

Leader Board

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OPINION | 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

Easter Sunrise Service set April 5

The annual community Easter Sunrise Service sponsored by the Nashville Area Pastoral Fellowship will be held under the stage roof at the Nashville City Park.

The service will be at 6:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 5.

The service message will be given by Pastor Paul Herndon of Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville.

The public is invited.

MS church soup kitchen to be open on March 25

The Mineral Springs Church of Christ soup kitchen will be open Wednesday, March 25, from 2-5 p.m.

The menu includes chicken salad, croissant and cookies.

Pantry boxes will be available.

The church is located at 318 Bridgeman Drive in Mineral Springs.

For more information, call 870-451-4441.

SOUP KITCHEN
MINERAL SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST
318 BRIDGEMAN DRIVE, MINERAL SPRINGS
MARCH 25 - 2 PM - 5 PM
MENU: CHICKEN SALAD, CROISSANT, & COOKIES
Pantry Boxes available!
SOUP KITCHEN SCHEDULE:
SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAYS, 2-5 PM
AT THE CHURCH BUILDING
870-451-4441
FOR MORE INFORMATION

OCC sets yard sale March 27-28

Operation Christmas Child's semi-annual garage sale will be held Friday, March 27, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday, March 28, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon in the Family Activities Building of the First Baptist Church in Nashville.

OCC asks for donations of still usable furniture, tools, dishes, lamps, decorations, art, collectables, electronics, toys, jewelry, books, clothing, etc.

Volunteers will accept donations at the activities building through Thursday, March 26, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

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News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

NEW OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR FOR SCRAPPERS. Coach Zac Stewart

Offensive coordinator hits the ground running

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

Coach Zac Stewart hasn't wasted any time.

One day after being introduced as the new offensive coordinator for the Nashville Scrappers, Stewart was drawing up plays as he met with other coaches.

Stewart is no stranger to Scrapper fans. He's the head baseball coach and has been offensive coordinator for the junior high football team.

He was named to the high school OC position following the departure of Todd Ledford, who was hired earlier in the year as athletic director and head football coach at Hooks, Texas.

A native of Rogers, Stewart played football, basketball and baseball at Rogers Heritage. The school split from Rogers High, and Stewart played on a team without seniors for a year. Then, "We brought back every starter" from the previous season, he said.

Stewart played baseball at the University of Central Arkansas before transferring to Harding University, where he finished his college career.

He was hired by Central Arkansas Christian in 2016 as assistant baseball coach and defensive line coach, then took on coaching duties at junior high.

See OC • Page 5A

Economic development meeting set in Nashville

Nashville will host a regional economic development meeting next month.

The Southwest Arkansas Development Alliance will bring together regional leaders on Friday, April 10, for the State of the Southwest Luncheon in Nashville, an event focused on the partnerships and investments shaping the future of Southwest Arkansas.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Midtown Social in Nashville and will feature

Arkansas Secretary of Commerce Hugh McDonald, along with Randy Zook, President and CEO of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, and regional industry and utility leaders.

Panel discussions will highlight the economic outlook for Southwest Arkansas, including infrastructure investment, utilities, and industry activity across the region.

See Meeting • Page 5A

City removing debris from bottom of lake

By Louie Graves
News-Leader staff

During its regular meeting for March Monday, the Nashville City Council heard Mayor Larry Dunaway explain the large dirt piles at the side of Lake Nichols north of town.

The lake is the city's oldest reservoir, and equipment is being used to vacuum years of debris and settlement from the bottom

of the lake without puncturing the crust which helps hold water in.

Water has been pumped into several impromptu settling ponds, with water eventually going back into the lake.

The object of the project is to improve the storage capacity of the reservoir.

Mayor Dunaway also led a

See Council • Page 5A



News-Leader photo/LOUIE GRAVES

OATH FOR NEW ALDERMAN. Kahlid Benson takes his oath of office from Mayor Larry Dunaway at the beginning of Monday's council meeting for March. Benson will replace Vivian Wright representing Ward 3 Position 2.

School board gives OK for new turf at stadium

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

Scrapper Stadium will have new artificial turf when the football season begins Aug. 29.

The Nashville School Board voted Friday, March 20, to accept a bid of \$618,000 from SprinTurf to install a new playing surface at the stadium.

The project will begin soon after graduation May 22, according to Superintendent Doug Graham.

Along with work at the stadium, new turf will be installed at the Scrapper Dome, replacing the original surface which dates back to 2023, Graham said.

Cost for the indoor work will be \$115,400.

The district also plans to resurface the track at the stadium. Graham said the project will be

finalized in the near future.

Three companies submitted bids for the turf and track, including SprinTurf, Hellas and GeoSurfaces.

Total bids for stadium, indoor facility and track included SprinTurf \$869,830; Hellas \$1,418,870; and GeoSurfaces \$1,305,000.

Graham and other district officials visited a number of schools and other facilities before selecting SprinTurf.

The South Carolina-based company has worked at a number of locations in Arkansas, including installations at Hot Springs High School and the baseball and softball complex at Majestic Park in Hot Springs.

The company also laid the turf

See Turf • Page 5A



NJHS cheer photo

NJHS CHEERLEADERS.

Nashville Junior High School cheerleaders for 2026-27 were selected in tryouts March 20. They include (front row) Braylee Smith, Julianne Webb, Z'Onna Williams, Autumn Dillard, Emma Gunter, Abigail Sartin; (middle row) Tinsley Griffin, Blakelee Britt, Kamryn Wright, Georgia Pinegar, Lilliana Gonzalez, Abrial Brown, Mia Portillo, Raley Clements, Adyson Winton; (back row) Kendalynn Curry, Mila Pope, Myla Lewis, Jayci Stanley, Eden Wallis, Kyleigh Wakefield, Maggie McElyea, Raylee Jamison. Kailee Hamilton is the NHJS cheer coach.



NHS cheer photo

NHS CHEERLEADERS.

Nashville High School cheerleaders for 2026-27 were selected during tryouts Friday, March 20. They include (front row) Caylen Ellis, Kinley Martin, Natalie Alexander, Landree Green, Brie Stone, Hayley Soto; (back row) Taviley Hughes, Kailyn Scott, Kelli Myers, Lauren Ferguson, Audri Bearden, Eden Sartin, Julia Tedford, Brayley Lowery, Emily Wescott, Ella Westfall, Layla Sirmont. Erin Askew is the NHS cheer coach.



Obituaries



Mason Andres

Mason Andres, age 91, passed away peacefully at his residence on March 18, 2026.

Born on July 14, 1934, in McAlester, Okla., Mason was the son of Chester and Polly Andres. He graduated from Nashville High School, where he played as a running back for the Scrappers, a team he continued to support with pride throughout his life.

Following high school, Mason attended the United States Naval Academy before completing his education at the University of Arkansas, where he graduated with honors. A lifelong Razorback fan, he remained deeply connected to his alma mater.

Mason built a respected career in accounting as the owner of Thomas and Thomas Certified Public Accountants. His professional excellence was recognized through his service as member of the AICPA Board of Directors, as well as his role as Chairman of the Private Company Practice Executive Committee. A longtime leader within the AICPA, he contributed to numerous committees in the Private Company Practice Section, helping provide valuable guidance and resources to CPA firms across the country. Mason was a lifetime member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Texas Society of CPAs, and the Arkansas Society of CPAs. He was also a longstanding board member of First Federal Bank Texarkana.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mason was actively involved in civic and social organizations. He served as President of the Texarkana Country Club and was a dedicated member of both the Jaycees and the Rotary Club. He found great enjoyment in golf, tennis, and running.

A man of strong faith, Mason was a devoted Christian and attended Walnut Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two wives, Virginia Ann Andres and Evelyn Townsend Andres.

He is survived by: his children, Lynn Andres Sullivan and husband Michael of Little Rock, Ark., Jay Barrett Andres and wife Laurie of Dallas, Texas; grandchildren, Barrett Andres, Alexandria Sullivan, Ryann Nava, Rachel Sullivan, Brittan Bitar,

Devan Young; great-grandchildren, Callen Bitar, Luca Nava, and Reese Bitar; sister, Paula Mitchell. Mason was also blessed with Evelyn's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, Allen Mark Townsend (Jennifer) of Texarkana; Lisa Wright (Edward) of Little Rock, Ark.; and Kristi Floyd (Walter) of Ft. Worth, Texas; grandchildren, A. J. Townsend, Juli-Anna Townsend, Katherine Woodson, Ellen Woodson, Walker Floyd (Brittany), and Luke Floyd; two great-granddaughter namesakes, Evelyn Margret Naumann and Lilly Ruth Townsend; along with a host of other relatives and friends.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at Walnut Church of Christ with Pastor Patrick Cannon officiating. A time of visitation will be held one hour prior, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. A reception will follow the service at the Texarkana Country Club, with a private family burial to follow.

Marcia Dawn Pippin

Marcia Dawn Pippin, 52, of Cookeville, Tenn., died March 13, 2026, following a brief illness.

She was born April 13, 1973, in Baltimore, Md., to her parents, Odile Kinkade and the late Dave Kinkade.

She was a 1992 graduate of Nashville High School.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Grant Kinkade.

Survivors include: her husband, Mike Pippin; her daughter, Erica Miller; her mother, Odile Kinkade; her sister, Sandi McKoin.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, March 28, at 1 p.m. at Whitson's Funeral Home in Cookeville.



Randy Miles

Randy Miles, 72, passed away on March 20, 2026. He was a beloved father, husband, Papa, and friend who will be deeply missed.

Randy was born to Joe and Sue Miles in New Albany, IN, but spent his formative years in Louisville, KY. He graduated from Westport High School and attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, AR. There, he met and married Diann Shaddox, the love of his life, in Nashville, AR.

Randy and Diann moved from Arkansas to Louisville, Kentucky, where Randy joined Merrill Lynch. In 1979, he was transferred to New York City, where he worked at One Liberty Plaza. In 1980, he and Diann

relocated to Washington, D.C., where he worked for EF Hutton, and later moved back to Louisville, Kentucky. In 1993, he moved to Bonita Springs, Florida, where he lived and worked for twelve years. In 2004, he was transferred to Austin, Texas, and then to Aiken, South Carolina. Randy retired from the investment financial world in 2014 after 42 years of service. Throughout his career, he was known for his hard work, dedication, and passion for helping others.

He co-founded the Diann Shaddox Foundation for Essential Tremor in 2014 and served as its Executive Director until his death. He dedicated his retirement years to helping and promoting research to find treatments and a cure for Essential Tremor. But more than anything, Randy was a devoted husband and father. He loved spending time with Diann and his children, taking short day trips (and a few long trips), traveling around the country, having a delicious steak dinner with a great bottle of cabernet, and sipping a glass of cold chardonnay while sitting on the beach with Diann.

Randy was preceded in death by his son Richard Miles and his parents, Joe and Sue Miles. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Diann Shaddox Miles; his children, Angela Miles; and his grandchildren, William Miles, Joey Miles, Emily Miles/Chambers, Stephanie Miles, and Heather Miles.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2026 at Latimer Funeral Chapel in Nashville.

A funeral service will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2026 at the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Nashville. Interment will follow in Ozan Cemetery in Bingen, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Diann Shaddox Foundation for Essential Tremor. www.diannshaddoxfoundation.org for research to find a cure for Essential Tremor disease.

Randy will be dearly missed, but his legacy will live on through his wife Diann, family, friends, and the Diann Shaddox Foundation.

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

Rev. Willie Benson, Jr.
Rev. Willie Benson, Jr.; March 4, 1928-March 15, 2026.

Visitation 12-2 p.m. Friday, March 27, at Hicks Funeral Home, Inc. Family hour 4-7 p.m. Saturday, March 27 at Free Christian Zion, Nashville.

Funeral service 2:30 Saturday, March 28, at First Baptist Church, Nashville. Burial at Benson Cemetery in Ozan. Arrangements by Hicks Funeral Home, Hope.



THANKS FROM THE CITY. Vivian Wright, who served on the Nashville City Council for 27 years, was presented a plaque by Mayor Larry Dunaway, Monday, in recognition of her service to the city. She also received an appreciation plaque from the Nashville Parks and Recreation Commission for her service. The latter presentation was by Parks Director Meghan Floyd.



COMMUNITY WELL-BEING. Steve Reeder, administrator of the Howard County Christian Health Center, spoke about the unique facility at last week's meeting of the Nashville Rotary Club. Reeder, who is a nurse practitioner, said that an average of 28-30 persons who are either under or non-insured come to the monthly clinic held in the McKee Building on West Sybert St. in Nashville. Clinic day is on the second Thursday of each month from 4-6 p.m. The center is "a diamond in the rough," he said. The center was founded in 2007, and also offers spiritual counseling to patients who wish it. The center is also always in need of volunteers who wish to serve the community, he said. It is one of 19 such centers in the state and is also one of two which offers dental services. The Rotary Club meets at noon on Wednesdays in Room 101 at UA-Cossatot.

Schedule is told for Holy Week at Catholic church

The schedule for Holy Week -- March 29-Apr. 5 -- has been announced for St. Martin's Catholic Church in Nashville.

The church is located on West Leslie St., and the pastor is Father Salvador Vega.

March 29 -- Palm Sunday with distribution of palms; English Mass 9 a.m.; Spanish 10:45.

April 2 -- Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m. bilingual.

April 3 -- Good Friday; procession to the church campus along Second St. beginning at 1 p.m.; The Passion of the Lord, 3 p.m.

April 4. Holy Saturday; the Blessing of the Fire followed by Easter Vigil.

April 5. Easter Sunday; English Mass 9 a.m.; Spanish 11 a.m.

The public is invited.

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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



Mayson McKiever and Mandi at the Pooches on Parade show held in Dierks March 2005.

133 years ago: April 1893
Between seven and eight o'clock Saturday evening a storm swept over this part of the country, doing fearful damage. The center of the storm, which came out of the southwest, was two miles from Nashville. It was the worst storm that ever visited this section. The most destructive work was at the farm of Thomas Bateman two miles north of this place. He and his four sons lived in a well-built frame house. This building was completely wrecked and two of the boys were blown over into the orchard several yards from the house.

Doctors were called in, but Mr. Bateman died on Tuesday and Hindman, his son, the next morning. They were laid away in the same grave in the family burying grounds a few miles southeast of Nashville in what is known as the Bateman

Cemetery.

120 years ago: April 1906
An earthquake and fire destroyed almost the entire city of San Francisco. It is impossible to estimate accurately the number of people killed or the amount of property destroyed. Reports say 3,500 have been killed and the property loss will reach \$300,000,000. Thousands are left homeless.

One of the most beautiful and perhaps the wealthiest city of its size in the United States was hit by Wednesday morning earthquakes. Ten square miles has been reduced to ashes.

71 years ago: April 1955
Medical science put away another dreaded disease in a historic moment Tuesday—the Salk polio vaccine was found safe and effective in preventing paralytic polio.

Shortly after the vaccine

report was made, the vaccine was officially licensed for public use by the National Institute of Health.

Howard County medical and school officials moved ahead to get into the planned vaccination of first and second graders. Three clinics are to be held in Nashville, Dierks and Tolleite.

46 years ago: April 1980
James Ernest Chandler, agency manager for Farm Bureau, was selected by the Nashville School Board to fill the vacancy caused when Perry "Tump" Anderson Jr. was transferred by Ideal Basic to Knoxville. He was moved before actually taking part in a school board meeting.

The senior class at Nashville High School will present a three-act comedy, "Room and Bored," Friday April 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the elementary auditorium.

Two defendants sentenced

On the bench for the regular day of criminal court in Howard County last Wednesday, March 18, Judge Bryan Chesshir handed down sentences for two defendants who pleaded either guilty or true.

Defendant Jeremie Pugh, 26, black male, Nashville, was facing two separate criminal cases -- theft of property in 2024, and delivery of controlled substance in 2026. He was sentenced to a total of 10 years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) with a further 10 years suspended imposition of sentence.

A true plea was given by Amy Smith, 45, white female, Mineral Springs, who was charged with failure to meet the terms of probation on a 2023 conviction for forgery. She was sentenced to three years in the ADC with a further three years suspended imposition of sentence.

Two persons entered not guilty pleas and were given dates for pretrial motions and jury trials.

Elizabeth Qualls, 31, white female, Broken Bow, Okla., is charged with drug possession. She has an April 15 date for motions.

Ronald Alexander, 47, black male, Mineral Springs,

has a May 27 date for motions. He is charged with drug possession. His bond was set at \$15,000.

A failure to appear warrant was ordered for Aman-

da Lamb, 34, white female, Texarkana, who missed her court appearance on a charge of possession of drugs with intent to deliver, a class A felony.

MINE CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT
The Mine Creek Conservation District located at 101 South Washington St. in Nashville sells pasture chemicals and has the following in stock: 2-4-D, Grazon P+D, Cornerstone, Round Up, Remedy, Outrider, Polaris AC, MSMA, Class Act surfactant. We can also order any chemicals we don't keep in Stock. All Chemical Sale Proceeds goes to promote the District's Conservation Programs.
For more information or to purchase chemicals call 870-845-4121 Ext. 3

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Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Arkansas, courthouse during the period Mar. 12-18, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses
(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office)
Mar. 13. James Landon Dyer, 21, Nashville, and Savannah Elena Jackson, 20, Ozan.

Mar. 13. Leonard Darnell Snell, 52, Nashville, and Crystal Dianna Cook, 42, Nashville.

Mar. 16. Mason Loy Sil-lavan, 21, Nashville, and Kara Nicole Jackson, 20, Murfreesboro.

Mar. 17. Hayden Lynn Kropf, 20, Nashville, and Layla Crysell Avila, 21, Harlingen, Texas.

Civil Court
CV26-52, Mar. 17. Commercial Bank vs. Nare Vaughn. Debt.

CV26-53, Mar. 17. Velocity Investments, LLC vs. Laliasha Williams. Debt.

CV26-54, Mar. 18. LVNO Funding, LLC vs. Jose Camacho. Debt.

Domestic Relations Court
DR26-24, Mar. 16. Melissa Walls vs. Steven Walls. Divorce.

DR26-25, Mar. 16. Christie Stone vs. Steven Stone. Divorce.

DR26-26, Mar. 17. Kenneth Isham vs. Sabrina Isham. Order of protection.

DR26-27, Mar. 17. Stefan Green vs. Tatyana Holby. Divorce.

Criminal Court
(NOTE: POCS = possession of controlled substance; PODP = possession of drug paraphernalia; DOCS = delivery of controlled substance. Defendants are innocent until proven otherwise.)
CR26-15, Mar. 16. State of Arkansas vs. Ronald Alexander, 47, black male, 502 Pine, Mineral Springs POCS, class C felony.

CR26-16, Mar. 16. State of Arkansas vs. Elizabeth Ann Qualls, 31, white female,

Broken Bow, Okla.; POCS, class D.

Land/Property Transactions
Beneficiary Deed

Mar. 13. Christie Stone; to Steven Chance Stone; 2 tracts, part of Lot 3, Block 86, and part of Lots 7-8, Block 81, all in Town of Nashville.

Mar. 13. Beneficiary deed revocation; Steven D. Stone and Christie R. Stone.

Mortgagee's Deed
Mar. 16. Christopher Winer, Kathryn Winer; to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; 1 ac. in S26 T5S R29W, aka 147 Young Loop, Umpire. \$133,500.

Quitclaim Deed
Mar. 12. Timothy D. Jones and Jeri G. Jones, Co-trustees of the Jones Family Revocable Trust; to Steven Jamison; undivided 1/2 interest, 1.16 ac. in S23 T9S R27W.

Mar. 13. Steve Stone, spouse of Christie Stone; to Christie Stone; 2 tracts, part of Lot 3, Block 86, and part of Lots 7-8, Block 81, all in Town of Nashville.

Mar. 16. Kenneth Upton; to Kenneth Shane Upton and Tamera K. Stamford; 38.22 ac. in S25 T9S R28W.

Mar. 17. Debra Holder; to Debra Holder; 13.31 ac. in S36 T8S R29W.

Mar. 17. Debra Holder; to Debra Holder; 3.42 ac. in S36 T8S R29W.

Mar. 18. Bobby Dale Huddleston; to Cally Ann Reed; property in S17 T10S R27W.

Mar. 18. Bobby Dale Huddleston; to Cally Ann Reed; property in S17/S20 T10 S R27W.

Redemption Deed
Mar. 12. State of Arkansas; to Bill & Phyllis Vaught Family Trust, Mena; 29.6 ac. in S1 T5S R30W; delinquent taxes and penalties of \$438.54.

Mar. 13. State of Arkansas; to Jerry Dawon and Beverly Ann Henry, c/o Andrea Henry, Texarkana, Ark.; Lot 9, Cottonshed #2 Subdivision, Howard County. Delinquent taxes and penalties of \$286.26.

Administrator's Deed
Mar. 18. Cally Reed and

Bobby Huddleston, Co-administrators of the estate of Danae Robinson, deceased; Cally Reed and Bobby Huddleston; property in S17 T10S R27W.

Mar. 18. Cally Reed and Bobby Huddleston, Co-administrators of the estate of Danae Robinson, deceased; to Cally Reed and Bobby Huddleston; property in S17/S20 T10S R27W.

Warranty Deed
Mar. 12. Frances Z. Falcon, surviving spouse of Robert Falcon, deceased; to Leslie Keith Launius and wife, Zebera Kay Launius; property in S34 T10S R27W with exceptions. \$148,200.

Mar. 12. Jordan Mike Pope; to Vivian Sue Pope, 2.387 ac. in S17 T11S R27W.

Mar. 12. Susana Acre and husband, Lorenzo Acre; to Wayne Gardovsky; Lot 19, Block 4, New Nashville Addition. \$53,500.

Mar. 12. Jordan Mike Pope; to Tyler Pope and wife, Samantha Pope; 3 ac. in S17 T11S R27W. \$9,000.

Mar. 13. Susanna S. Chaffin; to Ashley Glover and Daniel Bradford Chaffin; aggregate 180.695 ac. with easement in S20/S29 T10S R27W.

Mar. 17. Hector Esquel Zelaya and wife, Rosa Mun-guia; to Yeli Lizeth Fuentes, et al, joint tenants; Lot 19, Town West Addition, Town of Nashville.

Mar. 17. Stacey L. Zelaya and Franklin Fuentes Zelaya; to Yeni Lizeth Fuentes; Lot 9, Town West Addition, Town of Nashville.

Mar. 18. Jeremy Brent Green and wife, Cheryl Diane Green; to Robert Wayne Gray and wife, Janice Elaine Gray; property in 24 T9S R27W. \$205,000.

Mar. 18. Angel Hernandez and wife, Lidia Hernandez; to Nora Hernandez; 2.5 ac. in S20 T9S R27W. \$10,000.

Mar. 18. Bobby D. Fennewald and wife, Jennifer Fennewald; to Steven Montgomery and wife, Celia Montgomery; 199.43 ac. in S13 T8S R27W. \$700,000.

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Job Opening: Nashville Public Works Director

The City of Nashville is seeking a qualified and motivated **Public Works Director** to lead and oversee the daily operations of our Public Works Department. This position requires strong leadership, administrative ability, and experience or knowledge in public water utilities.

Position Summary:

The Public Works Director is responsible for managing public works operations including water utilities, infrastructure maintenance, and departmental administration. This role requires hands-on leadership, effective communication, and a commitment to serving the community with professionalism.

Qualifications:

- Administrative or supervisory experience required
- Experience in public water utilities or current water license preferred
- Must possess a valid driver's license
- Willingness to attend water classes and obtain required water licensing if not currently licensed
- Strong leadership and team management skills
- Ability to effectively handle difficult or unruly customers with professionalism
- Willing to work flexible hours, including after-hours and emergency situations

Key Responsibilities

- Oversee water system operations and ensure regulatory compliance
- Supervise and support public works staff
- Manage departmental records, reporting, and budgeting functions
- Respond to citizen concerns and service issues
- Coordinate emergency response efforts when necessary
- Maintain a safe and efficient working environment

Compensation: Salary is commensurate with experience.

Interested candidates should submit a resume and references to the City of Nashville by April 10, 2026.

The City of Nashville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Point of view

A simple coin It's a golden way to honor the free world's leader

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I can hardly wait to order my Official Donald J. Trump 24-karat gold commemorative coin.

I'm excited even though no one knows yet how much the coin will cost to mint.

Also, no one knows yet the denomination of the coin.

Also, no one knows yet the physical size of the coin. I hope it's at least the size of a half-dollar.

Also, no one knows yet if anyone might sneakily find a way to make personal profit over the minting and sale of the coins.

We Americans might not know the size or the denomination but at least we can be pretty sure that the design will be in good taste.

After all, the design of the coin has been officially approved by a unanimous vote of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, a select group of classy and artful people appointed by the President himself. There, that should assure you.

I'll admit there were some initial problems. For one thing, it's against federal law for any living President's image to be on U.S. currency.

Where there's a will, there's a way, I've heard. The 'way' is that we can just say that this coin a part of our nation's 250th anniversary, and not a tribute to the man. Just like that awesome military parade in Washington D.C. (you haven't forgotten, surely).

Sometimes you must ignore the law if you want to get something important done, especially by the U.S. Mint.

Our President has already got plenty of well-deserved recognition for himself by renaming the U.S. Institute of Peace; the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and even a new 'Trump' class of U.S. Navy Battleships to include his name.

Well, I really want one of those coins, so I'll just delay my purchase of a Trump Bible (printed in China) and a pair of those attractive faux-gold Trump tennis shoes.

All of this information is courtesy of the Associated Press which actually verifies its news stories.



ANIMAL CRACKERS. Drama at our office on North Main St., Friday. Wham! Something hit one of our big plate glass Main Street windows. We rushed to see what it was.

What it was, was a Mockingbird lying quite still on the sidewalk below the window.

It's dead, our Pam said. Maybe just knocked out, our John said.

We watched as the bird's mate or pal flew in and stood over the inert form. After awhile it flew off, probably in search of another mate or pal. Mockingbirds are notoriously unfaithful.

In about seven or eight minutes the fallen bird began quivering its legs; then it flipped itself over and perched on the nearby planter before finally flying off to find a mate or pal.

I told our crew my own Animal Crackers story of that very day.

On the way to work I witnessed two animals dashing across Lockesburg Street. It was a cat in hot pursuit of a squirrel. The squirrel made it to the safety of a Pecan tree and the cat gave up. I moved on only after cars began piling up on the street behind me. One was honking.

The scenario reminded me of the time (also driving to work on a Nashville city street in the morning) when I saw a cat and squirrel playing in someone's front yard.

Only they weren't playing.

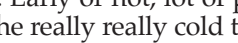
Another time I watched as a Hawk knocked down a Cardinal in my neighbor's side yard. I lumbered out hoping to make the hunter release the prey.

But Hawk ignored me and just flew off with the poor still-quawking Cardinal gripped in its talons.

I did not give chase. That Hawk will have probably pooped that Cardinal in the next five minutes, I reasoned.

It was entertainment for me.

Life and/or death for the entertainers.



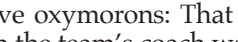
THE GOOD EARTH. Early or not, lot of plants bloomed too early and were damaged by the really really cold temps.

'Our' peaches were all lost again, apparently, according to reports from our area's two major orchardists -- Tim Jones and Lou Jamison. I am so sorry. They had so much money and effort involved.

The pink blooms on my Japanese Cherry Blossom Trees are gray, not pink.

I'm afraid.

Night and overnight temps dropped as low as 23 during a three-day period earlier this month when temps got down to or stayed below freezing.



MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: "If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something."

WORD GAMES. I love oxymorons: That the Kentucky basketball fans were impatient with the team's coach was Old News.

HE SAID: "Never get a mime talking. He won't stop." Marcel Marceau, French mime

SHE SAID: "We look into mirrors but we only see the effects of our times on us - not our effects on others." Pearl Bailey, Gospel singer

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Mine Creek Revelations

By
Louie Graves

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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

Arkansas Legislative Council has busy week of committee meetings

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

Much of the Arkansas Legislature's work between full legislative sessions takes place in committee, and this week the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) and its subcommittees were in full swing.

Created by Act 264 of 1949, the ALC gathers information that guides lawmakers during regular legislative sessions. It coordinates the work of interim committees and provides ongoing oversight of the executive branch.

The council is composed of 36 regular members—20 from the House and 16 from the Senate—along with 24 ex-officio voting members and five non-voting ex-officio members.

Three subcommittees met Monday: the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee; the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee; and the Claims Review and Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee. Lawmakers reviewed the Department of Human Services' hospital spending, discussed recent litigation reports, and examined updates on highway construction projects around the state.

The Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee convened Tuesday to review appropriation requests from state agencies, departments, and institutions. Members also considered requests for professional and consultant services contracts.

Later in the day, the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee received an overview and in-person tour of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Joe Hogan Fish Hatchery in Lonoke. The facility is the oldest and largest of the AGFC's warm-water hatcheries and is considered one of the most significant state-owned operations of its kind in the nation.

On Wednesday, the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee heard a detailed presentation on Medicare Advantage prescription drug contracts and current market trends. The Higher Education Subcommittee received a forward-looking presentation on the role of Artificial Intelligence in education, delivered by Arkansas State University students Seungho Jeon and Johnny Toma. The ALC Personnel Subcommittee also met to review requests for new and

reinstated positions within the Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, the Department of Health, and other agencies.

The Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee met Thursday to conduct its periodic examination of occupational authorizations and the boards and commissions that issue them. The goal of these reviews is to ensure that Arkansas maintains the licensing requirements necessary to protect public health and safety. The Administrative Rules Subcommittee also met to consider proposed and amended rules from various state agencies.

The full Arkansas Legislative Council met Friday to receive and review reports from all subcommittees.

These meetings rarely make headlines, but they represent the essential, day-to-day work of state government. In every committee, your senators play an active role, asking tough questions about how Arkansas tax dollars are managed and spent.

All committee meetings are streamed live and available on demand at: <https://senate.arkansas.gov/>

U.S. offers many travel resources

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

With spring break underway and summer not far behind, I know many Arkansans are readying vacation plans and looking forward to the opportunity to spend time with family or friends, often someplace far from our state.

Traveling to different countries always brings a mix of excitement and adventure, whether for personal or professional reasons. It represents a great opportunity to experience new cultures, take in unique sites and broaden horizons.

Usually, these trips feature fun excursions, relaxing downtime, productive meetings, joyful reunions — or some combination of those elements.

Whatever your itinerary and goals, it is critical to plan ahead as well as be prepared to adapt to changing circumstances on the ground. Recent events around the world have heightened the need for travelers to stay informed about potentially dangerous or complex situations. Doing so can help ensure safe passage to a new destination or even back home, if necessary.

In the last six months, the U.S. Department of State has issued travel advisories for nations as various as Angola, Belarus and Malaysia.

Of course, the recent military operations in Venezuela and Iran have called for extra care to sup-

port the safe evacuation of our citizens in those regions.

These incidents can serve as an important reminder to seek access to timely alerts that help convey risks and recommended precautions for U.S. citizens, nationals and legal residents.

One of the most valuable resources in that effort is the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). This tool is a free State Department service that pushes important updates from the U.S. Embassy directly to a visitor's email. STEP notices can include valuable insight about local security concerns, demonstrations, weather conditions and other issues that might impact health and safety.

If Arkansans find themselves in the midst of natural disasters, civil unrest or terrorist attacks while on foreign soil, STEP has proved an invaluable tool for raising awareness of official guidance and alerts. Additionally, enrolling to receive them can better facilitate efforts to reach travelers should an emergency occur back home.

My office is always eager to offer support to constituents who find themselves in these situations, but one of our first recommendations is STEP enrollment.

If expediting the security screening process is a priority, TSA Pre-Check is an option worth considering. This service is avail-

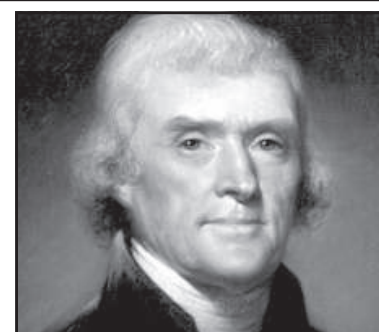
able through authorized centers — an updated list of sites can be found online. It is important to note this is a fee-based service that takes some time to be approved for, so planning ahead is crucial. And for those returning from overseas with items to declare, the Mobile Passport Control app is an additional free tool available to ensure a smooth, faster re-entry.

Finally, given some countries require 3-6 month validity on passports before traveling to them, the State Department has a resource to help with reviewing entry requirements.

These are all helpful things to keep in mind for Arkansans heading overseas in the near future. For those making a domestic trip, thankfully there is a lot less coordination and preparation required.

I encourage Arkansans considering a visit to our nation's capital this spring or summer to take advantage of the America 250 offerings that are helping celebrate our nation's semiquincentennial. As always, please contact my office for help arranging tours of the U.S. Capitol and White House in addition to suggestions for other entertaining and educational activities.

It is an honor to assist Arkansans navigating their travel and provide any support possible with federal departments, agencies, services or programs. Please do not hesitate to contact us.



"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
Thomas Jefferson, 1787
Free press, free people

Letters policy

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

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

E-mail: jrs@nashvilleleader.com

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

Nashville News-Leader

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News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

NHS CAREER FAIR. Alex Bailey (left) of Diamond Bank visits Nashville High School junior Roland Schwoppe during the school's career fair March 18 in Scrapper Gym. All NHS students had the opportunity to meet representatives from a number of different employers during the event. (More pictures in the April 1 News-Leader)

Meeting

Continued from page 1A

"As the host community, Nashville is excited to welcome leaders from across Southwest Arkansas," said Vanessa Weeks, Economic Development Director for Developing Howard County and Treasurer of the Southwest Arkansas Development Alliance.

"The Southwest Arkansas Community College Consortium, this year's presenting sponsor, represents a unified approach to workforce development and long-term growth.

"That kind of collaboration is what's driving this re-

gion forward," Weeks said.

The consortium includes UA Cossatot, UA Hope-Texas, UA Rich Mountain, SouthArk College, and SAU Tech, which have collaborated since 2013 to align education and training with the needs of regional employers.

"Southwest Arkansas is strongest when our communities and partners are working together as a region," said Anna Powell, president of the Hope-Hempstead County Economic Development Corporation and current president of the Southwest Arkansas Development Alliance.

"The State of the Southwest luncheon is our opportunity to bring stakeholders from across the

region together to share ideas, strengthen partnerships, and continue building momentum for the future of Southwest Arkansas."

"Our colleges have a long history of working together to support students, employers, and communities across this region," said Dr. Steve Cole, UA Cossatot chancellor.

"Serving as the presenting sponsor reflects our shared commitment to preparing the workforce that will support the next chapter of economic growth in Southwest Arkansas."

Tickets for the State of the Southwest Luncheon are \$50 each and are available online at <http://www.buildseviercounty.org/sada>.

Turf

Continued from page 1A

at North Little Rock High School and Haskell Harmony Grove.

The new turf at Nashville will have a 10-year warranty, according to Graham.

The current surface at

the stadium was installed in 2016 and had an 8-year warranty.

Graham said the new field will have a different infill system and is expected to be cooler during the hot summer months. "It will be better than it is now, but we will still have to deal with heat to a certain degree."

At an earlier school board

meeting, Graham said that Diamond Bank will again be a donor for the turf project. Other prospective sponsors will also be contacted.

In a personnel matter at last Friday's meeting, the board accepted the resignation of fourth grade teacher Ashley Simmons effective at the end of the current academic year.

Council

Continued from page 1A

discussion of what to do with the empty space between older buildings in the 100 block of North Main Street. An appraisal has valued the property at \$13,750, but council members questioned the city's liability with firewalls.

The mayor asked if the council wanted to keep or sell the property. He will return with more specifications at the council's April meeting.

OC

Continued from page 1A

Stewart married NHS graduate Jana Copeland, whom he met at Harding, and came to Nashville as an assistant for two years on Coach Kyle Slayton's baseball team.

When Slayton retired, Stewart was moved to the head coach position, along with serving on the junior high football staff. He will remain the Scrapper baseball coach.

Stewart's decision to enter coaching goes back to Rogers, where Coach Chad Harbison was "a mentor for me."

Harbison was offensive coordinator at the time and "ran a similar offense to what Billy Dawson had here," Stewart said.

In his capacity as Public Works Director, Dunaway said that work was due to begin on river pumps, booster station and treatment plant as part of a project to expand the city's capabilities.

Other items before the council:

New Alderman Kahlid Benson took his oath of office following the council's unanimous vote to approve him as recommended by outgoing council member Vivian Wright.

Parks Director Meghan Floyd said that the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt in the

city park would be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 4. The city will scatter 8,000 plastic eggs on ball fields.

The council heard brief reports from department heads: Police Chief Amy Marion; Parks Director Meghan Floyd; Financial Director Kimberly Green; and Code Enforcement Officer David Riggs.

Council members present included Lynn Dyer, Kathy Combs, Herbert Turley, Charles Pinkston, Kay Gathright, William Turley, Kahlid Benson, Phillip Jones, Donna Harwell, Joe Hoen and Freddie Horne.

"I would go up on Sundays to watch film and game plan" with Harbison.

Stewart is unfazed by his new duties. "I love to compete," he said. "I get to compete all fall in football, then go to baseball."

The Scrapper offense "will be fast, up tempo," according to Stewart. "Players will know what we're doing. Coach [Paul] Morrow and Coach [Kirby] Adcock will be really good. We'll get the plays in and won't have to think" about what to do. "This goes back to Coach Harbison."

Stewart's familiarity with most of the players "is the wonderful thing about being at junior high, then here. I came up after the junior high season. I've known them from the seventh grade on. It's not like having to start building relationships. I know the players and most

of the parents. That will help a lot."

The game plan for Stewart is simple - "Put kids in the best position to be successful. This is an offense they're familiar with. They will be ready to execute."

The only difference from junior high, Stewart said, is that the "speed of the game will be a little quicker. There will be the fundamentals. Kids have to know what they're doing. They have to play fast in practice."

Stewart will stay focused on baseball while preparing for spring and summer football. "This will be more work on me," a challenge which he accepts.

When he was introduced to the football team March 18, "The players gave a good round of applause. We already have a relationship," Stewart said. "I'm fired up about it."

Holy Week set at FUMC

First United Methodist Church of Nashville and Bingen United Methodist Church will observe Holy Week 2026 from Palm Sunday, March 29, through Easter on April 5.

Services will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Nashville church, including the following:

- Holy Monday March 30
- Holy Tuesday March 31
- Holy Wednesday April 1
- Maundy Thursday April 2 with Communion
- Good Friday April 3
- Holy Saturday April 4

There will be an Easter sunrise service April 5 at Bingen United Methodist Church at 6:45 a.m., fol-

lowed by a pancake breakfast.

The Easter service at Bingen will begin at 9 a.m.

First United Methodist

in Nashville will have an Easter service at 10:50 a.m.

Rev. Pam Estes is the pastor.

Jaree Hall is the organist.

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Saturday, March 28 - 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase items for OCC boxes.

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

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

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

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

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City of Nashville Job Opening

The City of Nashville will be accepting applications for the **Water Distribution Crew**. Applications will be accepted through Friday, April 10, 2026 at the office of the Public Works Director, 426 N. Main St., Nashville, AR 71852.

Brief descriptions of qualifications:

- This job requires a minimum education of a high school diploma or GED
- Must have or be able to obtain both a Class III Water Distribution license and a Class III Wastewater license
- Must have a valid driver's license with the ability to obtain a CDL

Brief description of duties:

- Be in good physical condition, as job requires physical labor in all types of weather
- Knowledge and Experience on a variety of equipment
- Have the knowledge to service and maintain equipment
 - Any other duties the supervisor may assign

Personal qualifications:

- Have good hand/eye coordination
- Have a good clean appearance and teamwork attitude
 - Be able to respond on a 24/7 emergency basis

Interested persons may obtain an application at the Nashville City Hall, 426 N. Main St., Nashville, AR 71852.

Candidates desiring to be considered for the above position should apply in person, no phone calls please. The City of Nashville reserves the right to reject any and all applications.

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Nashville Junior High, High School conduct Honor Society inductions

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



NHS inductee DeQuincy Staggers signs the chapter register in ceremonies March 15 at Scrapper Arena.



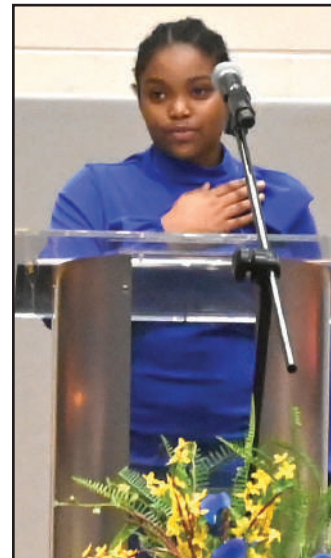
Senior Dede Robinson discusses the Honor Society trait of character.



Brynlee Bagley signs the NJHS register at the induction program.



Nashville Junior High inductee Bella Topor lights her candle at the induction ceremony in Scrapper Arena. NJHS inducted 54 students.



Rayniah Alvarez leads the Pledge of Allegiance at the junior high induction.



Senior Dalton Manlove plays "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the National Honor Society induction ceremony March 15. The high school chapter inducted 55 students into the organization.



Inductee Heiland Tatum-Gaines (right) moves to the front when he is introduced at the high school ceremony as other inductees await their turn. Junior high and high school chapters inducted a total of 109 students at the event.

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Jason Lenderman, CPA

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Rev. Kevin Sartin

SPORTS LEADERS
Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Landyn Tompkins, Nashville

Landyn, a Scrapperette senior, added another home run ball to her collection during Nashville's doubleheader victory at Camden Fairview March 17. She had 21 HRs going into the season.

This weekly feature sponsored by **McDonald's of Nashville**
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FIND NEW ROADS



Up to five seedlings offered in recognition of Arbor Day

Arkansas Department of Agriculture Hosts Sixth Annual Free Tree Fridays in Recognition of Arbor Day
The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is celebrating Arbor Day by launching its sixth annual "Free Tree Fridays" campaign, a statewide effort to encourage tree planting. Free bare root seedlings will be available to Arkansans every Friday through April 24 at locations across the state.

"Free Tree Fridays embody the spirit of Arbor Day by offering people the opportunity to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees in their own backyards and in their communities," said Kristine Kimbro, Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator. "Rather than just celebrating Arbor Day once, we are excited to offer multiple seedling giveaways across the state during the six weeks between our state's Arbor Day and National Arbor Day."

Each giveaway will feature tree species native to Arkansas. While selections vary by location, attendees can expect two to four species such as Shumard oak, overcup oak, sycamore, or pecan. Up to five free seedlings will be available per person on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additional locations may be added throughout the event period. Funding for this project is provided by the U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, with additional support from the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council. **Area locations include:**

- March 27
De Queen
Bailey's Lumber & Supplies
- April 10
Ashdown
Horatio State Bank
- April 17
Mount Ida Courthouse
- April 24
Dierks
Howard County Forestry Office



News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

HOT IN THE SHADE. The Hempstead County Melody Boys were the featured performers at the 2026 Jonquil Festival held at Historic Washington State Park over the weekend. The group played Friday on the front porch at Williams Tavern and again on Saturday on the lawn of the 1874 courthouse. Group members include (from left) Shelly Keith, Jonathan Barham, Scott Townsend, Mark Keith, Eley Talley and Freddie Horne.



Egg-Citing Fun set for April 4 at Nashville City Park

The Nashville Parks & Recreation Department is inviting the public to "hop on over" for its annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 4 at 10 a.m.

The Easter Bunny will be there for pictures and there will be a special jeweled egg for special prizes.

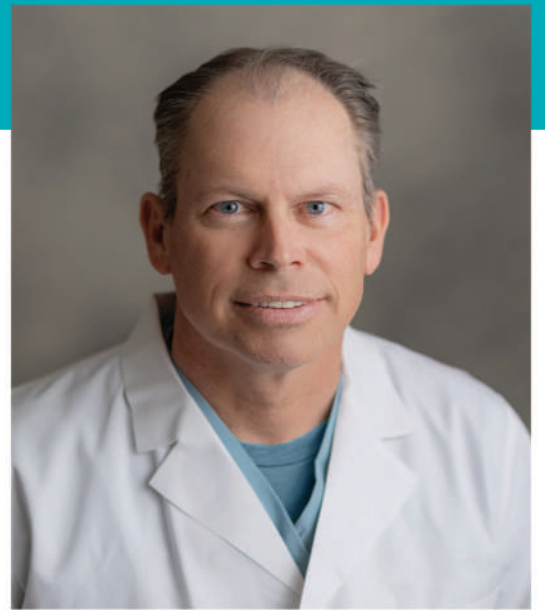
The age groups will include: 0-3 York Gary Field; 4-6 Lovelis Field; 7-9 FNB/Walmart Field; 10+ Tyson Field

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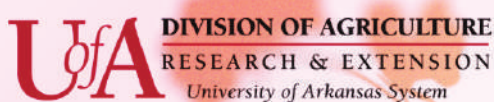


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Community Room

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'All Trails Lead to Diamonds'

Murfreesboro chamber sets April 16 banquet date

By PJ Tracy

Murfreesboro Diamond

The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce discussed the need for a larger convention center type facility in the area.

The topic arose not only through the discussion of the annual Chamber Banquet but also when talking about the Fly Fishing Expo held here for a number of years.

It was said the attendance at February's event held by the ArkLaTexOma (ALTO) Fly Tyers at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building Community Room had doubled from 2025 and that "they might outgrow us and have to find another location."

In 2027, the ALTO group plans to utilize both the Community Building and the Murfreesboro Senior Center across the street.

The group further discussed getting a new storage building to hold their Christmas decorations. Chamber

President Ricky Branch said that a 16x40 building like he thinks is needed would be around \$12,000-\$15,000.

The need is growing as part of their recent storage at Branch Oil will be no longer available after the upcoming sale of the business.

The 2026 Chamber Banquet entitled "All Trails Lead to Diamonds" will be held on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Murfreesboro Senior Citizens' Center.

Tickets to the event will be \$25 each.

Becky Flynn, the Deputy Director of the Office of Outdoor Recreation for the State of Arkansas, will be the speaker.

The local Farmers' Market will start at the end of May, and it was noted that a dedicated person was still needed to be in charge of the event set from 7 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. The market is held at the pavilion located behind the tennis courts at the old city park.

It was discussed what could be done to increase attendance -- both from vendors and customers. Flyers will be created to help attract vendors, with a small number already having reached out to get specific details. It was considered that having a monthly or bi-monthly "swap meet/community

yard sale" might help attract more customers.

While no representative from the Juneteenth planning committee attending the meeting, it was noted that the Chamber would have access to funds from the Diamond Lakes Tourism Association for advertising the event.

Food boxes coming to Nashville April 15

Harvest Regional Food Bank & Sunset Church of Christ will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, April 15, from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed.

The truck will be parked at the Sunset Church of Christ Church located at 1420 W Sunset St. Nashville. Recipients must come in-

side the Fellowship Building (located behind the church) to check in first.

Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along in the church parking lot and wait for further instructions.

Volunteers will be on hand to help assist.

The next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for July 15.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Howard County Housing Authority will hold a **Public Meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2026**, to receive comments on the Housing Authority's Annual Plan, Five-Year Plan, and the 2026 - 2030 Capital Fund Five-Year Action Plan Budget. All documents are on display at the office of the **Housing Authority located at 1010 S. Pope St. in Nashville, Arkansas**, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The office is closed Wednesdays after noon.

State led nation in Chapter 12 farm bankruptcy filings in 2025

By Mary Hightower
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Arkansas led the nation in Chapter 12 bankruptcy filings in 2025 and had the largest year-over-year rise, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Farm Bureau found that Arkansas had 33 Chapter 12 filings in 2025, more than double the number from the previous year. Georgia was second with 27 filings, which was 16 more than in 2024. Iowa was third with 18 filings, up 11 from the previous year.

It's not just farmers. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, or AOC, said that in 2025, 24,737 businesses and 549,577 non-businesses filed for bankruptcy, up 11 percent from the previous year.

"For more than a decade, total filings fell steadily, from a high of nearly 1.6 million in September 2010 to a low of 380,634 in June 2022," the AOC said. "Total filings have increased each quarter since then, but they remain far lower than historical highs."

Ryan Loy, extension agricultural economist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said farms are feeling pressure from several sides.

"Lagging commodity prices are a significant part of the problem, but it's just one piece," he said.

"Over several consecutive years, row crop farmers have been facing declining commodity prices and drastically increasing input costs," Loy said. "This creates a perfect storm where farmers — especially those who rent their land — have burned through capital and reserves to try to 'make it to next year,' but that better year has not come. In this situation, farmers must restructure their debt through a bankruptcy filing."

What the chapters mean

The federal Bankruptcy Code contains chapters that each describe a different process for allowing debtors to settle financial obligations. According to the National Agricultural Law Center, Chapter 11 enables a business or individual to reorganize and continue operating while paying creditors following a plan approved by a federal bankruptcy court.

Chapter 12 is available to family farmers with a regular income. Once the farmer-debtor files for Chapter 12, the proceeding automatically stops most collection agents. The court appoints an impartial trustee to evaluate the case and aid with disbursement.

Chapter 13 is specifically

designed for individuals that are regular wage earners. Like Chapter 12, it allows the debtor to retain an asset that may have been lost under liquidation.

Chapter 7 is a process under court guidance where a bankruptcy trustee gathers the non-exempt assets of the debtor and distributes the property or proceeds from the property equitably to creditors following the rules in the Bankruptcy Code.

Under Chapter 7, the process begins when a bankruptcy petition is filed with the bankruptcy court. Similar to Chapter 12, the trustee holds a meeting of creditors where the debtor fields questions by creditors and the trustee regarding their financial situation.

Deciding on a chapter

Deciding what chapter to file under "deals with your intentions moving forward," said Elizabeth Rumley, senior staff attorney for the National Agricultural Law Center.

"Someone farming as a sole proprietorship, general partnership, or single member LLC would file Chapter 7 after deciding that 'I'm done being a farmer,'" she said. "That's different from Chapter 11 or 12, which are for reorganization. Reorganization means you've decided that 'I cannot handle the debt that I have, but I want to farm in the future and continue this business.'"

The prevalence of Chapter 12 filings in Arkansas could be attributed to several factors, Rumley said. "With Chapter 12, there are limitations on the size of debt and the amount of income generated by the farm. There are large farms that can't file Chapter 12 due to exceeding the debt limit and small farms that do not generate at least 50 percent of their income from the farming operation making them ineligible."

Farmers who do not meet the requirements for Chapter 12 will be forced to use another bankruptcy chapter.

According to the National Agricultural Law Center, during the farm crisis of the 1980s, Congress enacted emergency legislation creating bankruptcy proceedings specifically tailored to farmers. Congress believed that Chapter 11 was too complicated, expensive and time-consuming for farmers, and Chapter 13 did not address the larger debt loads faced by family farmers. Chapter 7 liquidation was too harsh to be the only option for farmers tied to the land for generations. Therefore, Chapter 12 was created to give farmers a chance to reorganize their debts and keep their land.

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Emmy-winning broadcast journalist from Delight among HSU outstanding alumni

Henderson State University will honor six outstanding alumni at the Alumni Association's annual awards banquet April 10.

Distinguished Alumni awards will be presented to Dr. Thomasena Craig ('93), John Elkins ('02), Jim Garland ('82), and Shannon Schwartz ('01). Vanna Eddington ('90) will receive the "H" Award, and the Young Alumni Award will be presented to Dani Pickens ('08).

The event will be held in the Garrison Center Grand Ballroom at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased online at alumni.hsu.edu/alumniawards. For additional information, or to reserve a table, contact the Alumni office at 870-230-5985 or alumni@hsu.edu.

Distinguished Alumni Thomasena Craig

Dr. Thomasena Craig is a licensed clinical social worker and accomplished executive leader with more than 25 years of experience in mental health and social services.

Craig earned her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in business from Henderson State University. She later obtained a Master of Social Work (MSW), a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice, and a Ph.D. in Organizational Psychology.

Craig currently serves as the assistant regional mental health director with Wellpath, a national health-care organization providing medical and behavioral health services within correctional and institutional settings.

Craig is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and holds credentials with the Academy of Certified Social Workers. She also volunteers with the American Red Cross Crisis Division in Arkansas, providing mental health support during disaster response efforts.

Craig is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority In-

corporated, serving with the Alpha Mu Zeta Chapter in Little Rock.

John Elkins

John T. Elkins is a native of Arkadelphia and a 2002 cum laude graduate of Henderson State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and business administration. He later received his Juris Doctor in 2006 from the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

After law school, Elkins returned to Arkadelphia to begin his legal career with Wright, Berry, Hughes and Moore.

Elkins currently serves as the board-appointed chief executive officer of Today's Power, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., in North Little Rock. In this role, he brings more than 15 years of leadership experience with electric cooperatives, regulated utilities, and infrastructure organizations.

He enjoys spending time with his family, including his wife Jennifer, a daughter, and two sons.

Jim Garland

Jim Garland is a dedicated leader with a lifelong commitment to public service, community development, and professional excellence. He graduated from Henderson State University in December 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration.

Following graduation, Garland began a 38-year career with Arkansas Power and Light Company, now Entergy Arkansas. Throughout his tenure, he held several key leadership roles, ultimately retiring in 2022 as a regional customer service manager. He continues to serve as a technical sales consultant for Entergy Corporation and EDG, Inc.

Garland's dedication to his alma mater is evident through his 10 years of service on the Henderson

State University Foundation Board of Directors, where he currently serves as vice chairman, as well as his two years on the HSU Alumni Board. He also serves on the board of the C. Louis and Mary C. Cabe Foundation in Gurdon.

Garland and his wife, Marty, also a 1982 Henderson graduate, live in Rogers.

Shannon Slatton Schwartz

Shannon Slatton Schwartz is a Regional Emmy Award-winning journalist from Delight, Arkansas, with more than 20 years in television news. She currently serves as executive director of a community television station in the Minneapolis suburbs.

A 2001 graduate of Henderson State University, Slatton Schwartz was an active student leader, recognized as the 2000 SGA Student of the Year and the 2001 Greek Woman of the Year.

After graduating summa cum laude in 2001 with a degree in communication and mass media, Slatton Schwartz earned her M.S. in Broadcast Journalism from Syracuse University in 2002. She began her career as a reporter in Shreveport, Louisiana, and began teaching broadcast journalism at Henderson State.

Slatton Schwartz is also an active volunteer with Scouting America, serving as committee chair for a linked boy and girl troop of more than 60 scouts.

She is married to Dave Schwartz, and they have two children who are both on the path to Eagle Scout.



OUTSTANDING REDDIES. Clockwise, from top left: Thomasena Craig, John Elkins, Jim Garland, Shannon Slatton Schwartz, Vanna Eddington, and Dani Pickens. (Article and photo Courtesy of HSU)

'H' Award Vanna Eddington

Vanna McCauley Eddington is a second-generation Reddie whose life has been committed to quiet service to others through her nursing career, support for her family, and an enduring commitment to Henderson State University.

Eddington represents a legacy of family devotion to Henderson that spans decades. Her mother, both of her brothers, three sisters-in-law, two nieces and their husbands, several cousins, and her husband all attended Henderson.

Eddington's connection to Henderson began as a student leader and campus ambassador. She was a three-year cheerleader, including service as captain, and was selected as homecoming maid of honor.

After attending Hen-

derson for four years, Eddington transferred to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and earned a degree in medical technology. After working as a medical technologist, she returned to Henderson to earn a nursing degree.

She now serves as a prep nurse at St. Vincent's, where she supports patients and their families during some of their most vulnerable moments.

She and her husband Steve raised three children and have three grandchildren.

Young Alumni Award Dani Pickens

Dani Pickens is an award-winning global channel executive, entrepreneur, and community leader with more than a decade of experience building and scaling partner ecosystems across

the telecommunications and cybersecurity industries.

She currently serves as vice president of Global Channel at AgileBlue, where she leads the company's worldwide partner strategy, enablement, and ecosystem growth.

Pickens is also the co-founder and CEO of The Executive Evolution (TEE), a national leadership community dedicated to supporting women in technology and sales.

She earned her degree at Henderson State University while serving in multiple leadership roles within Alpha Sigma Alpha, and credits Henderson State and the Arkadelphia community for her personal and professional growth, describing it as her "second home."

Pickens lives in Prosper, Texas, with her husband, Dan, and their two sons.

Pike County case closed after defendant's suicide

A felony criminal case filed in Pike County on March 19 against a Hope woman has been closed after the defendant took her own life two days later.

A charge of distributing, possessing or viewing of matter depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child was filed March 19 against Ashlie Tompkins, 27, of Hope. Tompkins died by suicide March 21 in Hope, according to Hempstead County Sheriff James Singleton.

Tompkins was under investigation since January

for her alleged involvement with a 14-year-old female in Pike County, which included exchanging messages and lewd photos, according to case records. Tompkins acknowledged in multiple messages to the teen that what was happening was wrong and that she could get in trouble. She also told officials she was allegedly under the influence of marijuana and alcohol in a photo found that showed the two kissing.

The warrant issued on March 19 for Tompkins' arrest was recalled March 23.



Happy Easter!

What do you know about the Easter holiday? Easter is an important Christian holiday. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Easter is the celebration of his "new life after death." It is a time of great joy. Families spend a lot of time getting ready: cleaning, decorating, planning meals, and getting their best clothes ready for church. My crossword puzzle is about Easter and what families are doing. Can you read the clues to fill it in?

Easter Time:

- the 40 days before Easter; for some people a time for prayer and fasting; many people "give up something," like desserts
- many Easter services are held at this beginning of a new day
- ring with joy
- burn with bright light
- Easter Bunny brings these, with treats in them...
- with this kind of rabbit often in the middle
- beautiful, white flower that stands for "new life after death"
- soft, yellow baby animals also used as a symbol of new life
- gentle animal sometimes used as a symbol of Jesus
- dawning of a new day; can be a time for this

Families Are:

- cleaning _____ and decorating _____
- dyeing and decorating _____
- baking hot cross _____
- dressing in their best _____
- going to _____ services
- visiting _____ and relatives
- hunting for _____ eggs
- enjoying delicious ham _____
- sending _____ and buying flowers
- marching in an Easter _____

3 Cute Easter Eggs

What are you doing in the nest? Huh? Huh? What? Keeping the eggs safe, of course.

Clues for Crossword:

11. dinners
12. parade
13. chicks
14. baskets
15. buns
16. sunrise
17. bells
18. candles
19. friends
20. church
21. cards
22. lily
23. Lent
24. beginnings

"Double Take" of Easter Fun

Study the items below in the boxes.

• In the first box, find 2 chicks that are exactly alike and positioned the same way.
• In the second box, find 2 baskets that are the same.
• In the third box, find 2 bonnets and then 2 eggs that are exactly the same in the pile.

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South Pike County School Board Zone 3 seat remains vacant

By PJ Tracy

Murfreesboro Diamond

The South Pike County School Board elected officers at its March meeting.

Robert Silva and Barbie Baxter will reprise their roles as president and vice-president, respectively.

Newly elected member Carrie Tidwell, who was introduced at the beginning of the meeting, was elected secretary for the group. Silva was also named the distribution officer for the board, meaning he would have to sign checks.

Board members were invited to the Murfreesboro High School prom, which will be held on April 18.

South Pike County Schools Superintendent Tanya Wilcher told the board that the school would investigate applying for the

Arkansas Department of Transportation trails grant with the idea of asphaltting the school's dirt track, also creating a walking track for local residents.

Additionally, they would like to create a trail from the school to the baseball/softball complex that could be used by the cross-country team.

Wilcher reminded board members that if they knew of anyone interested in the vacated Zone 3 board member position that the deadline to apply was April 3.

The position was recently left open following the resignation of Brian Caldwell in February.

Murfreesboro Elementary School Principal James Riley told the board that the school was seeing growth on the ATLAS interim tests by

66.5% of students in grades third-sixth over 538 tests.

Riley said there were ceremonies to hand out "Growth Bracelets" to recognize student achievement -- both in progression and those who remained in the 4-5 score categories.

He also said that three sixth-grade students had been named finalists in the national Appelley Publishing Poetry Contest, but that it was still undermined if any of the three would be in the final published work.

He also proposed to the board, that starting next school year, he would like to present a teacher and student of the month to the board.

"Our teachers go way and above beyond, and we have some amazing students, and I'd like them to be recognized by the board," said Riley.

In his high school report read by Wilcher, MHS principal Davey Jones said that ongoing tutoring efforts we showing growth and that the school's electrical and mechanics teams finished second in the district competition and will head to the statewide contest.

Jones also recognized the fact that special education students are also demonstrating significant improvement.

Following an executive session, the board accepted the hiring committee's recommendations and will hire David McKinnon, Griffin Grayson, and Ashley Simmons as high school teachers for the 2026-27 school year.

The next school board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16 at 6 p.m.



100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Majorie Thomas, who was born in Washington, Ark., and is a member of the Tulette Church of God, turned 100 years old Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

Dog attack Sunday hurts child in Washington

On March 22, deputies with the Hempstead County Sheriff's Department responded to a reported animal attack at a residence located on Northwest North Street in Washington.

Upon arrival, deputies discovered that a 4-year-old child had been attacked by a dog, resulting in significant injuries. Deputies immediately rendered emergency medical aid, including the application of a tourniquet and bandaging to control

bleeding. Emergency medical personnel arrived shortly thereafter, and the juvenile was transported to a nearby location for air medical evacuation to Arkansas Children's hospital for advanced treatment.

During the course of the investigation, it was determined that the dog involved in the incident was not current on vaccinations. Deputies instructed the owner to secure the animal for transport to a designated facility

for mandatory quarantine and evaluation. While attempting to contain the dog, the animal exhibited further aggressive behavior and attacked an adult at the scene, causing additional injuries.

Due to the immediate threat to public safety, a deputy discharged his service weapon, striking and killing the animal. No further injuries were reported following this action.

The injured adult was transported to a local medi-

cal facility for treatment. The deceased animal was subsequently transferred to a licensed veterinary clinic for rabies testing. Results are pending.

As a result of the investigation, the dog's owner was issued a citation for violation of county ordinance related to the ownership or harboring of a vicious animal. A court date has been scheduled.

This incident remains under investigation.

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Howard County District Court

March 19, 2026

BF=Bond Forfeited

Howard County

Aguilar, Yemser, 26, Mineral Springs, \$360 BF, leaving scene of accident; \$460 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license

Allen, Lucas, 17, Dierks, \$265 BF, speeding

Calliham, Heather Irene, 46, Ashdown, \$160 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Collier, Andrew, 37, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Henderson, Makel J., 29, Nash, Texas, \$255 BF, speeding

Hendrix, Courtney Lamar, 33, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$2,355 balance

Hernandez-Gonzalez, Vanesa, 33, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Holden, Brian H., 28, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$185 balance

Latin, Takeyah S., 31, Hope, \$210 BF, no child restraint

Lutz, Garrett Thomas, 23, De Queen, \$200 BF, speeding; \$245 BF, failure to appear; \$245 BF, failure to appear

Martinez, Oscar, 35, Dierks, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Mason, Doyle R. Jr., 45, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Mayorga, Miguel R., 40, Mineral Springs, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Moore, Steven M., 29, Washington, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,450 balance

Porter, Natalia, 33, Mineral Springs, \$240 BF, speeding; \$185 BF, no vehicle license; \$195 BF, no child restraint; \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$245 BF, failure to appear

Roach, Dustin Wayne, 40, Ashdown, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$257 balance

Rosas Puentes, Forelia, 54, De Queen, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Spencer, Chrisaiya, 25, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Tucker, Christopher D., 47, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$657 balance

City of Nashville
Bass, Tiesha, 45, Nashville, guilty of shoplifting, fined \$575

Branch, Kendell E., 25, Ashdfown, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined

\$1,090 and license suspended for six months

Carter, Lamarkus Mar-ter, 21, Waldo, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$210; guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$50

Flowers, Anna Mae, 60, Nashville, guilty of public intoxication, fined \$235

Gray, Porsha L., 33, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$855 balance

Griffin, Javaris S., 24, Tampa, Fla., guilty of public intoxication, fined \$235

Holmes, Zaccheus, 26, Ashdown, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Jefferson, Randy Jr., 37, Mineral Springs, guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$50

Mendoza, Pedro A., 39, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Pioquinto-Ortiz, Cristian, 27, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Prescott, Johnny, 62, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Shelley, Demetrus, 42, Fayetteville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$345; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460

Shelley, Serenity, 22, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Spencer, Chrisaiya, 25, Nashville, \$525 BF, second-degree terroristic threatening

Tapia, Angie G., 22, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Toribio Perez, Saul, 42, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Wesson, Dondra, 31, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$3,107 balance; committed to jail-suspended conditions; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460

Wilson, Joanna, 21, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Winer, Hope, 55, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,075 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Woods, Thomas L., 61, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of violation of ignition/interlock device, fined \$360

City of Dierks
Collier, Sandy M., 24, Inman, S.C., guilty of pos-



News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

READY FOR THE SPRING CARNIVAL. The Howard County Fairgrounds is hosting a Spring Carnival through March 28 to include rides for all ages, games and carnival food. Monday, the grounds were in full preparation-mode for the start Wednesday.

Domtar in Glenwood to resume operations March 30

The Domtar sawmill in Glenwood is preparing to resume operations later this month after a temporary shutdown.

The company announced Wednesday that the mill, located on South Spur 8, will restart on March 30.

The facility, which em-

ployes more than 100 people, shut down in October due to market conditions, including a surplus of lumber, low prices and high interest rates.

Domtar says recent improvements in the market and customer demand have made it possible to bring the

mill back online.

According to company officials, the restart will happen in phases over the next several weeks to ensure safe and reliable operations.

A company spokesperson says some employees have already been brought back to inspect equipment

that has been idle since the shutdown.

The Glenwood mill produces southern yellow pine lumber and decking materials used in construction. Domtar acquired the facility in 2023, following a major expansion project under its previous owner in 2021.

Sevier County man pleads not guilty in infant's death

A Lockesburg man charged in the death of an eight-month-old child entered a plea of not guilty during his arraignment hearing Thursday in the Sevier County Circuit Court.

Edward Scott Jr., 31, is facing a charge of first-degree murder following

an investigation into the infant's death last month. Bond in the case has been set at \$500,000, and Scott remains in custody in lieu of bond.

According to the Sevier County Sheriff's Office, 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.

Information has suggested Scott was the boyfriend of the child's mother at the time of the incident. Scott is scheduled to reappear in the Sevier County Circuit Court

on June 25 for a pretrial hearing. If he maintains his plea of not-guilty, a jury trial is currently scheduled to begin July 15. Upon a conviction, the crime of first degree murder carries a sentence of 10 to 40 years in prison, or life. *Article courtesy of The De Queen Bee newspaper*

session of marijuana, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$575; guilty of unsafe vehicle, fined \$360

Garcia, Dahien, 29, De Queen, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Holden, Brian H., 28, Mineral Springs, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445;

Hendrix, Courtney Lamar, 33, Nashville, guilty

of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of expired tags/no tags, fined \$210

Reeves, Raymond Athony, 69, Murfreesboro, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months

Roach, Dustin Wayne, 40, Ashdown, guilty of fictitious vehicle tag/license, fined

\$260; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75

City of Nashville
Amerson, Jace William, 19, Mineral Springs, possession of controlled substance, deferred adjudication for one year to dismiss, fined \$1,090

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SUNNY SATURDAY ANGLER. This kayak angler was photographed from above while bass fishing in a Pike County pond during an unseasonably hot March afternoon.

Commission receives public feedback on proposed changes to Arkansas hunting, angling regulations

By Randy Myers
Arkansas Game
& Fish Commission

HOT SPRINGS — The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission heard the results of an extensive public comment survey concerning recently circulated regulations change proposals during its meeting held March 18-19.

During Wednesday's committee meetings, AGFC Social Science Lead Jessica Feltz gave a report on the public comment survey concerning regulations changes proposed at the commission's February meeting.

"Of more than 24,000 responses collected, we kept 20,134 for analysis," Feltz said. "After careful review, the Social Science Team validated each response. Staff removed responses that were duplicate entries from the same individual or potentially fraudulent responses, such as from a bot.

"Rest assured that a small team of staff went through the responses and comments to determine their validity and intent."

According to Feltz's report, most proposals had a majority of respondents select "Support," although there were critical tones in some comments regarding certain regulation changes.

"One interesting note was a difference between hunters and anglers in how direct they preferred regulations to be," Feltz said. "Anglers were 'lumpers,' meaning they preferred to have one regulation like a harvest limit or length limit be consistent across an entire

region or the state. Hunters were our 'splitters,' and they wanted to have regulations target individual areas. The hunters still wanted consistency in some aspects, but they favored specific details over general areas."

Multiple speakers during Wednesday's committee meetings voiced concern for a change in the designation of the Camp Robinson Special Use Area and J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA to wildlife management area designations.

Commission Chairman Anne Marie Doramus clarified that activities such as field trials and archery tournaments would still be possible at these areas, and that many such events are held on other WMAs.

The focus of the change is to ensure that wildlife habitat and open access for all users remain top priority. Doramus and Commissioner Philip Tappan also asked staff to remove the regulation proposal to increase the size limit on mud motors from 37 to 40 horsepower, which received numerous comments during the recent regulations proposal survey. A large percentage of survey respondents were opposed to the change and further commented for increased restrictions on surface-drive motors due to their increased noise.

Tappan said the survey had a few questions that highlighted some of the public's sentiments toward the equipment used by hunters and anglers.

"In visiting with the public and other commissioners,

that regulation seems to have led people to believe we're moving in a direction of opening things up on these types of motors, but we still have a lot of concerns about the level of noise they produce and have not seen industry leaders make efforts to address this."

A report of the public comments survey is available at <https://www.agfc.com/regulations>. The commission is expected to vote on all proposed regulations during its April meeting in Monticello.

Commissioners also heard a presentation on the 2025 elk hunting season and 2026 elk population survey from Elk Program Coordinator Wes Wright. According to Wright, hunters harvested 22 elk last season, 12 of which were bulls and the remainder were antlerless elk.

"The harvest has stabilized from previous years, but is still much lower than the harvest a decade ago," Wright said.

"That decrease is really by design as a result of our detection of [chronic wasting disease] and our targeted response to the detection of the disease. We increased the number of tags and quotas and conducted targeted removals to reduce densities because elk have a much larger home range, and we were working to prevent the spread of CWD across the landscape as we were collecting data on where it had already become established. This led to a subsequent decrease in population, which prompted lower numbers of permits and quotas as

we worked to stabilize the population."

Wright said this year's population surveys were lower than anticipated, but it was largely due to high winds during the survey period that prevented helicopters and drones from working as efficiently as usual.

Wright says two of the 22 elk harvested last year were confirmed positive for CWD, following the trend of elk to have an apparent infection rate of 10 percent.

Four additional elk carcasses were found during the population survey, and of those four, two tested positive for CWD.

"Two of the carcasses were too deteriorated to get a sample from or determine a cause of death, but the two that were confirmed with CWD showed no other apparent cause of death beyond the disease."

Hunters likely will continue to see conservative harvest opportunities for elk on both private and public land to give the herd an opportunity to stabilize and recover.

Murfreesboro native picked for Clark County Leadership Class

From the Arkadelphia Alliance

The Arkadelphia Regional Economic Development Alliance and Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the members of Leadership Clark County (LCC) Class XI, which includes Murfreesboro High School graduate Matt Hickey.

This 11th cohort consists of emerging and established leaders from diverse sectors across Clark County, all committed to enhancing the region's economic, social, and civic landscape.

"Leadership Clark County has always been about more than a program — it's about building a network of people committed to making our community stronger," said Shelley Short, President & CEO of the Arkadelphia Alliance and Chamber. "Class XI represents a diverse group of individuals who care deeply about Clark County, and we're excited to see the ideas, relationships, and leadership that will grow from their experience."

Leadership Clark County is a nine-month immersive program designed to equip participants with the skills, knowledge, and networking opportunities necessary to address the challenges and opportunities of our region. Since its inception, the program has produced a networked group of leaders who share a common commitment to supporting the character, heritage, and economy of Clark County.

Leadership Clark County Class XI Members are:

Debra Alfaro, The J.M. Smucker Co.
Lakensha Bell, Citizens Bank
Sherry Burt, Citizens Bank
Jason Campbell, Twin Rivers Health & Rehabilitation Center
Jennifer Finley,



Matt Hickey
The J.M. Smucker Co.

Henderson State University
Matt Hickey, The J.M. Smucker Co.
Jessica Hormell, Jessica Hormell State Farm
April Horton, Twin Rivers Health & Rehabilitation Center
Courtney Horton, Group Living Inc.
Jake Knight, Knight Insurance Professionals
Bobbie Lee, Henderson State University
Halle Mann, The City of Arkadelphia
Nick McGlone, Baptist Health
Talisha Phifer, Southern Bancorp
Paul Praj, America's Best Value Inn & Suites
Abril Reyes, Ouachita Behavioral Health & Wellness
Nathan Spurbeck, Ark Roofing and Gutters LLC
Christian Stanich, Suttle Ridge at DeGray
Kaitlynn Wilson, Southern Bancorp
The program officially kicks off with an overnight orientation retreat in April at Iron Mountain Lodge & Marina.

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Job Opening for Veterans Service Officer
Howard County is accepting applications for a part-time Veterans Service Officer position. Applications may be picked up at the County Judge's Office, 421 N. Main St. (Howard County Courthouse) 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Veterans Office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, every Tuesday and Thursday, except for holidays. **Please call 870-845-7500 or 7501 for inquiries on how to obtain an application.**

Qualifications: Honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the spouse or surviving spouse of an honorably discharged veteran. Must be a person of good reputation and high moral character. Must have good computer skills to conduct internet searches, submit VA benefits claims electronically, etc. Must be able to learn rules, and regulations regarding VA veterans' benefits. Must pass a background check, and the selected applicant must pass initial required training conducted by the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs and pass the final exam with a score of 75% or greater.

Applications must be turned in by Tuesday, May 5, 2026.
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News-Leader photo/NIKKI FIELDS

SPRINGS MEANS SOFTBALL IN DIERKS. The Dierks Lady Outlaws softball program is currently 3-1 on the season and will resume play March 30 following spring break at Centerpoint. During a chilly game against Cossatot River on March 16, batters Sophie Younger (at left) and Ryleigh Simmons contributed to a 13-3 win.

Murfreesboro Rattlers undefeated, to host tournament this week

The Murfreesboro Rattlers baseball team has moved to 9-0 on the season.

On Thursday, March 19 the Rattlers traveled to Ouachita to take a 5-3 victory.

C.D. Morrow would drive in two runs to lead the Rattlers on his two hits.

Isaac Kuykendall, Kooper Caldwell and Hunter Cox each had an RBI for MHS.

Cale Humphry (run scored) and Keith Wilkinson (two runs scored) each stole a base for the Rattlers.

Murfreesboro would jump out to a 1-0 in the top of the first, which was equaled by Ouachita in the bottom of the opening stanza. The game would remained tied until

Murfreesboro plated a pair in the top of the sixth. The Rattlers would add two runs in the top of the seventh, and had Ouachita make the game interesting in a strong, but ultimately futile, effort to get back into the game in the bottom of the final inning.

Hunter Cox would pitch the majority of the way for MHS with 6.67 innings while allowing seven hits, three earned runs, two walks and collecting five strikeouts.

Carter Gilmer would come on in relief for the final out. The following day, March 20, the Rattlers returned home to host the Foreman Gators.

In another close contest, the Rattlers would win 2-0. Murfreesboro would score a run in the second and fifth

innings.

Alex Bonner had the team's only RBI, while Kale Burns and Wilkinson each score a run for MHS.

Kuykendall had the team's only extra base hit with a double, and went the distance for the Rattlers on the mound. Over seven shutout innings, Kuykendall allowed three hits, walked none and struck out eleven Foreman batters.

This week the Rattlers will be busy during their spring break holidays, hosting the Murfreesboro Rattlers Classic featuring games against Junction City on Thursday at 5:30 p.m., Taylor on Friday at 5 p.m. and a rematch with Ouachita on Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

DOCUMENT 00030
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to Mayor Larry Dunaway, City of Nashville, AR, 426 North Main Street, Nashville, AR 71852, will be received until 11:00AM (Local Time) on Thursday, April 9, 2026 for furnishing labor, equipment, materials, supplies, and supervision necessary to rehabilitate an existing elevated water storage tank (500,000-Gallon) by removing and replacing the interior and exterior paint system, performing miscellaneous repairs, and installing a mixing system. Bids will be opened and read aloud at such time at Nashville City Hall located at 426 North Main Street, Nashville, AR.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS may be examined without charge at the office of the Engineer, 1163 Main Street, Suite 104, Vilonia, AR 72173, or at Nashville City Hall. Bidding documents may be purchased from Engineer at a cost of \$50.00 by calling (501) 504-2455 or by email to tfoster@ce-associates.biz. No refunds will be made. Electronic bidding documents are available at no cost.

A CERTIFIED OR CASHIER'S CHECK, or an acceptable bid bond in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid shall accompany each bid as a guaranty that, if awarded the contract, the bidder will promptly enter into a contract with the City of Gassville, Arkansas and furnish bonds on the forms provided.

THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER OR BIDDERS will be required to furnish a Performance and Payment Bond, each in the amount of the contract, written by a responsible surety company authorized to do business in the State of Arkansas that is satisfactory to the Owner.

BIDDERS ARE expected to inspect the site of work and to inform themselves of all local conditions. The time of completion shall be Ninety (90) Working Days excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

BIDDERS ARE ADVISED that Arkansas State Contractor Licensing Law applies to this project. Subcontractors are also required to be licensed according to Arkansas State Law. Evidence of licensure shall be provided to the Owner prior to signing the contract.

NO BID may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for at least Thirty (30) calendar days.

IN CASE of ambiguity or lack of clearness stating the price in the bids, the City of Nashville, Arkansas reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject the bid.

THE CITY OF NASHVILLE, ARKANSAS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any or all informalities, and to award the contract to the bidder or bidders who, in the opinion of the Owner, offers the proposal to the best interest of same.

CONTRACTORS are cautioned that qualified bids will be subject to rejection.

CONTRACTORS are specifically advised that any person, firm, or other party to whom it is proposed to award a subcontract under this contract must be acceptable to the Owner.

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ARMY BROTHERS. Jarrett Stark and Ryan Stark, formerly of Murfreesboro

Pike County brothers find careers with Uncle Sam

By P.J Tracy

Murfreesboro Diamond Two former residents of Murfreesboro have spent years furthering their careers in the United States Army.

JARRETT STARK

Jarrett Stark was honored at a promotion ceremony held at Camp Joesph T. Robinson in North Little Rock on Feb. 28.

Lieutenant Colonel Stark has dedicated 26 years to military service, beginning his career on Feb. 8, 2000 as an Infantryman in Alpha Company, 1/153 Infantry, 39th Infantry Brigade Team in Arkadelphia.

In his first nine years of service, Stark served in various roles including fire team leader, squad leader and battalion operations non-commissioned officer, earning the rank of Sergeant First Class.

Stark was deployed twice to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004 and 2008. After returning from Iraq, Stark was selected to the Interservice Physician Assistant Program at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. He would graduate the program and be promoted to First Lieutenant in 2011.

He would serve as a Battalion Physician Assistant from 2011-2016, where he entered the AGR program with the 61st Civil Support Team, where he would eventually be the Deputy Commander before being reassigned to the Arkansas Army National Guard Medical Readiness Detachment at the Camp Robinson Troop Medical Center in 2021.

Since coming to Camp Robinson medical clinic, Stark served in key positions, including Unit Commander, Clinical Training Officer and Troop Medical Clinic Administrative Officer.

Stark has a Master of Physician Associate Studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center as well as a 2023 graduate of Army Command and General Staff College.

In his career he has earned

the Combat Infantry Badge, Ranger Tab, Air Assault Badge and the Pathfinder Badge. He has also been awarded the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Achievement Medal amongst many other honors throughout his service.

Stark, is married to Lonnie, formerly of Mineral Springs, and together they have three children – Julianna, Sloane and Beau.

RYAN STARK

Ryan Stark was named to the position of State Command Sergeant Major at a ceremony held at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock on March 1, 2025.

He began his military career on August 4, 1997 in Arkadelphia as part of the Detachment 1 Company A 1st Battalion of the 153rd Infantry Regiment.

R. Stark has served in every Non-Commission Officer leadership positions with the Army National Guard, from Team Leader to

Command Sergeant Major.

He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004 and 2008, deployed with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion of the 153rd Infantry Regiment.

In 2018 R. Stark was promoted to Sergeant Major and assigned as the Operations Sergeant Major for the 39th IBCT. Then, in Sept. 2020, CSM Stark was the 2nd Battalion 153 Regiment BN Command Sergeant Major.

In 2022, he was selected as a Grade 3 Command Sergeant Major for the Army National Guard and in 2023 he was named to serve as the 223rd RTI Regimental Commandant, holding both positions at once.

R. Stark has served in a variety of other assignments, such as State Quota Source Manager at Deputy Chief of Staff, Operation and Training, the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge at the Directorate of Military Support, an instructor, course manager and quality assurance Non Commissioned

Officer at the 233rd RTI as well as various battalion and company positions in the 1st and 2nd Battalion 153rd Infantry Regiment IBCT.

He has earned a number of awards and decorations in his career, including Air Assault, Pathfinder and Combat Infantry badges, German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, Expert Weapons Qualification Badge (pistol), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal.

R. Stark was a 1995 graduate of Murfreesboro High School and graduated from American Military University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts Management and a Masters of Business Administration in 2025.

He is married to Kristen Stark and together they have one child, Beckett.

Howard County Fair dates moved up to include carnival

The Howard County Fair Association has announced a major change to this year's fair and livestock show, which has been held the week of Labor Day weekend every September for decades.

In order to ensure that a carnival can be secured for upcoming fairs, the board has decided to change the dates to Aug. 24-29.

"Everything you love about the fair the Howard County Fair is still the same, just one week earlier and with a carnival," according to social media post.

Residents to pick car show winners during April 24 event

The Springs of Minecreek in Nashville will host a special car show on Friday, April 24 from 2-4 p.m. where the residents will be voting on the favorites.

The business will also be selling burgers during event. Interested participants are asked to contact Anisha Sims at (870) 826-2626 or Melissa Wright at (870) 557-0763.

\$2K awaits top angler

The Howard County Children & Adult Center will host their benefit bass tournament at SWAHA Landing on Saturday, April 4.

The event will begin at safe light, with the weigh-in being held at 3 p.m.

The cost of entry is \$100 per boat – team or individual. First place at the tournament is worth \$2,000, with \$1,000 for second place, \$750 for third place and \$500 for fourth place.

Cash and prizes will be given out through tenth place. The big bass of the tournament is worth \$350, while the second biggest bass with be worth a \$150 prize.

To enter for the tournament, contact the Howard County Children & Adult Center for an entry form at (870) 845-1211.

To Whom It May Concern,
My name is **Jacquelyn Davis**, I am a personal care provider and if you are looking for someone who is dependable, trustworthy and caring to care for your loved one, give me a call at 870-557-4792. We will discuss your needs, and I do have references.
Sincerely,
Jacquelyn J. Davis, 870-557-4792

~Celebrating 97 Blessed Years~



March 28
Mrs. Curtis Ware
(Joe Jean Dowd Ware),
a wonderful wife,
mother, grandmother,
great-grandmother,
and great-great-grandmother and a matriarch of Nashville community for 75 years.

Mrs. Ware sill stands firm in her belief that, "God Will Answer Prayer."

On Saturday, March 28 at her residence, 206 Leslie Street come and be a part of the parade. At 4:30 p.m. drive by or stop by and give her a "BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUT". She will be looking forward to seeing your smiling faces.

Children: Edward, Glorious, Diann, Melodie, Ronnie, April and we are remembering our dear sister Shelba



Holy Week 2026

**What do we need to follow Jesus?
We need one another! Come worship!**

Nightly services at 5:30 p.m. at Nashville UMC

Palm Sunday, March 29

Holy Monday, March 30

Holy Tuesday, March 31

Holy Wednesday, April 1

Maundy Thursday, April 2 with Communion

Good Friday, April 3

Holy Saturday, April 4

Easter Sunrise Service, April 5 at

Bingen UMC at 6:45 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast following service

Easter Service at 9:00 a.m. at Bingen UMC

Easter Service at

First United Methodist Church at 10:50 a.m.

1403 W. Sunset Dr., Nashville

**Now Open HMH After Hours Clinic
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**



Amy Davis, ARPN
is the
provider,
pictured
here with
Carla Pumphrey,
MD.

HMH After Hours Clinic is a brand new service focused on providing the best possible care to our patients. This clinic is available to patients who need minor care, but not an emergency room visit.

121 Medical Circle • Nashville • 870-845-6970