a Scrapper senior, received the Most Valuable Player Award at the Rotary Football Banquet Jan. 31. He was also named a Permanent Team Captain and was the Outstanding Defensive Lineman for the Scrappers.

This weekly feature sponsored by McDonald's of Nashville

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# Scrappers honored at Rotary banquet

News-Leader photos/LAYLA SIRMON



**OUTSTANDING RECEIVER.** Karson Chambers accepts the award from Coach Paul Morrow.



**OUTSTANDING OFFENSIVE BACK.** Coach Todd Ledford (right) makes the presentation to Tucker Dixon.



**OUTSTANDING DEFENSIVE BACK.** Coach Brad Chesshir (right) makes the presentation to Hayden Gray.



**PERMANENT TEAM CAPTAINS.** Tucker Dixon, Jamison McIntosh, Brayden Erby and Makhi Johnson.



**SCRAPPER FOOTBALL MANAGERS.** Bailee Haney, Sophie Dale and Tatiyana Carigan



**SENIOR MANAGERS.** Genesis Pryor and MyKayla Marks.



**OUTSTANDING OFFENSIVE LINEMAN.** Coach Kirby Adcock makes the presentation to Jamison McIntosh.



**OUTSTANDING SPECIAL TEAMS.** Jailyn Staggers accepts the award from Coach Brad Chesshir.

*Rotary Football Banquet  
Saturday night, Jan. 31  
NHS cafeteria*

swarkansasnews.com



SCRAPPER CHEERLEADERS

NHS Cheer photo

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