

Leader Board

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OPINION | 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

Church services set for Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday services will be held Feb. 18 at First United Methodist Church of Nashville.

Rev. Pam Estes, pastor, will lead services with imposition of ashes at 12 noon and 5 p.m.

The public is invited to attend.

School makes up missed days

The Nashville School District is following its plan to make up the week of classes lost during snow and ice in late January.

The make-up days included winter break Feb. 13, 16 and 17.

Two more days will be made up April 17 and 20.

The calendar for 2025-26 specified that any days missed during inclement weather would be made up before the end of the semester, starting with the three days for winter break and moving to the two days in April.

All schools across Arkansas missed the last week of January.

Some were also out Feb. 3.

The days must be made up with in-person instruction.

Under state law, Arkansas schools may no longer use AMI assignments on missed days.

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders and education director Dr. Jacob Oliva included the change in the LEARNS Act passed by the Legislature.

Sanders is in her first term as governor. Oliva came to Arkansas from an education position in Florida.

Pike Dems to meet

The Democratic Party of Pike County will hold its convention Monday, March 16, at 5 p.m. at Telingas Mexican Restaurant in Murfreesboro.

During the meeting, Pike County Democrats will elect delegates to the state convention June 13.

The county convention also will elect representatives to the state committee, which will meet several times in 2026-2028.

Any Pike County Democrat may attend and vote at the county convention.

Excellence recognized

Chamber presents annual community awards

The Nashville Chamber of Commerce presented its 2025 awards Monday night, Feb. 16, at the Nashville High School cafeteria.

Four residents received individual honors, including the following:

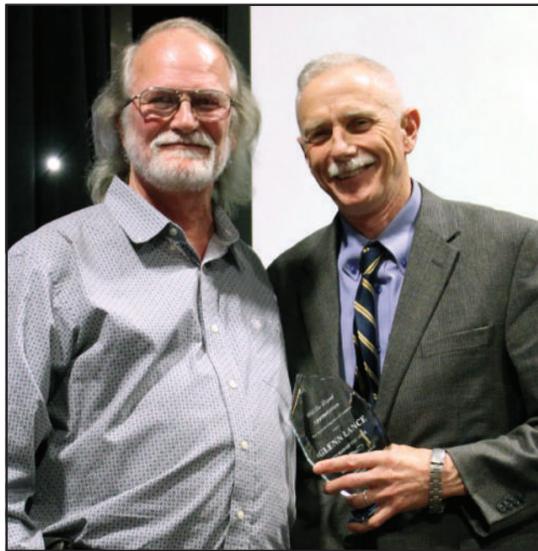
Man of the Year - Dr. Glenn Lance. The Nashville dentist is involved in a number of activities in the community and is also active at the Sunset Church of Christ. He is a colonel in the Arkansas Army National Guard.

Woman of the Year - Susan Nannemann. Nannemann is involved in many of the events and behind-the-scenes work at the Howard County Historical Society. She is an active member of First United Methodist Church. Nannemann and her husband Robert operate Sunshine Acres.

Orange and Black Education Award - Frank Puryear. The retired Scrapper coach and Nashville Junior High School history teacher continues to be involved in the Nashville School District. He returns to campus frequently, works in the press box at Scrapper football games and has been a part of the baseball radio and livestream team. He attends Sunset Church of Christ.

Lifetime Achievement Award - Deb Kinkade. A former banker, Kinkade has been involved in numerous community organizations

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MAN OF THE YEAR. Dr. Glenn Lance (right) receives the award from 2024 recipient Fred Hintze Feb. 16.



WOMAN OF THE YEAR. Susan Nannemann (right) accepts the award from 2024 recipient Terri McJunkins.



ORANGE AND BLACK. Frank Puryear receives the plaque from long-time friend Johnny Wilson.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT. Deb Kinkade accepts the honor from Chamber Director Tim Pinkerton.

Early voting continues for upcoming primary

By Louie Graves
News-Leader staff

Early voting got underway Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the 2026 Preferential Primary Election. Election day will be Tuesday, March 3.

There is only one place to cast early votes in Howard County -- at the Carter Day Training Center on North Main St., Nashville. Hours are 8-6 Monday-Saturday until the early voting period ends on Monday, March 2.

Howard County Clerk Keri Teague told the newspaper Monday that showing a driver's license was sufficient identification.

Other than the non-partisan Prosecuting Attorney and the Arkansas Supreme Court races on

all ballots, there are few local races.

For Circuit Clerk, Republican candidates are Alana Miller, a deputy in the circuit clerk's office, and Jana Tallant, who is the sheriff's deputy in charge of the jail.

For the office of Coroner, Republican candidates are Matt Smith and Alex Laxton. Smith is the incumbent.

In the race for Prosecuting Attorney for District 9, non-partisan candidates are deputy prosecutor Erin Hunter, public defender Clayton Tinkes, and the incumbent, Jana Bradford. The office is for Howard, Pike, Sevier and Little River counties.

There is also one non-partisan race for

See **Election** • Page 5A



DISTRICT CHAMPIONS. The Nashville Junior High School Scrappers won the District 7-4A championship Saturday afternoon, Feb. 14, at De Queen. They defeated Arkadelphia 57-52. John Martin (right) was named the district's Coach of the Year.

County judge plans for next term

By Don Hall
News-Leader staff

On a recent Friday morning, we caught up to Howard County Judge Brent Pinkerton at his office in the courthouse. He's running, unopposed, for his second term as County Judge, and we were curious about his views on how the job is going.

As judge, Pinkerton is the chief administrator for Howard County, overseeing the crews that pick up our trash and take care of our roads.

"My predecessor [Judge Kevin Smith] left us in

good shape so far as equipment is concerned, having purchased two new garbage trucks in 2022." Judge Pinkerton, over the last three years, has been responsible for adding more new equipment, primarily for maintaining roads.

"A lot of times in the past we've had storms come through that left trees down," he said. The first priority of the road crews is to cut up the trees and then clear them off the roads, moving them out of the way and then coming back at a later date to haul them

off. Now the county owns a boom truck, with a crane mounted in the back that can load the trees and carry them off immediately.

In the future, Judge Pinkerton hopes to have it where county residents can schedule the boom truck to remove old furniture or appliances from their property.

"One of the most requested pieces of equipment that we have is the long-armed bush hog," he says. That's the one that can cut up small trees and can move the cut-

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NATIONAL RUNNER-UP. Lucas Muncy, a junior at Nashville High School, placed second overall in the 1500-m with a time of 4:37 at the Track and Field Coalition of the United States of America Indoor National Championship in Birmingham, Ala. He received an All-American certification. Muncy also ran a 2:14 in the 800-m, placing second in his heat and seventh overall.

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Obituaries



Willie Hugh Womack

Willie Hugh Womack, 89, passed away on Feb. 12, 2026, at his home in Nashville, Ark. He was born on May 8, 1936, in his family's home in Murfreesboro, Ark., to Morgan and Mildred Womack. He is survived by his siblings, Lewis Womack and Maurice Geiger.

At age 18, Hugh enlisted in the United States Army, where he was the first to get a perfect score on his civic engineering entry test. He served for three years as a Combat Engineer and Construction Foreman moving between Virginia, Alaska and Washington. During his service he also earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

After being discharged, he met Joyce Bristol at church in Portland, Ore. He grew close not only to Joyce but also to her large family. They were married in 1960 and recently celebrated 65 years of marriage. Together they raised three children: Steve, Jeff, and Amy.

Hugh built a long career as a building contractor in the Pacific Northwest. He focused on light commercial, but was especially known for designing and building church facilities throughout the region. He became known as the "master builder" and his craftsmanship is reflected in the buildings that continue to serve their

congregations and communities today.

In 2009, Hugh and Joyce moved from Oregon to Nashville, Ark., where they spent their time raising cattle and reconnecting with family, while also forming dear friendships with their church community.

He leaves behind nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one great-grandchild, Hunter. He also leaves behind many cousins, in-laws, and friends who were a major part of his life over the years.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m., Monday, Feb. 16, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville, with Benjamin Neeley officiating, burial will follow in Pleasant Home Cemetery in Murfreesboro, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

You may send online sympathy messages at www.latimerfuneralhome.com.

James Loyde Hanney

James Loyde Hanney, 91, of Prescott died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026.

He was born Dec. 3, 1934, in McCaskill, the son of the late Grover Hanney and Cornelia Rhodes Hanney.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy; four children, Brenda Hanney, James Loyde Hanney, John Andrew Hanney and David Hanney; siblings H.C. (Betty) Hanney, Olen (Margaret) Hanney and Charles (Sylvia) Hanney.

Survivors include in-laws, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Cremation arrangements are by Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.

Vera Lavon Reed

Vera Lavon Reed, age 88 of Dierks, Ark., passed away on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, in Dierks. She was born on Jan. 16, 1938, the daughter of the late Fred and Patra Parker.

Lavon was a homemaker and a member of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church near

Dierks.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband of 62 years, Wayne Reed.

Those left to cherish her memory include: her two sons and a daughter-in-law, Steven Reed and wife Angie and Kerry Reed; seven grandchildren, Eric (Victoria) Reed, Jason (Candy) Tip-ton, Michelle Young, Crystal (Jason) Smith, Mandy Plank, Candy (Josh) Miller, Sandy (Chris) Frasier; 20 great-grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church near Dierks.

A funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church with Bro. Calvin Parker officiating. Interment will follow in Fellowship Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.

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

Sheila O'Neal Hardin

Shelia O'Neal Hardin, age 67, of Ashdown, Ark., passed away on Friday, Aug. 15, 2025, in Little Rock, Ark. She was born Sept. 3, 1957, in Nashville, Ark., the daughter of the late Roy Jurdon O'Neal and Linda Faye Tollett O'Neal.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister Sandy Whittington.

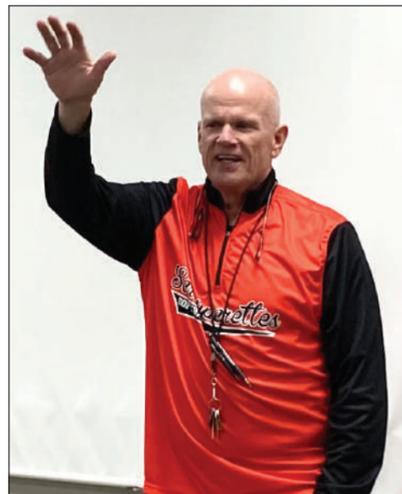
Survivors include her daughter Kim Moix and husband Jim of Little Rock, Ark.; one granddaughter Kaylee Moix of Little Rock, Ark.; one sister Susan Smith and husband Mark of Nashville, Ark.

Cremation services were under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

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



EARLY VOTING CHECK-IN. Howard County Early Voting began Tuesday at the Carter Day Training Center in Nashville. Among the election workers at the site Tuesday morning were, from left, Fannie Mae Lockeby and Fran Strawn, both of Nashville, Margaret Dixon of Mineral Springs, and County Clerk Keri Teague. Early Voting Monday-Saturday continues through Monday, March 2.



COACHES AT ROTARY. Nashville High School coaches Zac Stewart (left), baseball; and Boomer Brown, softball; spoke to the Nashville Rotary Club last Wednesday about their respective team schedules, tournaments, athletes, and fund-raisers. The Scrapperettes compete here at the Nashville City Park, and the Scrapers play at Wilson Park. The Rotary Club meets at noon Wednesdays in Room 101 at the Nashville campus of UA-Cossatot.

Five are sentenced during day of criminal court in Howard County

Five defendants pleaded either guilty or true, and another pleaded 'no contest' during criminal court here last week. Their sentences were pronounced by Judge Tom Cooper who was on the bench for the regular day of criminal court.

The guilty, true or nolo contendere pleas were by:

Tamara Cheatham, 46, black female, Mineral Springs (Tollette), was the 'no contest' plea. She was originally charged with second degree battery but that charge was reduced to a misdemeanor. she was sentenced to one year of unsupervised probation and a \$500 fine.

Willard Leo Spray 65, white male, Dierks, pleaded guilty to a drug possession charge, and was sentenced to 90 days in a regional punishment facility plus four years of probation. He was also fined \$2,000.

Juan Garate, 43, white male, Nashville, pleaded guilty to a DWI #6 charge and was sentenced to four years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) plus a further suspended imposition of six years. He was fined \$2,500.

Adrianna Hamilton, 37, black female, Nashville, was charged with theft of property. She was sentenced five years of probation, a \$500 fine, and restitution.

James Michael Cox, 31, white male, Prattville, Ark., was charged with felony non-support. He was sentenced payment of child support, 20 years suspended imposition of sentence, and a fine of \$500.

The true plea was by Robert Johnson, 54, black male, Nashville, who was charged with failure to meet the terms of probation on a 2018 conviction. He was sentenced to 60 days in

jail and remain on current probation.

Trial dates set

Three defendants pleaded not guilty or not true. Dates for pretrial motions and trials were set.

A probation revocation hearing date of Feb. 18 was set for Marquis King, 32, black male, Nashville, who was on probation for conviction of possession of controlled substances.

Preston Roberson, 57, black male, Nashville, is charged with felon in possession of a firearm, class B felony, and aggravated assault, class D. Motions will be heard April 8. His bond remains at \$50,000.

Javaris Griffin, 24, black male, Tampa, Fla., is charged with 1st degree terroristic threatening, class D. Motions will be heard April 8. Bond was set at \$10,000 and he was warned to stay away from the alleged victim.

Annual donations are announced for Academy Cemetery in 2025

The following donations were made to the Academy Cemetery in 2025:

\$10.00 - \$50.00: Hollis and Joyce Reed, Conrad and Eva Cox, Frand and Betty Hughes, Ray Fendly, Lee Dean Barbre, Junior Studebaker, Betty Young, Wesley and Beverly Stone, John L. Bradford, Ronnie and Linda King, Perry Stone, Janet O'Neal, Tyler Toliver, Sheila Toliver, Laura Orr, Dallas and Gail Sweeden, Charlie and Sara Daniel, Robert Wilkerson, Ronnie and Kathy McKinnon, David Wilkerson, James and Hazel White, Lorene Wilkerson, Dennis and Shirley Smithson, Wilton and Peggy Westfall, Paulette Stranser, Billy Wynn, Athony

and Rebecca Clark, Roger and Jean Floyd, Thelma Simon, Kenny and Valerie Womack (IMO Jerry Couch and Wilton Westfall), Delores Rhodes (IMO Jerry Couch), Eva Cox (IMO Jerry Couch), Eva Cox (IMO Conrad Cox), Floyd and Denise McCullough.

\$60.00 - \$150.00: Patsy Lawless, Jerry and Johnnie Couch, Norma Jones, Mary Damron, Randy and Lisa Miller, Charles and Danna Jones, Dena Tollett, Jimmy and Dana Goodwin, Brent McBay, Betty Whorley, Steve and JoLee Westfall, Wesley and Martha Foster, Nina Cox, Venetta Sweeden, Johnny and Tamyie Lamb, Sandra Conly, Robert McFarland, Janice and Watson

Womack (IMO Jerry Couch), Frank and Betty Hughes (IMO Conrad Cox), Frank and Betty Hughes (IMO Jerry Couch), Janet Whallon (IMO Conrad Cox), Judy L. Roberts (IMO Conrad Cox), Joy Toliver.

\$200.00 - \$500.00: Michael and Jean Ince, Johny Cothorn, Jerry Davis, Joe and Janie Wright, Basel Cox, Williams Family (IMO Barnes and Tidwell), Lyn and Bonnie Graves, Lori Ledbetter, Larry and Pam McKinnon, Jimmy McKinnon, Relda Aylett, Mark and Lisa Dixon (IMO Eunice and Bob/Sharon Ruberson), Stevie and JoAnn Stevens, Ross and Susan Lamb.

\$1000.00: Clara Haskell (IMO Porter/ Barnes).

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The Nashville News-Leader

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

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

Single issue price: \$1.00.

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

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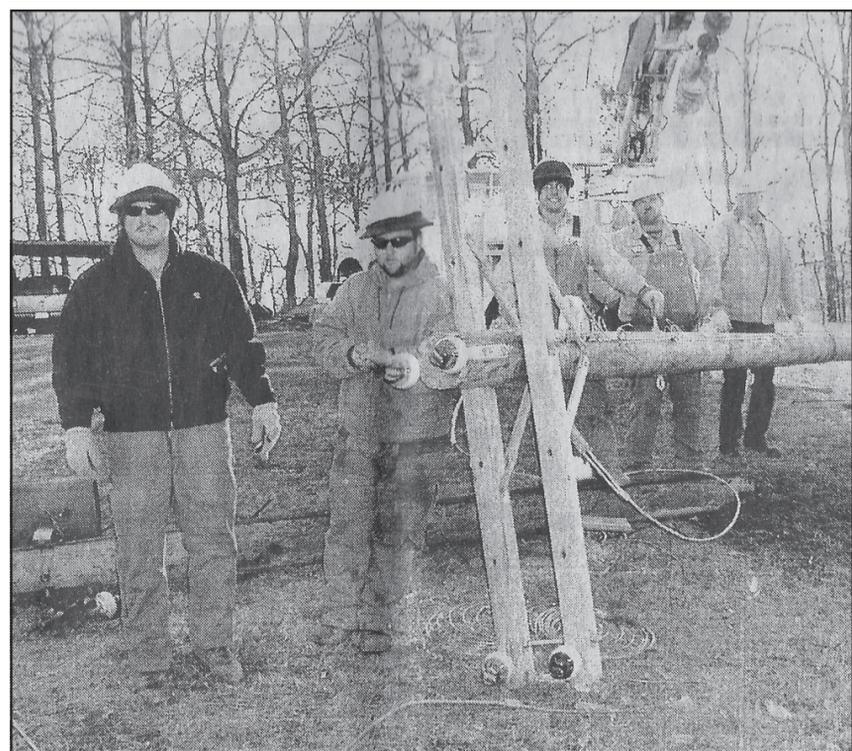
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THE CECIL "BIRDDOG" HARRIS MEMORIAL
EARLY FILES

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



Crews from Arkansas Electric and Rich Mountain Electric Co-operative work to restore power to North Howard County after the disastrous Christmas Day ice storm in 2000.

135 years ago: February 1891

The citizens of Saratoga have given notice that they will ask the legislature to prohibit the sale of liquor within seven miles of that place.

124 years ago: February 1902

Rev. W.L. Lee called upon our citizens Wednesday for a subscription for Mrs. Lewis, a worthy widow of this city who was in need of financial aid, and as always, the people responded liberally. Mr. Lee gave Mrs. Lewis \$10 in cash, and more was subscribed which Mr. Lee has not yet collected.

(Adv.) For clothing to fit and clothing to wear, you can't do better than to go to S.B. Dildy & Co. for your suits from \$2 and up. If you buy a barrel of Elk Flour from S. B. Dildy & Co., you will have peace at home as long as the flour lasts. Price \$4 per barrel.

72 years ago: February 1954

Senator J. W. Fulbright has advised Millwood Dam

petitioners that there is "nothing pending in the present budget for construction of the Millwood Dam," a statement similar to one made by Senator John McClellan recently.

The Fulbright letter was addressed to five Mineral springs men who signed a petition.

The five included Bob Nutt, C.C. Stephens, Finis Reed, Hugh Hooker and James Freeman.

The petition proposed construction of the upstream dams in lieu of Millwood Dam on Little River.

40 years ago: February 1986

Dale Hart, one of the owners of a future industry here, wanted to make one thing clear to Rotarians at their regular meeting: "We don't make satellites."

He went on to tell his Wednesday audience that Jan-Eze Plating would be a satellite industry supporting Beard-Poulan, makers of chainsaws and weed-eaters and one of Nashville's blue chip industries.

Beard-Poulan will buy

pistons or cylinders for their products, and Jan-Eze will put chrome plate to the parts. "We are the first such satellite plant for B-P, but we won't be the last."

Hart was introduced by Hershell Teague. Guests were Danny Ray and Larry Teague.

25 years ago: January 2001

Officials expect Howard County to be added to the list for disaster declaration. The county and its cities have been overwhelmed by the Christmas Day ice storm. A full Presidential Disaster Declaration expands aid to eligible individuals and families who suffered losses of personal possessions in their primary residence and who might need temporary housing assistance.

The declaration could also open other federal disaster programs under the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Small Business Administration, Veterans Administration, Internal Revenue Service and numerous other programs for disaster recovery.

Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Feb. 5-11, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses
(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office)
Feb. 6. L'Donta Sanqueze Howard, 30, Sherwood, and Haley Grace Holiman, 28, Sherwood.

Feb. 9. Stanley Bernard Bailey, 58, Newhope, and Leigh Ann Boss, 58, Newhope.

Feb. 9. Micky Dewayne Strang, 51, Lockesburg, and Rebekah Delaine Flournoy, 46, Lockesburg.

Civil Court
CV26-21, Feb. 4. LVNV Funding, LLC, vs. Monica Butcher. Debt.

CV26-22, Feb. 5. Westlake Services, LLC, vs. Charles R. Hutchison. Debt.
CV26-23, Feb. 6. Arkansas Dept. of Finance and Administration vs. Jacob Dinger. Register Arkansas Judgment.

Domestic Relations Court
DR26-12, Feb.6. Savannah Carver vs. Casey Roberts. Divorce.

DR26-13, Feb. 6. Karla Sanchez Perez vs. Jose Rico Nunez. Paternity.

DR26-14, Feb. 9. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Lee L. Harris. Support.

DR26-15, Feb. 9. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. La'Vario R. Morris. Support.

DR26-16, Feb. 10. Lee Jefferson vs. Jatora Jefferson. Divorce.

Criminal Court
CR26-05, Feb. 9. State of Arkansas vs. Preston Roberson, 57, black male, 1035 S. Pope, Nashville; felon with firearm; aggravated assault.

CR26-06, Feb. 9. State of Arkansas vs. Keshawn Jontez Jefferson, 37, black male, 1056 S. Pope, Nashville; POCS; criminal trespass.

CR26-07, Feb. 9. State of Arkansas vs. Javaris Griffin, 24, black male, Tampa, Fla.; 1st degree terroristic threatening.

Land/Property Transactions

Quitclaim Deeds
Feb.5. Renetta Bowles, fka Renetta Hutchison; to Renetta Bowles; Lot 17, Block 3, Toland Heights Subdivision, aka #5 Dartwood St., City of Nashville.

Feb. 11. Terry Hawthorne and Cecilia Gail Hawthorne; to Cecelia Hawthorne and Hunter Hawthorne, Joint Tenants; 1 ac. in S25 T11S R27W.

Trustee's Deed
Feb. 6. Terri D. Chandler, Trustee of the Donnie and Kathy Murphy Irrevocable Trust; to Cyrus Kitchens and wife, Barbara Kitchens and Dalton Kitchens, Joint Tenants; aggregate 1 ac. in S3 T7S R29W. \$45,000.

Warranty Deeds
Feb. 5. Nickoles Ray Hill; to Nickoles Ray Hill as Trustee of the Liberty Hill Family trust; property in S13 T5S R28W.

Feb. 5. (Special) Mike Stanton, Executor of the Estate of Glenn Dean Dossey, deceased; to Phillip Bernard Jones and Tiffany Jones, husband and wife; aggregate 23.33 ac. in S36 T10S R28W. \$158,427.

Feb. 5. R Jay Hawthorne, aka R. Jay Hawthorne and wife, Erica L. Hawthorne; to L O Ranch, LLC; 1.69 ac. in S1 T11S R27W. \$6,000.

Feb. 6. Gailin Cook and wife, Carolyn Cook; to Efird's Loop Farm, Inc.; 14.59 ac. in S27 T5S R29W. \$53,983.

Feb. 9. Thomas E. Ward, Survivor Joint Tenant of Dorothy Ellen Ward, deceased, through his attorney-in-fact, Dorothy Stokes; to Thomas

E. Ward and Dorothy E. Stokes, joint tenants; aggregate 10 ac. with exceptions in S27 T7S R28W.

Feb. 9. Thomas E. Ward, Survivor of a joint tenancy with Dorothy Ellen Ward, deceased, through his attorney-in-fact, Dorothy Stokes; to Dorothy E. Stokes and husband, Jimmy D. Stokes; aggregate 3.62 ac. in S22/S27 T7S R28W.

Feb. 9. Aaron Stokes; to Hueden James Waker; property in S35 T7S R29W. \$430,000.

Feb. 9. Edwin L. Stavelly and wife, Kristin Leigh Stavelly; to Joshua Tice and wife Jamey Tice; part of Blocks 7-8, Old Town of Nashville. \$115,000.

Feb. 10. Lilian Pineda and husband Raul Vargas Canela; to Susana Arce; Lot 19, Block 4, New Nashville Addition. \$37,000.

Feb. 10. Nancy Villamil; to Daniel James Chambers; property in S30 T7S R28W. \$30,000.

Feb. 11. Rachell Millward, et al; to Scotty Gaddis; 5 ac. with exceptions in S24 T10S R28W. \$10,000.

Feb. 11. (Special) Weyerhaeuser Forest Holdings, Inc.; to Clay Roark and Kathy Roark; aggregate 23.49 ac. in S8 T5S R28W. \$164,430.

Feb. 11. Jacqueline Ross McDonald and husband Terence B. McDonald and Wendy Ross Key and husband, Jerry F. Key, Jr.; to Brent Marshall; part of Lot 14, and all of Lot 15, Block 4, Ridgeway Addition, City of Nashville. \$175,500.

Congratulations to the 2025 Nashville Chamber of Commerce Winners

Howard Memorial hospital
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Latimer Funeral Home congratulates the 2025 Nashville Chamber of Commerce Winners

- Dr. Glenn Lance - Man of the Year**
- Susan Nannemann - Woman of the Year**
- Frank Puryear - Orange & Black Award**
- Deb Kinkade - Lifetime Achievement Award**

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Point of view

Aunt Pokey

Careful driver never got a ticket for speeding

YES, I AM STILL HERE looking out my window on Main Street, and I wonder how long it will be before I see Aunt Pokey drive by.

I'll recognize her immediately I'm pretty sure.

When she's on the move, you can just barely see the top of her head thru the steering wheel ring. She has no idea what a turn signal is, and she'll have a long line of traffic behind her because she never goes more than 15 mph. A lot of the drivers behind her are honking.

You ever hear 15 or 20 cars honking and drivers cussing all at the same time?

I first crossed paths with Aunt Pokey when my buddies and I were hellion teenagers. We thought the town's posted mph limits were merely speed suggestions to be obeyed only if the town's lone daytime law enforcement officer's car was NOT in its usual parking spot on Main Street. There's a coffee shop there now.

If that car WASN'T there, it meant that he might be on patrol, looking for speeding hellions. Or, maybe his wife had appropriated the car and taken it to her beauty parlor appointment. After all, it served as both a town patrol car and as a family vehicle in those days.

No matter where I was going if/when Swampy let me borrow the station wagon, I seemed to get behind Aunt Pokey. That was even an accepted excuse if the wagon and I got home a bit after curfew.

My hellion friends and I never called her Aunt Pokey to her face. Well, one guy did once and she nearly kneecapped him. "Aunt Pokey, why you creep around so slow all the time?" he whined, adding "Ooooooo" when she kneecapped him. He only smarted off to her because his hellion buddies doubledog dared him. Called him 'Chicken.' You did not want to be called 'chicken' in front of friends.

Once, the annual Howard County Fair Parade finished 45 minutes late because the sheriff's pickup truck -- red lights blinking, siren howling -- was stuck behind Aunt Pokey who was going to the grocery store at her usual speed. Naturally she was on the parade route.

The sheriff didn't radio for help because he knew that -- just as the hellions ignored mph suggestions -- Aunt Pokey ignored cop's lights.

Any funeral procession that got behind her was doomed to take hours getting to the cemetery. The floral displays would be wilted.

And you just better hope you didn't need an ambulance for a quick run to the hospital. It was automatic you'd get behind Aunt Pokey. She would NOT pull over and let the howling ambulance past.

Come to think of it, I haven't seen Aunt Pokey in a long time.

A real long time

That thought occurred to me last week when I was driving to the grocery store -- Or, maybe I was going to the barbershop. I can't remember right now, but it'll come to me.

I was going down Main Street at a sensible speed. Honestly, I don't even bother to look at the speedometer anymore.

I heard horns honking behind me. I slowed down to look in the rearview mirror, and was surprised to see a long line.

"Wonder where they're all going?" I asked myself.

I was driving very carefully and I even came to a stop at a green light because I thought it might be ready to change to yellow, and that meant the red was only seconds behind.

Anyway, I don't want to seem fixated on stoplights, but I have noticed that very often the green light will change to yellow when I'm almost directly underneath, and that means the light might turn red before I can get to the other side.

I don't want to get a ticket for running a red light so -- just to be safe -- I usually stop before the light can turn yellow. Makes sense to me.

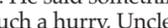
As I said, I don't want you to think I get fixated on stoplights and traffic safety.

I continued my journey to the store and the honking never let up. Maybe it even got worse after the sensible pause at the stoplight.

After awhile I got to the grocery store parking lot and unfortunately I bumped a shopping cart into someone's shiny new car. I don't think there was much damage, but I didn't check.

When I got out to shop, a hellion teenager pulled up beside me and leaned out of the window. He said something very puzzling:

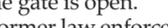
"Where you going in such a hurry, Uncle Pokey?"



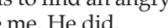
ANIMAL CRACKERS. It must have been a poor season for the deerhunters. Every time I take a leisurely Uncle Pokey drive down a country road I see scads of deer. Scads, I tell you.

Sometimes I pass one of those gated roads, and sometimes I am tempted to drive in -- if the gate is open.

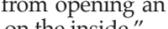
But I remember that a former law enforcement officer told me about someone once getting locked in behind one of those gates and how it took several late night calls to find an angry person with a key. Maybe he was just trying to scare me. He did.



THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: "Laughing is good exercise - It's like jogging on the inside."



WORD GAMES. The cousins: Catch and Release. Some people think they're fish; some people think they're petty criminals; and some people think they're pretty girls.



HE SAID: "I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion." Alexander the Great



SHE SAID: "When it's over, I want to say: all my life I was a bride married to amazement. I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms." Mary Jane Oliver, poet



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

Food science center at UA-Fayetteville receives major boost in federal funding

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

This week the new Center of Excellence for Food Science and Innovation in Fayetteville, part of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture received \$30 million in federal funding. The new center has been in planning phase, and this funding will catapult the process forward. The federal funding was signed into law on February 6th.

While the final design of the Center of Excellence for Food Science and Innovation has not yet been finalized, the latest projections estimate total construction costs of \$60 million. The Division of Agriculture is continuing to raise funds and has donation opportunities available.

The new center would be built in Fayetteville near the division's existing food science building. The project aims to enhance food and nutrition research and workforce development. The planned 62,000 square foot, two-story building will house specialized laboratories supporting research across food science disciplines, along with space designed for community engagement. The two-year construction process is expected to begin this summer.

According to the head of the Division of Agriculture, Deacue Fields, "the new center will enhance the food science program, which acts as a bridge between Arkansas agriculture and the food processing industry."

The primary purposes of the new center, according to Jeff Weaver, director of government affairs and stakeholder engagement for the agriculture division, include expanding industry-leading research with rice, wheat, blackberries, grapes and many other Arkansas-grown commodities. Rice research is vital considering the state produces at least 50% of all rice grown nationwide. A larger facility will help expand the division's focus on food innovation, food health and safety, food processing and chemistry and connect food and farm entrepreneurs with consumers and markets. Part of that also includes more research on brewing and winemaking.

The university has one of the top 5 food science programs in the United States. Therefore, retaining and recruiting new faculty members is very important and in such a competitive environment a new facility will help ensure the Food Science division has an advantage.

Jean-Francois Meullenet, director of the Division of Agriculture's research arm, The Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, said, "the food science building replacement will provide state-of-the-art research facilities that will help attract top talent and advance the food industry in Arkansas and beyond."

Faculty, staff and students are currently working on discoveries across disciplines such as a recent study for the Arkansas Rice Processing Program showed that optimizing rice mill lab analysis can improve rice yield and consumer quality. An ongoing project in the Center for Food Safety is developing autonomous food safety tools for the poultry industry. The Center for Beverage Innovation is redefining how Arkansas rice can be used in beer production. Additionally, The Center for Human Nutrition performs critical research and outreach to help make Arkansas healthier. Faculty in the department of food science are also developing new uses for soybean protein, improving 3D food printing systems to enhance nutrient and medicine delivery, and offering essential food safety training.

Umpire School 'hopes to make the most' of opportunity to be independent again

By Linda Kitchens

President, Umpire School Steering Committee

In 2003, Umpire School District was a thriving school district. We had money in the bank; we were meeting the standards, and the students were achieving.

The Legislature and other powers that be decided to set an enrollment size requirement. What started at 1,500 students finally settled on 350.

Umpire did not have 350 students. The district was forced to make a very painful decision. The school district was required to consolidate with a neighboring district.

After several community meetings, the school board voted to annex with the Wickes School District. On July 1, 2004, the Umpire School District ceased to exist. It became an isolated K-12 school within the Wickes School District.

The administration and board worked hard to mesh the two districts, and things were going smoothly.

(In 2010, the Van-Cove School District chose to voluntarily consolidate with the Wickes School District, and the Cossatot River

School District was formed.)

Then in the summer of 2024, Umpire received stunning news. By a vote of 6-2, the CRSD board voted to close the Umpire school campus. The reason given was that Umpire was costing the district over \$400,000 per year. The community went to work to dispute these claims.

Since the vote by the board was not unanimous, the Arkansas State Board of Education would make the final decision about the future of Umpire School. Between Oct. 24 and Dec. 24, members of the Umpire community began requesting financial records to dispute expenses.

When the state board of education met in December 2024, Umpire said the Umpire School had cost the district less than \$100,000 and maybe less than that.

When the Department of Education was asked about the finances, the head of the finance division said their information showed that the school might have been \$50,000. The state board voted unanimously to keep Umpire School open.

Fast forward to April 2025. Sen. Missy Irvin sponsored a bill that

would allow Umpire to exist as an independent school district. The bill was introduced 14 days before the session ended and sailed through the Legislature.

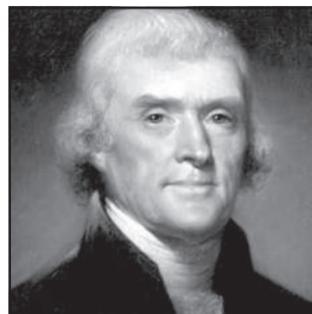
On Aug. 3, the bill became law. On March 3, 2026, the voters in the original Umpire School District will get to vote on detachment from the Cossatot River School District.

At the present time, the Umpire School Steering Committee is working hard to make a far-off dream a reality. A committee of nine members from the Umpire Community is working on requirements needed to open the doors on July 1 as an independent district once again.

The community of Umpire has always been heavily invested in the school. The people have always stepped up to help with issues. We were forced to consolidate, but we have continued to educate our students.

Umpire is currently rated as a "A" school and has been rated as the #10 school in the state.

Now we have an opportunity to operate as an independent district, and Umpire hopes to make the most of it.



"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

Nashville News-Leader

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

You may contact us at
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The Nashville News-Leader is published weekly by Nashville Leader, Inc., 418 North Main, Nashville, AR 71852.

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.

Chamber

Continued from page 1A

and projects. She recently led the successful Howard Memorial Hospital Foundation fund-raiser, which nearly doubled its goal. Kinkade is an active member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

The community awards were part of a full evening for banquet attendees.

Early in the program, Kymberly Stanek sang "The

Star-Spangled Banner." The chamber recognized veterans by placing pictures and short biographies on banquet tables.

The patriotic salute was part of the America250 celebration recognizing the semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Uncle Sam was part of the event.

Items from local donors were sold at an auction during the event.

Outgoing chamber director Tim Pinkerton included

one of his highly sought cakes in the auction.

Proceeds from the cake went to NHS and NJHS cheerleaders who served at the banquet.

Elior, the Nashville School District's food services manager, catered the event.

Chicken was donated by Tyson Foods. Chicken Express donated rolls and drinks.

Jennifer Revels of Pafford Medical will be the new chamber president, succeeding Kristin Stavely.



News-Leader photo/HANNAH TOPOR

The Nashville Junior High School Scrapers celebrate after winning the District 7-4A championship Saturday, Feb. 14, at De Queen. Nashville defeated Arkadelphia 57-52 to earn the title.



News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMION

Military uniforms line part of the stage behind incoming Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Revels as she speaks at the banquet Monday night. The program included recognition of veterans and America250.

Judge

Continued from page 1A

ter deck vertically to trim limbs growing into the right-of-way. "We've bought a second one of those."

Anyone who lives on a gravel road knows how important it is for their road to be graded regularly, but there's a catch.

"You can't grade roads after a big rain, or you'll just be moving mud around," the judge tells us.

Also, if it's too dry, as it typically is in July and August, the road surface is too hard to grade well.

When the weather's right, you need to be ready to roll, especially if you have 442 miles of county roads to maintain.

"We've purchased two new graders in the last three years," the judge said, "including one that was delivered just last week." That

makes a total of five graders that will all be working in the county at the same time, whenever weather permits, making your road smoother.

So where does the money come from that's paying for this new equipment?

"A big thing that happened financially in my first term, and it's a credit to the people of Howard County, was to continue the hospital tax in last May's election," he shares.

That money is divided now among the county and the different towns in Howard County, as well as the hospital and the Developing Howard County economic development board.

The county's portion will go directly into the general fund of Howard County, overseen by the Quorum Court. "We'll start receiving that money in late March," said Judge Pinkerton, "and I hope that a sizable portion will be going to improve our roads."

The money will be used, with Quorum Court approval, for equipment purchases and special projects, as well as for road and bridge repairs and maintenance.

"And we hope to add more equipment and more employees in the coming years," he said.

What type of equipment? "People expect their road to be clear," he explains. Right now, whether it's snow, ice, or sleet, it's up to the graders to do the job.

Pinkerton plans to buy some snow plows to go on the front of gravel trucks to help clear the roads faster.

And what would you like to tell the residents of Howard County, we ask?

"It's a very humbling experience to know that people have put their trust and faith in me to do this job, and I'm very appreciative of their belief in me.

"I look forward to the next 4+ years of it being even better than it has been."

Scrapper football schedule set

The Scrapper football schedule for 2026 will have some changes from what fans have become accustomed to in previous seasons.

Hope is now a member of District 7-4A.

Haskell Harmony Grove and Bauxite are gone from the district schedule, replaced by Hope and Fouke.

The non-conference lineup also "is a little different," according to Coach Brad Chesshir.

The regular season will open at home against Bis-

marck Friday, Aug. 28.

Magnolia will be the second opponent for the Scrapers, with a road trip to Columbia County set for Sept. 4.

Nashville will add Arkansas High of Texarkana as the third non-conference opponent Sept. 11 at Scrapper Stadium.

The schedule includes the following:

Aug. 18 - Scrimmage against Hot Springs Lakeside at Scrapper Stadium

Aug. 28 - Bismarck home Sept. 4 - at Magnolia

Sept. 11 - Arkansas High home

Sept. 18 - Open date Sept. 25 - Arkadelphia home

Oct. 2 - at Fountain Lake

Oct. 9 - Fouke home Oct. 16 - at Ashdown

Oct. 23 - at Hope Oct. 30 - Malvern home

Nov. 6 - at Genoa Nov. 13 - State playoffs begin

Games against Bismarck and Arkansas High will begin at 7:30 p.m.

All others will have a 7 p.m. kickoff.

Election

Continued from page 1A

partisan race for an Arkansas Supreme Court position.

Other than the local contests, there are statewide office races on both Republican and Democratic ballots, plus the non-partisan contests.

Winners or unopposed candidates in the Preferential Primary Election may have opponents in the fall election.

Mineral Springs Mayor Bobby Tullis, who would have been an Independent candidate for the JP seat representing the Mineral

Springs area has announced his withdrawal from the race.

He told the newspaper last week:

"I am pleased to announce that I have withdrawn my candidacy for Justice of the Peace District 8. I congratulate Don Marks on his continued service. At almost 75, I realized my heart lay elsewhere. After serving my town and my county as constable, chief of police, alderman, mayor, state representative and private citizen, it is time to stop. It has been the honor of my life to be of service to my friends and neighbors and that will sustain me for the rest of my days. So, as they

say, hail and farewell, I have more adventures planned. Thank y'all for everything."

The race between Tullis as an Independent and Don Marks, Democrat, would have been on November's General Election ballot.

November election

There will be four voting places in the county for the General Election Nov. 3.

Voting places will be:

Nashville -- Carter Day Training Center.

Dierks -- Dierks Community Center.

Mineral Springs -- Methodist Church.

Umpire -- Umpire Fire Station.

Election day hours will be 7:30-7:30.

swarkansasnews.com

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.



Congratulations to the 2025 Nashville Chamber of Commerce Winners
"Sharing the Hometown Feeling"

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Congratulations to the 2025 Nashville Chamber of Commerce Winners

Lisa Chandler Insurance
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The Democratic Party of Howard County Celebrates

Rosa Sat, So Martin Could Walk.



Martin Walked, So Obama Could Run.

Obama Ran, So Our Children Could Soar!

Black History Month

We would like to *congratulate* all the winners from the Nashville Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Thank you for your contributions making our lives better in southwest Arkansas.

York Gary



1420 West Leslie
Nashville
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Debbie Castleberry Hicks



Walk In or Call for an Appointment

Mineral Springs Elementary School Honor Roll



All Honor Roll

1st Grade
Charles Bomar, De'Kiyah Brown, Cristian Contreras, Kayleigh Cook, Aiyden Dickerson, Leo Price

2nd Grade
Joseline Adame, Kinslee Adams, Bryson Block, Katie Budd, Kaiden Cline, Estrella Kirkham, Carly Smith, Karson Walker, Trinity Washington, Caliyah Webster

3rd Grade
Donovan Kirkham

4th Grade
Barrett Harris

5th Grade
Joel Gomez

6th Grade
Mariah Ellis

A/B Honor Roll

1st Grade
Elijah Dykes, Parys Greens, Erin Hawthorne, Jordan Hernandez, Ahzaeyah Jones, Jacob Riley, Dante Rodriguez, Raelyn Rojas, Cristina Ruiz, Taylor Russey, Canon Scott, Aubrie Williams, Kason Williams

2nd Grade

Ayanna Blue, Malaysia Ceaser, Kinsley Cheatham, Emiliano Cntreras, Aiden DeLarosa, Dekari Harris, Klayvonne Harde-man, Chevi Langston, Rowen Moses, Zolee Snyder, Brooklyn Thornton

3rd Grade
Kaden Carrillo, Kimberly Hernandez, Anthony Jackson, JaKari Mays, Cali New-ton, Key'Zhanian Nunally, Aaron Ragland, Gavin Rowe, Ayanna Turner

4th Grade
Jaxton Amerson, Baylor Bean, Ja'Quincy Chipps, Viviana Hardeman, Tate Hender-son, Odyssey Mallory, Jaxon Potter, Destiny Scott, Levi Smith, Briely Trimble, Kirklynn Trotter, Caiden Wade, London White, Cor-lynn Woods

5th Grade
Elijah Jackson, Christina Keele, Amora Martin, Seth Shoumaker, Eliza Turner

6th Grade
Jeovonni Gomez, Jordyn Harris, Paris Jackson, Key'Laizhia Nunally, Jesse Rather, Michael Rocha

Bell Lumber & Pole expanding in De Queen

Bell Lumber & Pole is expanding its manufacturing facility in De Queen, to accelerate the production of Southern Yellow Pine utility poles in the southern region of the United States. This facility represents a meaningful, long-term capital investment and is expected to create 12 new jobs in De Queen over the next two years.

De Queen was selected for the facility thanks to its strategic location and proximity to natural resources. With its location and resource advantages, Bell Lumber & Pole plans to increase its company's production capacity and efficiency, enabling faster turnaround times for manufacturing and delivering of utility poles.

Headquartered in New Brighton, Minnesota, Bell Lumber & Pole is a fifth-generation, family-owned company delivering customized wood products for a range of industries, including the utility and telecom industries. Bell Lumber & Pole also manufactures piling and posts as well as mass timber solutions.

The facility—the company's first in Arkansas—focuses on the peeling, conditioning, and interior storage of utility poles. Bell Lumber & Pole currently has 17 full-time employees at the De Queen facility.

At the De Queen facility, utility poles will be manufactured by a multi-step process, taking raw timber and conditioning it into a finished product. The raw timber will be peeled to ensure high-quality poles

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:
CONSTANCE JACKSON & ELIJAH JACKSON Case No. 31PR-24-80
Warning Order

TO: Serita Lee, Christopher Tilman, and Nicole Whiting or Nicole Lee
Shall take notice that on November 21, 2024 a Petition for Adoption was filed on behalf of Bobbie Smith in the Circuit Court of Howard County, Arkansas to adopt the minor children C.T. whose date of birth is April 18, 2012 and E.J. whose date of birth is October 8, 2013.
Serita Lee, Christopher Tilman, and Nicole Whiting or Nicole Lee shall take notice that unless you appear and defend or otherwise respond within thirty (30) days from the first date of publication of this notice, an order may be entered and granted, or you will be otherwise barred from asserting your interest in this matter.
A hearing will be conducted on this matter March 18, 2026 at 9 a.m. at the Howard County Courthouse, 421 N. Main St., Nashville, 71852.

Angie Lewis, CIRCUIT CLERK
DATE Feb. 13, 2026
(AB: 35 - 38)

★ CHOOSE MATT SMITH ON ★ MARCH 3

- Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator
- Certified by Arkansas State Crime Lab
- Certified in Sudden Explained Infant Death

- Husband of Sarah Smith and Dad of Aiden
- 25 years of service to the Howard County Sheriff's Office and Nashville Fire Department
- Local Small Business Owner - Smith's Cleaners

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1011 W. Leslie • Nashville

Sunday (Eng.) - 9 a.m.
Sunday (Esp.) - 11 a.m.
Wednesday - 6 p.m.
Thursday - 8 a.m.
1st Friday - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday (Esp.) - 6:30 p.m.

Fr. Salvador Vega, Pastor
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& MT. CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 12:15 P.M.

TOMMY HALSELL, PASTOR
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211 Church St. • Center Point
Pastor: Jaron Tipton
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 5:00 p.m.

-- Non-Denomination --

New Life in Jesus Christ Church

913 South Main St. • Nashville, AR
Sunday Morning Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.
Pastors: Lankford & Mary Alice Moore

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

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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

Futrell Marine

Hwy. 371
Nashville
(870) 845-3122

Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

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361

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

ALTHOUGH HER HUSBAND AND THE HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS MOURN FOR THE DEAD BOY, THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN REFUSES TO BELIEVE THAT NOTHING CAN BE DONE, NOW....

... SHE PLEADS WITH HER HUSBAND FOR A DONKEY TO TRAVEL TO ELISHA'S HOME....

FOR WHAT REASON SHOULD YOU NOW GO TO ELISHA? IT IS NOT TIME FOR ANY FEASTS OR SACRIFICES!

... THE WOMAN NOW ASSURES HER HUSBAND THAT IF SHE CAN ONLY REACH ELISHA, SOMETHING CAN BE DONE FOR THEIR SON....

ALL WILL BE WELL!

WITH A STRONG DONKEY AND A YOUNG SERVANT SUPPLIED BY HER HUSBAND, AND WEARING THE HEAVY TRAVELING ROBES OF THESE TIMES....

... THE WOMAN RIDES ACROSS THE WILD COUNTRYSIDE, WITH THE YOUNG MAN URGING HIS BEAST ON IN THE FASTEST PACE POSSIBLE OVER THIS RUGGED LAND!

Next Week
ELISHA SEES FROM AFAR!

JOHN LEHTI

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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

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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.

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Bro. David Cassady

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Delight Methodist Church

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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

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(Corner of Main & Bishop)
845-3241

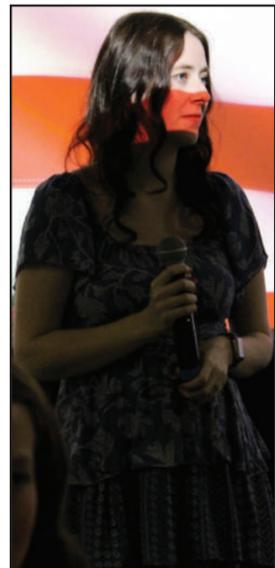
Sunday Bible School - 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Minister: Jim Pinson

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.

A night of accolades



News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMON
Kymberley Stanek prepares to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner."



News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMON
Junior high and high school cheerleaders join Uncle Sam during the patriotic America250 portion of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce awards banquet Monday, Feb. 16. America250 celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.



News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMON
Janalyn Revels holds "the Cake," a rich chocolate treat prepared by chamber director Tim Pinkerton. "The Cake" was auctioned off for nearly \$6,000 during the banquet.



News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMON
Reed Webb conducts the live auction Monday night during the chamber banquet at the Nashville High School cafeteria.



News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMON
Incoming chamber president Jennifer Revels presents a plaque to 2025 president Kristin Stavely at the annual awards banquet Monday night, Feb. 16.

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Nashville Chamber of Commerce banquet Monday, Feb. 16, NHS cafeteria



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100% Conservative Voting Record.

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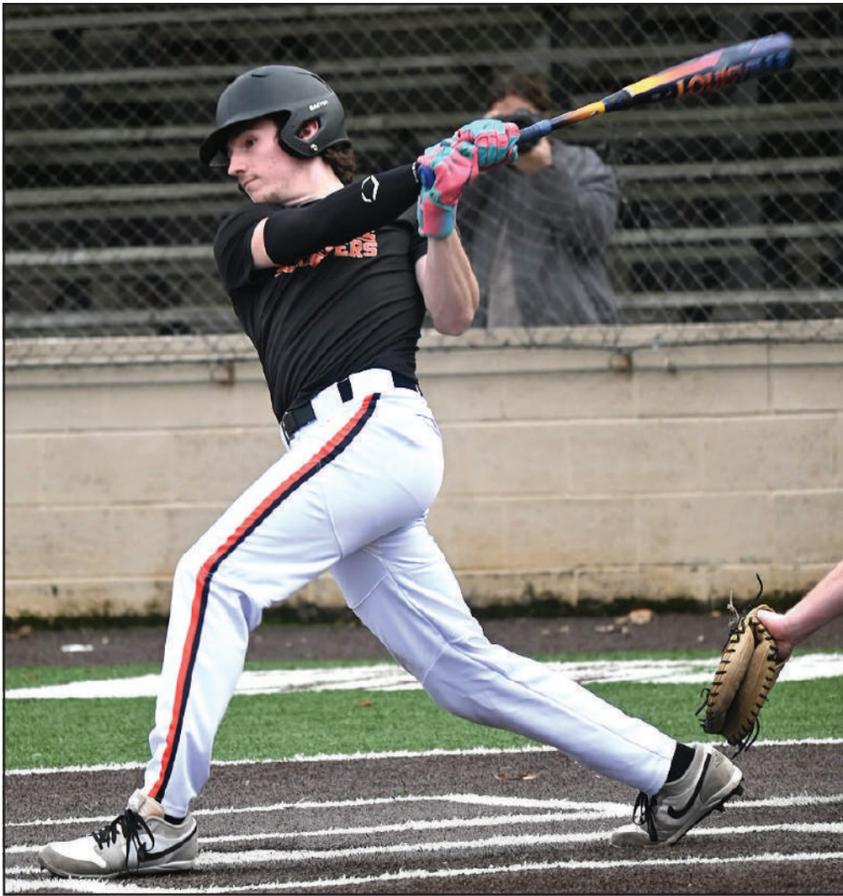
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Karson Chambers bats during the Scrapper scrimmage Friday afternoon, Feb. 13, at Wilson Park.

News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON



Luke Boon gets set to pitch last Friday afternoon in the Scrapper scrimmage at Wilson Park.

News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON



Gauge Applegate takes his turn at the plate Feb. 13 during a Scrapper intrasquad scrimmage. The regular season will open March 3 at Hooks, Texas.

News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON

Season openers

- March 2 - Scrapperette softball hosts Lake Hamilton, 4 p.m., Futrell Field
- March 3 - Scrapper baseball at Hooks, Texas, 6 p.m.



The Nashville Junior High Scrapperettes were the runners-up in the District 7-4A tournament Saturday, Feb. 14, at De Queen. Nashville was undefeated in conference play but fell to De Queen in the finals.



(Above) Brooklyn Morgan (3) goes up for the opening tip in the district tournament finals Feb. 14 against De Queen.

(Left) Harlee Webb (10) eyes the basket in the district tournament championship game Saturday afternoon at De Queen.

District tournament Feb. 14 at De Queen

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Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

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Karstyn, a Scrapperette senior and Harding University signee, scored 25 points in Nashville's 80-45 District 7-4A victory at Magnolia Tuesday, Feb. 10.



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FIND NEW ROADS

6.03-carat gem found during livestream

Jack Pearadin, 35, of Nashville, and Michael Schumacher, 43, of Soldiers Grove, Wis., have visited Arkansas's Crater of Diamonds State Park countless times over the years and have found many diamonds. However, a routine livestreamed gem search on Sunday, Jan. 25 resulted in an historic find that shocked the two friends.

The discovery occurred while Pearadin was streaming on TikTok Live, processing a bucket of gravel concentrated from dirt that he and Schumacher had dug on the south end of the park's search area in late December. "I was flipping gravel centers and showing people how we do it," he said.

Sifting was particularly challenging that day, because a winter storm had dumped more than an inch of ice on the park and surrounding area just two days prior. Pearadin said, "Everything was frozen! I was trying to bring out stuff to wash when I could."

After flipping four piles of gravel from his screen, Pearadin was walking away when a golden glint caught his eye. "I was about eight feet away, and for some reason I turned back and saw it glowing from the center of the pile," Pearadin said.

Pearadin immediately recognized the familiar luster of a diamond but initially underestimated its size. "I went to get it out with my spoon, and the spoon wouldn't go underneath it," he explained. "I had to go almost to the bottom of the pile to pull it out, it was so big. I was shaking!"

Schumacher, who had left for Wisconsin before the storm, witnessed the discovery on livestream and recalled an earlier comment that now seemed prophetic. "Jack was like, 'Sorry, Mike, I haven't gone through our concentrate yet,' and I told him, 'Don't worry about it, dude. That big, flawless canary that's in there is just growing!' I literally said that to him, and it was in there!"

Schumacher returned to Arkansas as soon as he could, and the friends brought the gem back to the park on Friday, Feb. 6, where staff confirmed it as a 6.03-carat yellow diamond.

The diamond is about the size of a gumdrop and has a glowing canary yellow hue. It ranks as the fourth-largest yellow diamond and 22nd-largest diamond of any color registered since the Crater of Diamonds became an Arkansas State Park in 1972. It is the 27th diamond registered in 2026.

Many visitors choose to name the diamonds they find at Crater of Diamonds State Park. Pearadin and Schumacher chose to name their gem the Pearadin Schumacher American Dream Diamond, inspired by the song "Sh-Boom (Life Could Be a Dream)" and the fact that they found it during America's 250th anniversary year.

For Pearadin, the discovery is about the journey rather than the profit. "I personally was never looking for this—I just enjoy the experience," he said. "I was never expecting this diamond; it's amazing to find it!"

Schumacher echoed the sentiment, noting the allure of the search. "The thought of being able to find something special like this is always a great dream to chase. It's something I'll do until I absolutely can't do it anymore."



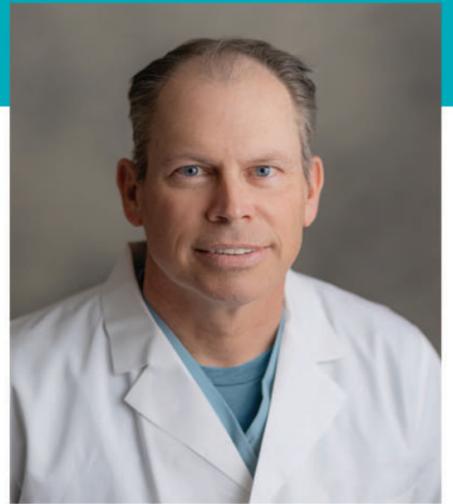
LIVESTREAM FIND. Jack Pearadin (at left) and Michael Schumacher show off the massive 6.03-carat canary yellow diamond the two found while live-streaming a dig at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. The pair named the diamond the Pearadin Schumacher American Dream Diamond in honor of the nation's 250th birthday. Photos Courtesy of CDSP

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Weather Fans \$425K NIFA grant supports statewide weather station network

**By John Lovett
University of Arkansas
System Division
of Agriculture**

A statewide network of 20 high-tech weather stations is in the process of being built by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, thanks to a \$425,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Once installation is completed later this year, data from the weather stations will be publicly available on the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture website. The experiment station is the research arm of the Division of Agriculture.

The grant was awarded in December. Site locations are being determined at 13 Division of Agriculture research and extension centers and seven farms in the Arkansas Discovery Farms Program.

"Our goal is to make high-quality weather data available to our researchers and beyond," said Elvis Elli, project coordinator and an assistant professor of crop physiology in the department of crop, soil and environmental sciences. "Having the networked weather stations where most of the research is done will give everyone access to the same high-quality, standardized weather measurements across the state."

Weather conditions vary dramatically across Arkansas—especially rainfall. Each research location represents a unique microclimate, which can significantly affect research results, Elli explained.

While each Division of Agriculture research and extension center currently has some form of weather recording equipment, the new stations will create a standard system across all locations, provide additional data points, and make multi-site trials easier to conduct, Elli added.

The Campbell Scientific UT30 weather station was selected for the project. The stations will stand about 30 feet tall atop a concrete base and will come with network-enabled measurement and

control dataloggers.

Each weather station will be powered by a local source or solar power and hourly record air temperature at three heights, relative humidity, solar radiation, photosynthetically active radiation, wind speed and direction, soil temperature and moisture at two depths, rainfall and leaf wetness.

Weather data is used for many things in agricultural research, including irrigation management, crop modeling and physiology carbon cycle studies, and forecasting to manage pests, weeds and pathogens. Other uses include research on extreme weather events and water quality, as well as tying remote-sensing data from satellites to local conditions.

Publicly available Data from the weather stations will be made publicly available at weatherstation.uada.edu, a website currently recording multiple weather data points at the Milo J. Shult Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Fayetteville.

Karen Watts DiCicco, the chief information security officer and director of business enablement and enterprise applications for the Division of Agriculture, will oversee the application development team as a collaborator on the weather station project. As each new station goes live, DiCicco's team will add its information to the site so everyone can view the data in one place, she said.

Project origin Mary Savin, professor and head of the department of horticulture for the Division of Agriculture and the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, initiated the weather station project several years ago and is also a collaborator on the current project, which she says will benefit research in a wide range of academic disciplines.

"I am very excited that Dr. Elli and a multitude of colleagues have had the support of UADA administration and have successfully pursued federal grant funding to enhance Arkansas' weather data collection and

data management capabilities," Savin said.

Over the years, as a faculty member and then an assistant director for the experiment station, Savin said she heard from researchers across many disciplines that reliably obtaining consistent and complete weather data throughout the state of Arkansas has been an ongoing challenge.

"Researchers have been limited by a lack of robust, networked weather stations with easily downloadable data," Savin said. "This grant is an excellent example of an award that will support many of UADA's departments and their land-grant mission for the benefit of stakeholders throughout Arkansas' communities and industries."

"Field equipment that will be installed throughout the state, along with data and web management infrastructure, will facilitate access to data to support new knowledge and facilitate better decision-making for the management of our natural ecosystems. This project also opens opportunities for education and development of the workforce in Arkansas to be better problem-solvers to address complex issues confronting the state."

Outreach component Project collaborators who have appointments in the Cooperative Extension Service, the outreach arm of the Division of Agriculture, will train agricultural teachers and extension agents on how to use the weather data.

Extension surveys will also be conducted with producers in the Arkansas

Discovery Farms Program to quantify the impact on informed decision-making.

Faculty with the department of agricultural education, communications, and technology will lead efforts to share data and create programming to improve knowledge among the public and industry professionals, Elli said.

The project's collaborators include:

- Matthew Bertucci, assistant professor of sustainable fruit and vegetable production in the department of horticulture.

- Kristophor Brye, University Professor of applied soil physics and pedology in the department of crop, soil and environmental sciences.

- Mike Daniels, Distinguished Professor and extension soil and water conservation scientist with the Division of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service and director of the Arkansas Discovery Farms Program.

- Christopher Estep, professor in the department of agricultural education, communications and technology.

- Brian Haggard, professor in the department of biological and agricultural engineering and director of the Arkansas Water Resources Center.

- Steve Green, professor of soil and water conservation at Arkansas State University.

- Neelendra Joshi, professor of entomology in the department of entomology and plant pathology.

- Cengiz Koparan, assistant professor of precision agriculture technology with

the department of agricultural education, communications and technology and the department of biological and agricultural engineering.

- Jefferson Miller, assistant dean for international programs for Bumpers College and professor with the department of agricultural education, communications, and technology.

- Dirk Philipps, associate professor of forages in the department of animal science.

- Mike Richardson, professor of turfgrass science in the department of horticulture.

- Trenton Roberts, professor of soil fertility and soil testing for the department of crop, soil and environmental sciences and Endowed Chair in Soil Fertility Research.

- Benjamin Runkle, associate professor of biological

and agricultural engineering for the College of Engineering at the University of Arkansas.

- Gerson Drescher, assistant professor of soil fertility with the department of crop, soil and environmental sciences.

- Kent Kovacs, associate professor with the department of accounting, economics, and finance at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

This work is supported by the Equipment Grant Program, project award no. 2025-70410-45354, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Mention of product names does not imply endorsement by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

PC ham radio club hosting license classes, testing in March

The Pike County Ham Radio Club will host license classes and tests this Spring. The group is planning to offer entry level Technician classes, but upgrade classes are available for those interested.

There will be a three-night class in Glenwood on March 3-6, from 6-9 p.m. at the conference room in the Glenwood Police Department at 210 N. 2nd St in Glenwood

There will be three classes at the Murfreesboro Community Room at 210 2nd Ave in Murfreesboro on March 6-7 from 9 a.m. - 4 pm.

March 13 from 9-4:00 and 14 from 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. March 6, 7, 13 and 14 from 6-9:00 p.m.

All license level tests will be available on March 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Kirby School Cafeteria.

Anyone interested should contact one of the following: Mark Reed, 903-701-5954, mark.reed.ii@gmail.com; Will Henderson, 870-925-0168, redhenderson@hotmail.com; or Pat Chaloner, 870-285-5023, n5wcl1991@gmail.com

Remember to "spring" your clocks... ...ahead an hour on Sunday, March 8 Kids: color stuff in!

Newspaper Fun!

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Maple-Sugaring Time

When winter is ending and snow is disappearing; when spring is coming, before buds are appearing; When the temperatures rise to warm the day; when later they fall to freeze the night; When the sap starts to flow from the maple trees; when farmers tap the trees to collect it in buckets; When the sap is poured into tanks on sleds; when a horse team pulls it to the sugarhouse; When the sugarhouse is opened and roaring fires are built; when the sap is boiled, skimmed filtered and canned; When the first syrup is poured sweet and warm over pancakes...

Oh, look at the sap dripping into the bucket.

Large farms today may use plastic tubing to deliver the sap from the trees directly to the sugarhouse.

It's maple-sugaring time!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with how a farm may do its maple sugaring.

- _____ are built in groves for storing equipment and boiling sap
- teams of _____ are harnessed to pull sleds to gather the sap
- holes drilled in trees, spouts placed, tin _____ catch sap
- sap gathered into a _____ on horse-drawn sled, pulled to camp
- sap boiled in shallow, rectangular stainless _____ pans
- a roaring _____ fire is kept going in firebox under pans
- sap filtered, temperature checked, amount of sugar in sap measured, _____ carrying dirt skimmed off the top
- sap flows through pans as it thickens, temperature checked, filtered, _____ "A" or "B" and canned
- _____ used on pancakes, in beans, on meats
- family uses, sells on farms, trucks deliver around the _____

First People To Develop the Process For Maple-Sugaring

Native Americans were the first to discover and process the sweet gift of the trees. They used small birch bark parts to catch the maple tree sap. To learn more about what they did to make this wonderful syrup, read the clues and fill in the puzzle:

- the people _____ in maple groves
- held ceremonies and _____ to celebrate the sap harvest and coming of spring
- peeled loose birch _____ to make pans; sliced trees and placed pans to catch sap
- gathered sap in containers, _____ it to sugar camp
- boiled it in hollowed-out _____
- dropped hot _____ into sap to boil it
- skimmed scum and _____ from the top
- kept boiling until almost _____ or grainy so it would keep a long time
- ate dried yellow _____ + corn meal + beans
- used to sweeten, satisfy _____; sometimes sold to local markets or to fur-trapping companies

Back Then!

Can you find and circle at least 8 words that end with the suffix "-ing"? Notice that some are action words showing "action" that was happening and is still happening? and that others describe things: "roaring fire".

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Register Now

Greatest American Cleanup in Arkansas

Registration is now open for the Greatest American Cleanup in Arkansas, a statewide effort inviting communities, organizations and individuals to help clean and beautify The Natural State from March through May.

Led by Keep Arkansas Beautiful, the Greatest American Cleanup in Arkansas is part of a national initiative focused on litter prevention, waste reduction and community pride. This year's cleanup season also aligns with the celebration of America's 250th birthday, offering Arkansans a meaningful way to honor the nation's history by caring for the places that shape its future.

As communities across Arkansas prepare for America 250 commemorations, the Greatest American Cleanup encourages residents to take action close to home, improving public spaces, parks, roadways and waterways that reflect local heritage and shared responsibility.

"Caring for our communities is a timeless American tradition," said McKenzie McMath McCoronel. "As we look ahead to America's 250th birthday, this cleanup is a chance for Arkansans to celebrate by leaving our state cleaner, healthier and stronger for the next 250 years."

Cleanup events may be held anytime between March and May. Registration is free and open to schools, civic groups, businesses, nonprofits and individuals. Participants can register cleanup events, track volunteer impact, and access resources to support local efforts. Supplies and support materials may be available while quantities last.

To register a cleanup or learn more about the Greatest American Cleanup in Arkansas, visit <https://keeparkansasbeautiful.com/get-involved/event-registration/>

Keep Arkansas Beautiful

The Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (KAB) is a part of Arkansas State Parks, a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism and is one of four state agencies that share proceeds from the Amendment 75 1/8-cent Conservation Tax. KAB is a certified state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful Inc. and inspires and educates individuals to reduce litter, recycle and keep Arkansas beautiful. For more information, visit KeepArkansasBeautiful.com. Stay in the know by following Keep Arkansas Beautiful on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube and texting VOLUNTEER to (501) 287-3596.

Pike County can early vote in M'boro, Glenwood

Election time is here. Early voting is now underway for the 2026 Preferential Primary on Tuesday, March 3. Early votes can be cast 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 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 Murfreesboro 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 District One seat vacated by 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.

Unopposed candidates filed for county offices on the Republican ballot included:

- County Clerk -- Randee Edwards
- County Circuit Clerk -- Sabrina Williams
- County Treasurer -- Loletia Rather
- County Assessor -- Staci Stewart
- Mountain Constable -- Chance Reid
- Justice of the Peace Dist. 2 -- Robbie Crocker
- Justice of the Peace Dist. 3 -- Seth Henry Kirkham

- Justice of the Peace Dist. 4 -- Billy Hill
- Justice of the Peace Dist. 8 -- John Plyler
- Unopposed candidates filing for county offices on the Democratic ballot included:

- Missouri Constable -- Ricky Branch
- Justice of the Peace Dist. 4 -- Leotis Snowden
- Justice of the Peace Dist. 5 -- Jerry Fendley
- Justice of the Peace Dist. 9 -- Paul Baker
- On the school board side of things, both South Pike County and Centerpoint School Districts will see contested races.

Incumbent Alyssa Duggan 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.

Unopposed registrants for school board positions include:

- South Pike County School Zone 5 -- Robert Silva
- Kirby School Zone 1 -- Blake Harmon
- Kirby School At Large -- Trent Ott
- Centerpoint School Zone 3 -- LeeAllen Sutton
- Centerpoint School At Large -- Kerry Horn
- For any further election questions, contact the Pike County Clerk's office at (870) 285-2743.

Sample ballots for Pike County residents may be viewed on voterview.com.

Suspect, 31, arrested in Sevier County after Lockesburg infant found deceased

By Patrick Massey
De Queen Bee

An investigation into the death of an eight-month-old child in Lockesburg last week has resulted in a first-degree murder charge, according to the Sevier County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities say deputies were notified on Feb. 5 of an unresponsive infant. The child was transported to Sevier County Medical Center, where she was later pronounced dead.

Sevier County Sheriff's Office Investigators Brian Hankins and Chet Stubbs responded to the hospital

and initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death. The infant was transported to the Arkansas State Crime Lab for an autopsy.

According to investigators, the Arkansas State Medical Examiner later ruled the child's death a homicide.

The sheriff's office, working in coordination with special agents from the Arkansas State Police, continued the investigation and developed a suspect in the case. The findings were presented to the prosecuting attorney, who approved

formal charges.

On Feb. 12, Edward Scott Jr., 31, was taken into custody and booked into the Sevier County Jail on a charge of first-degree murder.

Authorities have not released additional details regarding the circumstances of the child's death, and the investigation remains ongoing.

Information from another source suggests the suspect may have been the boyfriend of the child's mother; however, that detail has not been confirmed by law enforcement.

We would like to honor and recognize the 2025 Nashville Chamber of Commerce Winners!

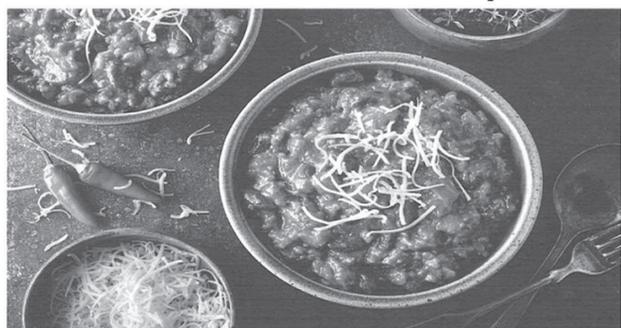
- Susan Nannemann** - Woman of the Year
- Dr. Glenn Lance** - Man of the Year
- Frank Puryear** - Orange & Black Award
- Deb Kinkade** - Lifetime Achievement Award



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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 Your Continued Support!

I respectfully ask for your vote in the Republican Primary March 3, 2026

[Political Ad Paid for By Randy Lamb]

Backyard birders, producers urged to avoid contact with wild birds due to flu

Arkansas agriculture and health agencies are urging the public to avoid contact with wild birds, especially birds that appear sick or are found dead, due to detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Arkansas.

Testing has confirmed HPAI in wild birds and in backyard and commercial flocks statewide. Wild birds, particularly migrating waterfowl, are the primary source of virus spread to domestic poultry and other birds.

Agencies warn that handling sick or dead wild birds, or bringing them into homes, barns, or vehicles, can spread the virus and pose risks to people, pets, and domestic flocks.

Key Guidance for the Public

- Do not touch, move, or attempt to rescue wild birds that appear sick or are found dead.
- Do not bring wild birds into your home, vehicle, barn, or coop for any reason.
- Keep your distance from wild birds, especially waterfowl, that appear lethargic or disoriented.
- Keep pets away from wild birds and carcasses.
- Avoid areas where large numbers of wild birds are congregating when possible.
- Hunters and bird watchers should take precautions, including wearing gloves when handling birds or equipment, washing hands thoroughly after contact, and avoiding consumption of birds that appear sick or were found dead.

Who to Call

• Wild bird activity: Report concentrations of sick or dead wild birds, or other

unusual activity, to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at agfc.com/education/avian-influenza/.

• Backyard or commercial poultry: Report suspected or confirmed poultry illness or deaths to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's sick bird hotline at (501) 823-1746.

Biosecurity for Bird Owners

Poultry growers should follow basic biosecurity practices to reduce the risk of HPAI. These include washing hands and footwear before and after contact with birds, restricting visitors to poultry areas, limiting exposure to wild birds, and quarantining new birds for at least two weeks before introducing them to existing flocks.

Human Health Precautions

Although human cases of HPAI are rare, people exposed to infected birds or contaminated environments should wash hands thoroughly with soap and water and wear appropriate protective equipment if handling birds is necessary. Anyone who develops flu-like symptoms after exposure to birds or other animals potentially infected with HPAI should contact the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) Zoonotic Disease Section at (501) 280-4136 or adh.zoonotic@arkansas.gov.

ADH can coordinate appropriate testing and, if indicated, post-exposure antiviral treatment. To help prevent unnecessary exposure to others and ensure proper evaluation, individuals are encouraged to contact ADH before seeking in-person medical care.



SWAHA LODGE & MARINA ON LAKE GREESON
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
START TIME - SAFE LIGHT WEIGH IN - 3:00 PM
5 BASS LIMIT - NO SLOT LIMIT - \$100 PER BOAT

GUARANTEED MONEY:
1ST PLACE - \$1000
2ND PLACE - \$750
3RD PLACE - \$500
4TH PLACE - \$250
5TH PLACE - \$100
BIG BASS - \$500

• LINK AVAILABLE ON PIKE CO FAIR AND RODEO FACEBOOK PAGE TO REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE. NO SPOTS WILL BE HELD WITHOUT PAYMENT

• QUESTIONS CAN BE EMAILED TO PIKECOUNTYFAIRANDRODEO@gmail.com OR ASK ANY FAIR BOARD MEMBER

*PAID REGISTRATION ORDER WILL DETERMINE TAKEOFF NUMBER
 *MUST PRE-REGISTER BY APRIL 1ST TO RECEIVE TOURNAMENT HAT
 *WALK-UP REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY OF TOURNAMENT

Tollette to mark Black History Month Feb. 22

The Howard County city of Tollette will host a Black History Month event on Feb. 22 at 4 p.m. at the Tollette City Hall.

The event will include a day of sharing local history, family stories, talents, soul food and fellowship.

The featured speaker will be Fred Love, a candidate for governor of Arkansas.

Health Mobile to Pike County on Feb. 26

The Baptist Health Mobile Unit will be in Murfreesboro on Tuesday, Feb. 26 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

The vehicle will be parked at the Gypsy Underground Flea Market, located at 111 West 13th Street.

Among the services offered will be free blood pressure checks, diabetic risk assessments, body mass index readings and health education.

For more information about the mobile health unit and community outreach, visit baptist-health.com.

Anniversary set for March 1 at GMCGC

The annual Pastor and wife Anniversary service will be Sunday, March 1, at Greater Memorial Church of God in Christ in Ashdown.

The service will be at 3:30 p.m., and guest speaker will be Pastor Ellis Ray Floyd of Nashville.

The church is located at 501 Joyner, Ashdown, and the pastor is Supt. Robert Roy of Lewisville. The public is invited.

Girl Scout Cookie sales start Feb. 20 Use 'Cookie Finder' to find yours

Girl Scout Cookies are here, and Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas girls are gearing up for in-person booth sales beginning Friday, Feb. 20. With the much-anticipated cookie season back in full swing, cookie lovers can rejoice as they indulge in the classic cookie line-up.

Every box of cookies sold provides invaluable experiences for Girl Scouts, such as service projects, troop travel and summer camp.

Each cookie season, Girl Scouts develop important life skills like goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics through the Girl Scout Cookie Program. One hundred percent of all proceeds stay local and fuel adventures for local Girl Scouts throughout the year.

Visit GirlScoutsDiamonds.org/FindCookies and enter your zip code in the Cookie Finder to find a cookie booth near you. Can't get out to a cookie booth?

Order using a Girl Scout's or troop's online cookie store link for in-person delivery, or you can choose direct shipping to have cookies shipped directly to your home. Don't know a Girl Scout? Complete the interest form on the Find Cookies page on the website for help finding a Girl Scout in your area.

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CONGRATULATIONS
to the 2025 Nashville Chamber of Commerce Award Winners!!!

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Susan Nannemann
 Woman of the Year

Frank Puyear
 Orange & Black Award

Deb Kinkade
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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

TDD 1-800-285-1131

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How SW ARKANSAS PLAYED THE LOTTERY IN JANUARY 2026

County	Cash 3	Cash 4	Fast Play	Instant Settlement	New Lotto	Lucky for Life	Mega Millions	Natural State	Power Ball	Total Sales
Hempstead	\$68,333	\$27,523	\$13,810	\$388,881	\$2,006	\$3,196	\$6,720	\$4,522	\$11,385	\$526,376
Howard	53,388	15,955	7,076	221,428	1,738	1,848	4,845	2,544	6,645	315,467
Little River	6,019	4,028	3,555	137,114	1,132	1,338	3,785	2,075	5,646	164,691
Pike	441	570	11,026	122,710	2,188	1,650	4,945	4,457	5,710	153,697
Sevier	6,057	145	1,426	197,082	2,092	1,082	4,935	3,600	6,430	222,849
State Total	\$1,043,850	\$568,385	\$1,570,353	\$37,720,347	\$577,616	\$642,194	\$1,418,630	\$1,294,458	\$2,006,750	\$46,842,583

Some figures are rounded up to nearest dollar/State totals are estimates

SOURCE: Arkansas Lottery Commission

Ouachita, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests' seasonal hiring for recreation season

The Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests will be hiring seasonal employees for the upcoming recreation season and are encouraging local residents to apply.

"Our seasonal employees are the backbone of summer operations—keeping our campgrounds, trails and recreation sites open, safe, and welcoming for visitors," said Ouachita National Forest Recreation

and Wilderness Staff Officer Bill Jackson. "These positions offer meaningful work, hands-on experience, and the chance to support public lands close to home."

The Ouachita and Ozark St. Francis National Forests are recruiting for a variety of roles, including:

- Recreation services
- Trail and facility maintenance
- Active resource management

These positions are in addition to seasonal fire hire events, already underway. Bringing on seasonal employees will help improve trails, campgrounds, and facilities for safer, reliable, and enjoyable recreation experiences for all.

How to Apply

Applicants will be able to view open job announcements and submit applications through USAJOBS.gov beginning Feb. 20

and after. Application periods, qualifications, and start dates vary by position. Applicants are encouraged to review job announcements carefully for deadlines and required materials.

Additional information about seasonal hiring and upcoming local recruitment events is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers/recruitment-events>.

Stavelly and Associates



#25045879 - Custom built in 2023, this contemporary home offers all the bells and whistles: Two story home offers a spacious living space, separate shop building w/full bath, separate hot water and CH/CA, covered patio with gas fireplace, hot tub and outdoor shower, fire-pit, pickleball/basketball court and putting greens. Home offers open concept: living room with electric fireplace and vaulted ceiling, kitchen offers large island/bar, gas stove, dishwasher, built in microwave and refrigerator. Master suite downstairs with master bath, two additional bedrooms and two full bathrooms upstairs. Guest half bath, large laundry room, on demand hot water, EV charger, and commercial LED string lighting. A must see! Contact our office for more details. **ADVERTISED PRICE \$309,000.**

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

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

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Featured LISTING!

1105 N. 15th St, Nashville



Beautiful brick home with 3BR, 2 1/2 bath-room on 0.52 acres. The great room is

accented with wood beam ceilings and offers a wood burning fireplace. Kitchen offers plenty of counter and cabinet space. You have a formal dining area and also a breakfast nook area as well. All the bedrooms are spacious and have large closet space. The primary bedroom offer a spacious room with a cozy fireplace (gas logs). The home has e-low glass windows, 2 car covered carport, circle driveway and landscaped yard. **NEW PRICE \$240,000.**

www.murrayandcompanyrealty.com

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 Tammy Lansdell, 870-200-4888
 Kristi "Noelle" Couch, 870-557-7193
 DeAnn Simmons, 870-557-4968
 Allana O'Neal, 870-557-7162

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS 9th WEST CIRCUIT DIVISION 2

GARY LANE COULTER, PLAINTIFF VS. CASE NUMBER 31-CV-25-92

TO ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHTS OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS AMENDED COMPLAINT

Section 12, Township 10 South, Range 29 West SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 40 Acres. All in Howard County, Arkansas the following; and

Section 7, Township 10 South, Range 28 West SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 40 Acres.

Pt. N 1/2 SE 1/4 NE 1/4 13 Acres, FRL E 1/4 NW 1/4 20.7 Acres and

Section 6, Township 10 South, Range 28 West N 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 20 Acres

And Section 5, Township 10 South, Range 28 West N1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 20 Acres

S 1/2 of SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 20 Acres

And Section 8, Township 10 South, Range 28 West NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 40 Acres

Pt. NW 1/2 of SW 1/4 NW 1/4 4.5 Acres

Pt. E 1/2 SW 1/4 NW 1/4 21 Acres

Section 8, Pt. SW 1/4 NW 1/4 13 Acres

Total acres containing in the aggregate of 252.2 acres more or less.

AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR QUIET TITLE (pd. 34 - 37)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS PRE-PROBATE ESTATE NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: RANDOLPH HENDRIX, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that Randolph Hendrix, born January 16, 1939, and last residing at 304 Meadow Lane, Nashville, Arkansas 71852, died on August 23, 2025.

This notice is published for the purpose of identifying any creditors or persons having claims against the Estate of Randolph Hendrix prior to the formal appointment of a Personal Representative.

All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby notified to present their claims in writing, with supporting documentation, within six (6) months from the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred. Claims must be sent to:

DeWayne Hendrix
 4180 Calla Drive
 Bartlett, TN 38135
 (510) 599-7188
 drdwaynehendrix@gmail.com
 (pd. 34, 35)

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.



3 Bedroom, 2 full-baths with approx. 2607 Sq. Ft. of living space situated on approx. 16.58 acres with a shared pond. Great kitchen with a large Island with range (Gas), Built-In oven & microwave, separate warming drawer, trash compactor, granite and lots of cabinets (refrigerator conveys). Home has a formal living area and a family area with a massive brick wood burning fireplace with blower. Central A/C & Heat. Home has metal roofing. Home features a covered patio and a 18' round above ground pool and pool house.

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 Melinda Bennett 870-451-2226

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) Howard County Housing Authority

The Howard County Housing Authority is seeking competitive bids for a security camera project to be located at Herman Avenue & South Arkansas Ave in Dierks, Arkansas. This project involves the procurement of a comprehensive security and IoT surveillance system.

Required Equipment and Quantities: The following specific camera types and quantities are required for the project:

(11) 4MP Network IR Fixed Dome Cameras: These must be NDAA compliant with 2.8mm lenses, Wide Dynamic Range, and smart IR capabilities up to 30m, (2) NDAA 2MP ANPR Cameras: These units must feature built-in vehicle plate recognition software and a 10x motorized zoom lens.

Additional Project Components: The project also includes the following infrastructure and networking equipment: (7) Versatile Solar Powered Systems featuring 1200Wh lithium batteries, MPPT solar charge controllers, and wireless bridges; (2) Ubiquiti Rocket Prism AC air-MAX ac BaseStations and 2 Ubiquiti 5GHz airMax Omni Antennas; (2) 5G Outdoor Routers with dual SIM slots and WiFi 6 hotspots; (9) Security Camera Poles (21ft long) and (2) Solar panels (400W 12V); (14) 1TB Micro SD Cards rated for 4K video recording. All specifications listed should be considered minimum required specifications and quantities.

Bid Packets and Inquiries: Interested bidders may request a formal bid packet by emailing info@hchousing.org or in person at the Howard County Housing Authority Office, 1010 S. Pope St., Nashville, AR 71852 between the hours of 8:30AM-4:30PM Monday-Friday.

For any questions regarding project specifications, please contact Ross Allen, Executive Director, at 870.845.1080.

The Howard County Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Complete bid packets must be received no later than 5:00PM on Friday, March 13, 2026 to be considered.

Minority and/or Women Owned Businesses are encouraged to bid.

(HCHA: 34, 35)

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 2:00 p.m on March 3, 2026. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud during February's 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: 34, 35)

BUSINESS SERVICES

Subscribe to the Nashville News-Leader for only \$45 a year.

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

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

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 903-826-3481

PUBLIC NOTICE

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1999 KAWASAKI VN800
 VIN#JKAVNCA16XB502732

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: 35)

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UNDEFEATED DIERKS JUNIOR OUTLAWS. Team members include (from left) Taytum Collum, Coach Taylor Collum, manager Tucker Wade, Konner Jones, Eli Brinkley, Griffin Shankles, Jacoby Faulkner, Klay Helm, Parker Gadbury, Nash Hill, Henry Semmler, Jacen Herrington, Carson Bray, Maxton Greene, Braxton Bullard, Madden Hill, Hayden Humphries, Seth Bearden and Coach Will Stewart. The team took the district's top honors during play at Cutter-Morning Star where the team posted wins over Murfreesboro (55-18), CMS (37-25) and Mountain Pine (45-32) in the finals.

7-2A Junior High District CHAMPIONS

News-Leader photos/Nikki Fields



DIERKS JUNIOR LADY OUTLAWS. Team members include (from left) Assistant Coach Leslie Simmons, manager Katelyn Moore, Aaliyah Chapman, Amelia Kirby, Claire Fatherree, Faith Castleman, Taigen Collins, Delannie Hawthorne, Ali Shelton, Scarlett Nuttall, Brielle Kirby, Dallie Graham and Coach Will Stewart. The Lady Outlaws were undefeated this season in conference play and at the district tournament posted wins over Cutter-Morning Star (50-19), Mountain Pine (34-26) and Murfreesboro (44-20) in the tournament finals.

Dierks coach hits 200th win, named Coach of Year

The Dierks Booster Club has reported that Coach Will Stewart recently hit his 200th career senior high win and has been named 7-2A Coach of the Year for a second straight year.

The club also reported his Dierks Lady Outlaws just completed the school's first undefeated conference title in more than a decade and are 25-5 going into the district tournament this week in Spring Hill. The ladies enter the tournament on Feb. 19 at 4 p.m.

A DBC post also said Stewart's senior high team members were the Arkansas Activities Association academic state champions last year for their work in the classroom.

The Dierks Outlaws were scheduled to enter tournament play in Spring Hill Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7:45.

AGFC offering paid internships for college students

Arkansas college students looking to get their feet wet in conservation have the perfect opportunity to work alongside Arkansas Game and Fish Commission experts and get paid for the experience.

The AGFC summer internship application window is open until March 15, 2026, at www.agfc.com/internships.

The internships, funded by sales of the AGFC's Conservation License Plates, not only give students the opportunity to build their resumes, but also enable them to see firsthand what their future career may look like.

"You won't just be spending a summer stuffing envelopes or cutting the grass," Becky Bloomfield, internship and scholarship program coordinator for the AGFC, said.

"Our interns work right alongside the people in the field, and their supervisors send them out with a variety

of AGFC staff to give them a well-rounded experience of what working for conservation is all about."

Internships are available across the state in conservation education, wildlife management, fisheries management, information technology and geographic information systems, conservation research, environmental policy and wildlife law enforcement.

Applicants must include the following in their application packet:

- A current resume,
- A copy of your transcript (official transcripts must be sent by the college before the start date of your employment), and
- A one-page cover letter including your background, goals and how an internship will help you reach those goals.

Visit www.agfc.com/internships for more information on the internship program and a list of openings for 2026.



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DOLLY HENLEY: PROVEN LEADERSHIP FOR SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

When I first ran, I promised to put Southwest Arkansas first...

and that's exactly what I've done. I am proud of the work I've accomplished during my first term. As long as I have the privilege to serve, I'll keep showing up, listening to my constituents, and working hard to make District 88 even stronger for all of us.

- Dolly Henley



Paid for by Dolly Henley for State Representative

Early Voting: February 17 • Election Day: March 3

CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN. PRO-LIFE. SUPPORTS 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS.

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.



515 Janssen Ave. PO Box 897 Mena, AR 71953 479-394-4140
803 Hwy. 70 W PO Box 121 Dierks, AR 71833 870-286-2012