

Easter 2026

Leader Board

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OPINION | 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

MS church soup kitchen to be held on April 8

The Mineral Springs Church of Christ soup kitchen will be Wednesday, April 8, from 2-5 p.m.

The menu includes baked potato with meat, butter, sour cream and cheese; and cookies for dessert.

Meals are available by carry-out only.

The church is located at 318 Bridgeman Drive.

For more information, call 870-451-4411.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Plant sale scheduled April 10-11 in Nashville

Nashville Community Gardens will host a plant sale Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11 next to the Farmers' Market and Health Unit.

The sale will be open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. April 10 and 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. April 11.

Plants for sale include hanging baskets, house plants, veggies, irises, herbs, succulents, trees, shrubs, flowers and more.

Call 512-924-5513 for more information.

Nashville Community Gardens is an Arkansas non-profit.

Nashville festival set May 2

The annual Peach Blossom Festival sponsored by the Nashville Chamber of Commerce will be Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Main Street in downtown Nashville.

The event will include bounce houses, bicycle parade, dog costume contest, craft vendors, music and food trucks.

Peach ice cream and other peach favorites will be served as well.

For more information, call 870-845-1262.

Inside the News-Leader

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News-Leader photo/LOUIE GRAVES

GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION. Under the weight of the cross, and lashed by a cohort of Roman soldiers, Jesus makes his way to Calvary in the annual Easter Passion procession by members of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Nashville. Jesus, portrayed by Isidoro Cuellar, a member of St. Martin's, is followed by two thieves, weeping women and other mourners.



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON

SUNRISE SERVICE. Ministers in the Nashville Area Pastoral Fellowship led an Easter sunrise service April 5 in the Green Room at the Nashville City Park. The group includes Charles Green, Lankford Moore, Mary Alice Moore, Wade Eggers, Paul Herndon and Marvin Edwards. Rev. Herndon, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville, delivered the Easter sermon.



EGG HUNT. Jaxon Gaines, 8; and his sister Rylee Gaines, 5, found lots of Easter eggs Sunday afternoon in the Hot Springs backyard of their grandmother Tammy Alexander, a former Nashville Junior High teacher.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

AT DHC. Matt Twyford of the Arkansas Economic Commission speaks to the Developing Howard County board.

'Competitive Community' title attainable for Howard County

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

The Developing Howard County board of directors heard a number of reports during the panel's March meeting but took no action for lack of a quorum.

Economic Development Director Vanessa Weeks gave an update on an earlier site visit for a prospective industry. Weeks said the location near Nashville is "in the top two" which the prospect is considering.

Weeks also updated progress with DOC's partnership with DNT Media to improve the panel's online presence. DNT is working on a video which is

expected to be finished in April, Weeks said.

Matt Twyford and Dana Poindexter of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission discussed the state's Competitive Community Initiative, "a tool to help communities in economic development."

Hope and Arkadelphia have obtained Competitive Community designation, Twyford said. Statewide, 11 communities have gone through the process for the recognition.

"You're on the right track," Twyford said of Howard County.

See DHC • Page 5

Scrappers, Scrapperettes earn post-season honors

Post-season honors have been announced for the Scrapper and Scrapperette basketball teams which advanced to the Class 4A state tournaments.

Scrappers who were recognized include the following:

- Johnte Taylor, All Conference and All State
- Bo Bell, All Conference and All State

Demetrus Shelley, All Conference and All State

Jailyn Staggers, All Conference
The Scrappers were second in District 7-4A and third at the Class 4A South Regional.

Scrapperettes include the following:

- Karstyn Scrivner, All Conference

See Honors • Page 5



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

HOOPS RECOGNITION. Scrapperette senior Karstyn Scrivner is among the Nashville basketball players who have received All Conference and All State recognition. Scrivner was also named one of the top 3 players in Class 4A. (Related photos page 12)



Two-night rodeo event coming to Cross Point Cowboy Church arena

Cross Point Cowboy Church will host a rodeo Friday and Saturday, April 10-11 at its covered arena on the church campus. The rodeo is CRRA/ACRA/ARA/UPRA sanctioned. Events also include Jr. Barrels and Mutton Bustin. Stock contractor is Bar NH Rodeo Company. Events will begin at 8 p.m. The church and arena are located west of Nashville on State Hwy. 371. The public is invited.

Kids Revival is planned April 17-19 at Life Tabernacle Church

A "Kids Revival" complete with puppets and music will be held at Life Tabernacle Church, 812 Mine St., Nashville. The revival will be Friday thru Sunday April 17, 18, 19. Service times are 7 p.m. on Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday, and at 10 a.m. on Sunday. The public is invited.

Children's Center board meeting is scheduled for April 14

The Howard County Children's Center board of directors will meet in regular session on Tuesday, April 14. The meeting will be in Building 2 conference area of HCCC. It will begin at noon and is open to the public. The center's officers and directors include: Josh Tice, president; Riley Jamison, vice-president; Lisa Chandler, secretary; Donny Woods, treasurer; and directors Carol Murray, Bill Craig, Dena Tollett, Sarah Myers, Andy Troutt and Zack Pinegar.

Blood drive will be April 9 at Center Point

The Moonlighters EHC will sponsor a LifeShare blood drive on Thursday, April 9. The drive will be 2-7 p.m. at the Center Point Community Center. Donors are asked to bring their donor card or other identification. For more information, call Cindy Harding at 870-451-3179. A drawing will be held at the end of the blood drive and one donor will receive a certificate compliments of the Center Point Store.

Peach Blossom Festival to feature 5k run

The annual Peach Blossom Festival sponsored by the Nashville Chamber of Commerce will include a 5K Run on Saturday, May 2. The race begins at 8 a.m. but sign-up is now open. Registration is \$35. The 'reward' at the finish line is a t-shirt and participation medal. To enter, participants should text 'Peach Blossom Race Link' to 870-451-3334.

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The Nashville News-Leader



MAIN STREET MONDAY FIRE. Police blocked off traffic on Main Street, Nashville, Monday enabling firemen from the city and from Center Point and County Line to extinguish the fire which destroyed an unused two-story garage. Firemen were able to protect adjoining structures which suffered some heat damage. Cause of the fire is undetermined, according to Nashville Fire Marshal Justin Thornton. The burned structure can be seen in the background.



ROTARY INCOMING PRESIDENT. Bobby Miller will officially become president of the Nashville Rotary Club in July. Last week he reported on his participation in the presidential training weekend for incoming club presidents in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. He said that Rotary might use social media to attract younger membership. Rotary International has worked to end polio, and he said that there were now just three confirmed cases in the world.

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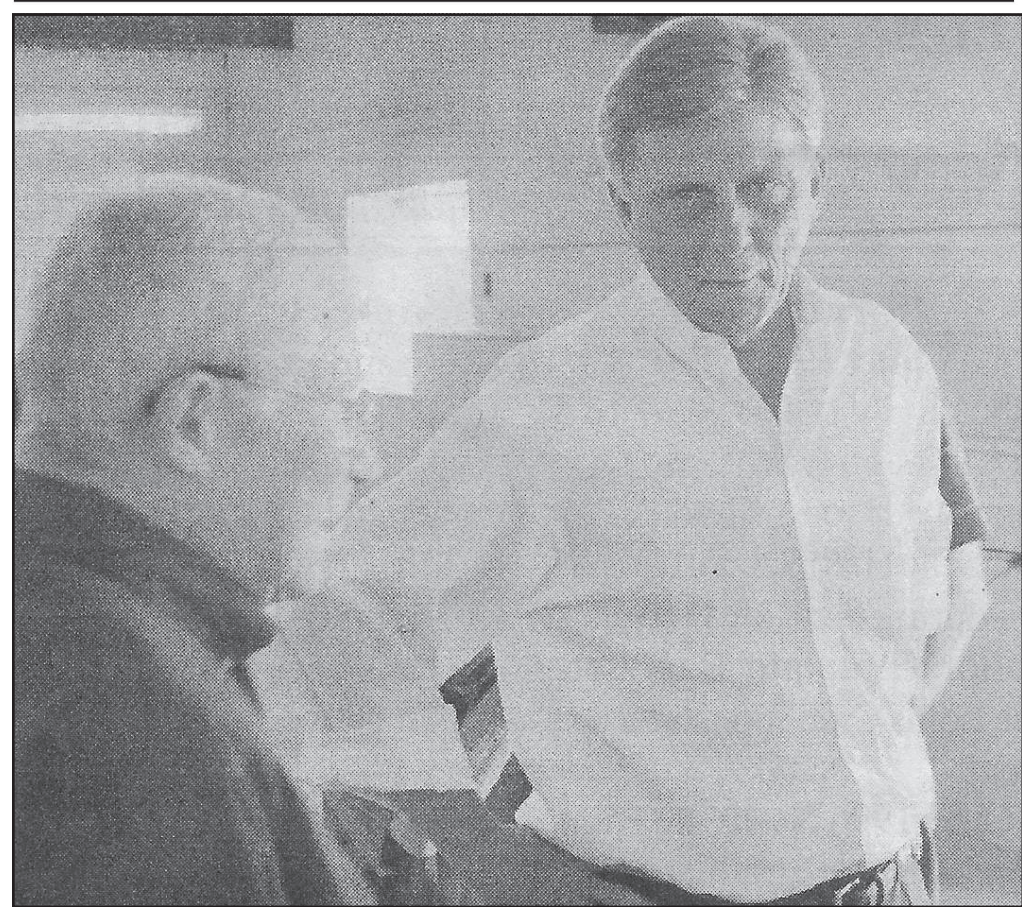
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THE CECIL "BIRDDOG" HARRIS MEMORIAL
EARLY FILES

Tales from Howard County's history reprinted in honor of longtime staff historian and photographer, Cecil Harris.
September 19, 1938 - December 15, 2012

Compiled by Patsy Young



Gubernatorial candidate Mike Beebe visits with Mickey Pope, Howard County Cattleman's Association member, in April 2006.

100 years ago: April 1926
Two Ford touring cars were stolen from their parking place at Dierks last night during preaching services at the Winans-Powel meeting. A large crowd was in the garage building where the services were being held, and the cars were parked thickly on the street.

The thieves made their getaway just before the service closed, leaving Dierks at a great speed, headed toward De Queen over the highway.

90 years ago: April 1936
Governor Futrell issued a proclamation designating next Sunday as "Lum and Abner Day" and urging all citizens to join in observing the occasion of a Lum and Abner national radio broadcast from the capitol.

The day also will mark the official change of the name of Waters, Montgomery County town, to Pine

Ridge, a name made famous by the radio program of Chester Lauck and Norris Goff, the real-life names of Lum and Abner, who formerly lived in Mena. Renaming the town was approved by the United States Post Office Department.

80 years ago: April 1946
E. H. Shirey, licensed pilot, of Texarkana, will make plane flights from a field half mile north of Cap Murray's home on the Center Point highway, in his 1946 model Aronica Champion plane.

He will carry passengers, as well as give instructions. The public is invited to visit the field, regardless of whether they want to fly.

60 years ago: April 1966
Burglars broke into Ball Chevrolet Thursday night and took \$950 in cash from the safe.

Joe Ball estimated the Chevrolet company loss at

\$800 and Ball Oil's loss \$150. He said this was the second time that the company had been broken into in 34 years. The burglary was discovered by York Gary at approximately 6:30 Friday.

50 years ago: April 1976
A 11-year-old bicycle rider escaped injury when a chain came off his vehicle, causing him to ride into the side of a moving car at Fourth and Bishop streets. Kerry Brown was examined and released at Memorial Hospital.

The police report revealed that the chain came off the bicycle and that the rider ran a stop sign and struck the front fender of a car driven by Mrs. Faustine Hill of Nashville. Brown was thrown over the handlebars of the bicycle and hit the windshield of the car.

Officers Otis Icenhower and Chester Boyea investigated.

Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Mar. 26-Apr. 1, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses
(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office)
No marriage licenses issued during the period.

Civil Court
CV26-58, Mar. 26. Lesa Bell vs. Rudy Morals. Contract.

CV26-59, Mar. 26. Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration vs. Jermar Brewer. Register judgment.

Domestic Relations Court
DR26-29, Mar. 26. Zachary Pinson vs. Tandra Hughes. Divorce.

DR26-30, Mar. 26. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Eddie Reed, Jr. Support.

DR26-31, Mar. 30. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Sincere T. Young. Support.

Criminal Court
(NOTE: POCS = possession of controlled substance; PODP = possession of drug paraphernalia; DOCS = delivery of controlled substance. Defendants are innocent until proven otherwise.)
CR26-19, Mar. 26. State of Arkansas vs. Steven Michael Feasel, 49, white male,

Fouke; POCS, class C felony. CR26-20, Apr. 1. State of Arkansas vs. Christopher Wright, 40, white male, 815 Kelly Ave., Murfreesboro; 3rd degree domestic battery, class D; furnishing or possessing prohibited articles, class B.

Land/Property Transactions Trustee Deed
Mar. 30. Jerrie Brockman, successor trustee, Lawrence Family Revocable Living Trust; to Mine Creek Village, LLC; 5 tracts in S23 T9S R27W, City of Nashville.

Mar. 30. Jerrie Brockman, successor trustee, Lawrence Family Revocable Living Trust; to Jerrie Brockman, trustee of the Jerrie L. Brockman Trust; aggregate 50 ac., in S19 T9S R27W.

Mar. 30. Jerrie Brockman, successor trustee of the Lawrence Family Revocable Living Trust; to Lawrence Family Properties LLLP; 3 tracts, aggregate 147.8 ac. in S24/S29/S30 T9S R27W.

Quitclaim Deed
Mar. 26. Teresa Ross and David Ross, her husband; to Amber Avalos; Lots 13 thru 17, Block 44, Nashville.

Mar. 30. Derry Pinson; to Derry Wayne Pinson, et al, joint tenants; no land description given.

Administratrix Deed
Mar. 30. Lizann Bell, administratrix of the estate

of Clyde Anderson Bell, deceased; to Ricardo Rafael Sanchez; a lot in Bell's Addition, town of Mineral Springs. \$14,500.

Executrix Deed
Mar. 27. Brenda Gail McCrary, executrix of the estate of Joyce Laverne Bissell, deceased; to Brenda Gail McCrary, et al; property in S26 T8S R28W, town of Center Point.

Warranty Deed
Mar. 27. Ruth Barnes, survivor of an estate with Wilburn Barnes, deceased; to Gene Stinson Jr. and wife Patricia Stinson; Lot 10, Block 2, North Greenwood Addition, City of Nashville. \$215,000.

Mar. 30. Don Jones and wife Teresa Jones; to Brandon D. Alexander and wife Jonna F. Alexander; aggregate 20.056 ac. in S25 T6S R28W. \$445,000.

Mar. 30. Phillip R. Miller and wife Judy M. Miller; to Jacob Andrew Sharp and wife Kaylynn Michelle Sharp; Lot 6, Deerwood Estates Phase III. \$318,000.

Mar. 30. (Special) Lawrence Family Properties LLLP; to Mike Creek Village, LLC; property in S23 T9S R27W, city of Nashville.

April 1. Marjorie Smith, surviving spouse of Joe Robert Smith; to the Marjorie Smith Revocable Living Trust; 4 tracts in S17/S18 T9S R27W.

Five appear in criminal court

Last Wednesday, April 1, the regular day for criminal court, action was brief with only five defendants appearing before Judge Bryan Chesshir.

One defendant pleaded not guilty and had Aug. 12 set for pretrial motions. Steven Feasel, 49, white male, Fouke, is charged with possession of controlled substance.

Two defendants entered guilty pleas and were sentenced.

Jovani Carrasco, 38, Hispanic male, De Queen, was charged with class D felony drug possession.

He was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Correction deferred upon successful completion of drug court protocols.

Austin Jones, 26, white male, Conway, was charged with class C drug possession; tampering with physi-

cal evidence, class D; and two misdemeanors, fleeing and resisting arrest. The state did not pursue the latter two charges, and Jones was sentenced to identical terms of four years in the ADC plus a further six years suspended imposition of sentence on the felony charges. The terms are to run concurrently.

Two defendants appeared before the judge for arraignment.

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Point of view

Bigtime threats Warnings to Iranians may have the wrong response

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I'd like to say to our President: "Please don't use such bad language in your late nite social media posts. The world is watching and taking in every word."

Crude language is not very Presidential, not worthy of the leader of the United States of America.

Mr. President, when you make outrageous, violent threats you remind me of the late Saddam Hussein's late Iraq Minister of Propaganda who made many bloodcurdling pronouncements mostly to the effect that Americans would drown in their own blood.

He made so many promises of violence that he became a comedic character.

We still executed him after the war, comedic or not.

And one other thing, Mr. President (and I say this with all due respect for the office of U.S. President), please don't call upon Allah on Easter weekend.

One of these days, Mr. President, you are going to do or say something that finally loses your MAGA base of support.

● ---- ● --- ●

EASTER EGGS. Nashville City Park workers were prepared to 'hide' 8,000 trinket-filled plastic eggs on the youth baseball fields. Rains put an end those grand plans.

Parks and Recreation Director Meghan Floyd says that the eggs will be sealed in big plastic tubs and will be used at next year's annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Weather permitting.

Growing up at 303 College St., we had egg hunts every Easter. When rain prevented an outdoor egg hunt, the older kids hid eggs all over the house for the little kids to find.

On year, after a week of sniffing something offensive in the living room, we found an egg hidden behind a book.

Whew, that pastel blue sure did smell!

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SORRY TO LOOK FOR TROUBLE BUT normally in tense times like these Dear Leader in North Korea can be counted upon for some headline-making mischief.

A missile test. Maybe an underground atomic bomb detonation, or a NKorean navy ship shooting at something in SKorean waters. Something provocative.

But he's been suspiciously quiet. UNTIL THIS WEEK.

He is supposedly preparing the NKorean people to accept his 13-year-old daughter as his successor.

One of the ways the Kims do this is to show the successee shooting firearms or riding a horse or waving lovingly to the masses during one of those giant parades.

This time The daughter was shown to NKorean people while driving an army tank. Unfortunately, she was texting while driving and she ran over a half-dozen peasants who were harvesting rice.

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THIS TIME LAST YEAR we were still agog about the total solar eclipse which was supposed to bring hundreds of thousands of visitors that would completely overwhelm us.

Sometimes even the best-intentioned experts miss.

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BANS. As of this writing, the burn ban in Howard County has been cancelled by recent rains. The burn ban in Hempstead County has NOT been cancelled by recent rains.

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I GET EMAIL. Lots of it. In fact, Mr. Schirmer has asked me to take a pay cut because I spend so much time reading emails.

(In fact, the frequency of worthless or titillating emails has significantly increased, and that's why I am repeating this tiny part of last week's column.)

I didn't ask for the emails.

Overnight I get maybe 180 emails from Costco, Omaha Steaks, AAA, Kroger, Marriott Hotels, BlueCross, Little Rock Zoo, nearly every political candidate under the sun and some Ukrainian wimmen.

Maybe our visiting ITech guy can do something to weed out those useless emails. Except for the ones from those Ukrainian wimmen. They sincerely want to meet me, I believe.

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MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?

I suppose I could ask one of those ravishing Ukrainian wimmen who are longing to meet me. Maybe someone at one of those Kroger stores has the answer.

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WORD GAMES. I love oxymorons: At the No Kings rally here there was a small crowd.

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HE SAID: "Motivation is the art of getting people to do what you want them to do because they want to do it." Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President and General of the U.S. Army

● ---- ● --- ●

SHE SAID: "Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn." Harriet Beecher Stowe, author and abolitionist

● ---- ● --- ●

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Mine Creek Revelations



By Louie Graves

Love Thy Neighbor, and GET THE COVID VACCINE!

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

It's



but the coronavirus threat isn't over.

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 shot.

Presented in the public interest by the Nashville News-Leader

Autism task force hears update on state's service, support efforts

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

The Arkansas Autism Legislative Task Force met this week to review significant updates and developments related to autism services and support in the state.

The task force includes members of the Arkansas General Assembly, autism experts, and representatives from state agencies and organizations. It is co-chaired by Senator Justin Boyd of Fort Smith and Representative Denise Jones Ennett of Little Rock.

The group is charged with examining how Arkansas responds to autism spectrum disorders, identifying best practices and efficient methods of treatment, and recommending strategies for securing additional federal funding for autism services and special education. The task force also advises the General Assembly on potential statutory changes aimed at improving treatment and education for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The panel meets quarterly at the State Capitol complex.

This week's meeting featured a presentation from the University of Arkansas's Programs Supporting Students with Autism and Other Disabilities.

UA has two distinct programs: EMPOWER (Educate, Motivate, Prepare, Opportunity, Workplace readiness, Employment, Respon-

sibility). EMPOWER is a four-year, non-degree, inclusive postsecondary education program (IPSE) for young adults with intellectual disabilities requiring limited supports. It is approved by the U.S. Department of Education as a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary ("CTP"). The program's three core goals are to provide a college experience, enhance independent living skills, and improve work readiness skills.

UA also offers the Autism Support Program, which offers comprehensive support for degree-seeking undergraduate students with autism. The program's academic coaches provide support in academics, executive functioning skills, transitioning to independent adult roles, and social skills.

Members also heard from the University of Arkansas-Pulaski Technical College's 3D Program. The 3D Program provides post-secondary education and workforce preparation for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, offering certificate-based training in culinary arts, hospitality, and baking while supporting the development of life and technical skills. This academic year alone, students have achieved becoming ServSafe Handler certified, becoming Certified Fundamentals Cooks, becoming Certified Fundamentals Pastry

Cooks, preparing dishes for special family events, and being employed full-time at restaurants across the greater Little Rock area.

In addition, the task force received an update on the Supporting Lifelong Success (SLS) Community. SLS serves Northwest Arkansas as a growing Medicaid waiver provider offering home- and community-based services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The organization is pursuing a holistic approach to supporting neurodivergent adults throughout their lives.

According to SLS, its long-term vision is to create an inclusive community that integrates housing, employment opportunities, clinical services, and recreational options within a 230-acre development in south Fayetteville known as Cato Springs. The project aims to build a connected neighborhood that enhances quality of life for both the region and the neurodivergent community.

SLS leaders describe their mission as establishing "a community that surrounds neurodivergent adults with opportunities to thrive through independence and choice and fuels each individual's ability to contribute their skills, explore their dreams, have relationships, and find purpose in everyday living."

Help available for state's veterans

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

Arkansas is home to almost 200,000 veterans, so it is no surprise that so many questions come to my office relating to the federal programs that impact them.

These requests range from help obtaining records and medals to support with long-term care needs, but assistance with the process to file a claim for a service-connected disability consistently outpaces the rest. Getting to a final decision is often cumbersome, requiring a lot of paperwork that can be difficult to track down on their own.

It can also be an emotional journey for veterans who feel unsupported or powerless. That only underscores the importance of ensuring they know these are benefits they have earned, as well as improving the internal processes of our bureaucracy so they work more efficiently.

I have been pleased to see the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) efforts over the last year to modernize the claims process for new applicants, and the hard work underway to address the enormous backlog of pending applications. In the last quarter of 2025 alone, the department re-

duced it by 25 percent, while also handling the enormous number of new applications made possible by the PACT Act.

Since that law was enacted, VA officials report more than 3.3 million related claims have been submitted nationwide and 3.19 million of those have been completed.

As my staff and I work with veterans on these issues, one thing has become very clear — much of the speed and success of a claim depends on having all the information former servicemembers need before submitting any paperwork.

In the past, it was common for veterans to enter a basic application and rely on the VA to track down the necessary service and medical records. That is no longer the case.

Veterans will want to provide their DD-214, medical records and other critical information at the outset. Proof of ongoing illnesses, injuries, chemical exposures or resulting complications is critical to help obtain earned benefits promptly.

Help is available, but many veterans are unaware of the services in their own community and across our state to assist them with

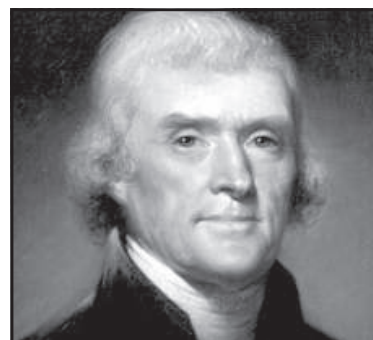
service-connected claims and other VA-related issues.

In Arkansas, we have accredited veterans service officers (VSOs) at both the county level and through the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA). In addition to helping find documents and prepare an application, they can help identify other valuable support. The easiest way to find a conveniently-located VSO is to use the search tool provided by the VA on its website.

I am grateful for everything our military community does for Arkansas and our nation, so I hope veterans and their families will take advantage of the tools and resources dedicated to supporting them.

In Washington, I continue working to advance policies and priorities that improve the delivery of these and other benefits or services.

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee has approved legislation to eliminate bureaucratic red tape that significantly delays burial benefits — the Veterans Burial Timeliness and Death Certificate Accountability Act. I am pleased that it, along with other measures, are now headed to the Senate floor.



"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.

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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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John R. Schirmer, editor

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News-Leader photos/
JOHN R. SCHIRMER
(Above) Parker Tate (right) runs to home plate for a score as teammate Elli Wallis cheers her on in the Scrapperettes' 18-7 non-conference win over Bauxite Monday afternoon, April 6, at Futrell Field in the Nashville City Park. Bauxite took an early 2-0 lead, but Nashville came back and led 18-3 going into the top of the fifth inning. The Lady Miners put up four runs in the fifth but came up short as the game was called on the run rule.

(Left) Sofia McCauley pitches for the Scrapperettes in their victory over Bauxite Monday afternoon. McCauley and Baylee Smith shared pitching duties against the Lady Miners. Bauxite and Nashville were District 7-4a rivals for several seasons before the Lady Miners were assigned to another conference.

DHC

Continued from page 1

Poindexter said the county has "a great economic development organization. You're getting Requests for Information for buildings. You have fantastic buildings, an established economic development committee, a great inventory and you have funding."

As a result, "The designation is attainable," Twyford said. "Help is available from AEDC."

Twyford outlined the "four pillars of economic development."

They include the following:
An economic development organization
Economic development funding

Workforce narrative
Product readiness

The process of gaining Competitive Community

designation "is hard work. You can't just check boxes and go through it," Twyford said.

With the work that's been done in Howard County, "You're already over the big hurdle," Poindexter said.

Twyford, director of community development for AEDC, was making his first visit to the Developing Howard County panel.

Poindexter has been on-board since DHC began. She is AEDC's regional manager for Southwest Arkansas.

Following the AEDC presentation, Karter Castleberry of Nashville discussed building opportunities which are available. He has acquired property in Nashville which could be offered to prospective businesses and industries.

Board members were reminded of the State of the Southwest event to be held April 10 at MidTown Social in Nashville.

Tickets are sold out, Poindexter said.

Local SAR, DAR chapters to host Liberty Tree event

The Desoto Trace Chapter of the Arkansas Society Sons of the American Revolution and the Mine Creek Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a Liberty Tree dedication Wednesday, April 8, on the lawn of the Pike County Courthouse

in Murfreesboro. The event will begin at 10 a.m.

The dedication is connected to the America 250 celebration.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission donated the elm trees to be planted.

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Honors

Continued from page 1

ence, All State, Top 5 in Class 4A by Arkansas Basketball Coaches Association, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* All Stars second team. Scrivner has signed to play for the Lady Bisons at Harding

University in Searcy. Emma Chambers, All Conference, All State Tournament
Ava Basiliere, All Conference, All State
Sofia McCauley, All Conference
Kiyanna Stewart, All Conference
Angel Watson, All Conference

Lyris Bennett, All Conference
The Scrapperettes were first in District 7-4A and won the Class 4A South Regional championship.

Coming next:
Season review of the Nashville Scappers and Scrapperettes

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- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility. Also, when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.

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APRIL 16, 2026 | 11:30 AM

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Proclamation ceremony set for April 16 at Howard County Courthouse

NASHVILLE - In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, CASA for Children and the Texarkana Children's Advocacy Center (TCAC) will host a proclamation ceremony in Howard County on April 16, at 11:30 a.m. at the Howard County Courthouse.

Community leaders and child advocates will gather to raise awareness about the impact of child abuse and neglect in our region and to reaffirm the community's commitment to protecting vulnerable children.

Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway will read the official proclamation, declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and highlighting the importance of supporting children and families impacted by abuse. Community members are encouraged to attend and stand in solidarity with children who have experienced abuse or neglect.

Get Involved: Become a CASA Volunteer

Currently, seven children in foster care in Howard County are without a dedicated Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). CASA volunteers are trained community members who advocate for the best interests of children in the foster care system, ensuring their voices are heard in court and their needs are met.

"Every child in foster care deserves a committed advocate by their side—someone who will speak up for them in court, in school, and in the child welfare system," said CASA Executive Director Malenda Cree. "We need more volunteers willing to take a stand for children right here in Howard County."

Those interested in making a lasting difference in the life of a child are encouraged to visit casatexarkana.org/volunteer or contact Brittney Wren at (903) 792-1030 or bwren@casacac.org. No special background or legal expertise is required—only a compassionate heart and a commitment to advocate for the best interest of children.

ABOUT: For 36 years, CASA and TCAC have worked collaboratively to support children impacted by abuse and neglect. CASA volunteers advocate for children in the foster care system, while the TCAC provides forensic interviews, medical exams, and trauma-informed therapy to children who have experienced abuse.

Researchers track Asian longhorned tick as it spreads to 10 Arkansas counties

By **Ryan McGeeney**
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

For outdoor enthusiasts, the magic of spring is often tempered by the resurgence of chiggers, ticks and other nuisance insects. For researchers with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, the very pursuit of those creatures never really ends.

Kelly Loftin, extension entomologist for the Division of Agriculture, is part of a team including fellow Division of Agriculture researchers Emily McDermott, Elizabeth Smith and Jeremy Powell that has been tracking the spread of the Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) and two genotypes — genetic variants of a given organism — of the associated pathogen, *Theileria orientalis*, in cattle across Arkansas for several years. The study is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant.

The Asian longhorned tick was first confirmed in the United States in 2017 and found in Arkansas in 2018. As of September 2025, it has been confirmed in 23 states, mostly in the eastern portion of the country but as far west as Oklahoma and Kansas, according to USDA.

In May 2025, the tick was confirmed in Arkansas in Benton, Boone, Independence, Searcy and Washington counties. The *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda genotype was confirmed in Arkansas, Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Marion, Searcy and Washington counties. The *Theileria orientalis* Chitose genotype was also confirmed in Boone and Baxter counties.

Loftin and his team responded to calls from cattle producers and extension agents throughout the rest of the year, collecting ticks and testing for *Theileria* throughout the summer, fall and winter. Confirmation of both the Asian longhorned tick and the pathogen continued to spread to more counties. In February, Loftin and

his co-researchers published an update, identifying the tick in an additional five counties as of September 2025 — Baxter, Carroll, Madison, Marion and Newton counties — bringing the total to 10. One or both genotypes of *Theileria orientalis* have been confirmed in 17 counties as of February. In an eighteenth county, Faulkner, *Theileria orientalis* has been confirmed without a determined genotype.

"We first started doing those maps in 2024," Loftin said. "We've seen a pretty steady increase in confirmed counties for both the tick and the pathogen."

Loftin said severe winter weather events, such as those experienced in Arkansas and surrounding states in January, don't diminish the Asian longhorned tick populations — they simply become less active.

"The ticks become somewhat less active, hunkering

down in leaf litter or other protected areas," Loftin said. "But as soon as warm weather returns, and animals are grazing again, the activity returns."

Cows and other animals infected with *Theileria* display symptoms similar to those of Anaplasmosis, a common vector-borne disease in cattle. Those symptoms include weight loss, suppression of milk production, loss of appetite, lethargy, anemia, and more. Loftin said that in herds with higher infection rates, reproduction begins to become suppressed.

"Mortality is obviously an issue, but you also have to think about the fact that some of these cows aren't producing calves," Loftin said. "It's a significant loss to consider — beyond cow mortality, losses from abortions and stillborn calves along with cows failing to rebreed, the impact is both

a loss of life and a hit to our producer's bottom line."

There is currently no treatment for *Theileria*. Mortality rates in cattle typically range from 1 to 5 percent, although they have been recorded as high as 50 percent, according to USDA. The pathogen currently poses no health risks to humans.

If a farmer suspects theileriosis in one or more animals in their herd, they should draw blood from the animals and have it tested for *Theileria orientalis*, including both Ikeda and Chitose genotypes, Loftin said.

"The most reliable test is a PCR test that will identify the genotype," he said, noting that the Division of Agriculture, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Veterinary Diagnostics Lab and Kansas State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab can all designate specific

genotypes.

"It's also important for producers to minimize animal stress and treat other conditions, such as bacterial diseases, promptly," Loftin said.

"Keep a close eye on cattle during calving and weaning, as these are known stressors. Finally, establish an effective tick control program for your herd."

Recommendations for controlling tick populations in animals more generally through pesticides can be found in the Division of Agriculture publication MP144, "Insecticide Recommendations for Arkansas."

This work is supported by the Tactical Sciences for Agricultural Biosecurity program, project award no. 2024-67016-42397, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



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Howard County District Court

April 2, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited
Howard County
 Berry, Abreal J., 50, Tyler, Texas, \$285 BF, criminal trespass; \$235 BF, public intoxication
 Brumfield, Dominique Trevon, 31, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,725 balance
 Camal, Meashyia Al-lazaen, 25, Hope, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines
 Dixon, Tasha R., 51, Hope, guilty of fictitious vehicle tags/license, fined \$260; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460
 Dixon, Truman D., 29, Lockesburg, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$4,235 balance; committed to jail
 Forbes, Mike T., 59, Ash-down, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$160; guilty of possessing open container of alcohol in motor vehicle, fined \$235
 Golston, Ricky D., 55, Washington, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,537 balance
 Jackson, Jamie K., 25, Hot Springs, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360
 Jefferson, Jaleesa S., 37, Hope, \$160 BF, no proof of liability insurance
 Langston, Alfonso Latroyce, 48, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines
 Mass, Robin L., 26, Mineral Springs, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Montgomery, Jamie N., 22, Texarkana, guilty non-payment of fines, \$1,482 balance
 Mullins, Seth, 24, Nashville, \$255 BF, speeding
 Reed, Eddie Jr., 33, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$7,230 balance
 Smalley, Jadence M., 27, Fulton, guilty of speeding, fined \$255
 Turner, Ahmad Ngia, 21, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$760 balance
 Trotter, Robert Lee, 65, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
 Vazquez, Maribel, 27, Hope, \$235 BF, public intoxication
 Walker, Landon C., 20, Hope, \$265 BF, speeding

City of Nashville
 Alexander, Eli A., 31, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license
 Brumfield, Dominique Trevon, 31, Nashville, guilty of shoplifting, fined \$410
 Bunch, Fred Lee, 23, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$125
 Burns, Janell, 60, Lockesburg, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$210; guilty of DWI, fined \$1,125, credited for time served, license suspended and must compete DWI educational course; guilty of failure to appear,

fining \$300; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$625 and sentenced to 10 days in jail; guilty of DWI #2, fined \$1,675, sentenced to seven days in jail, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of reckless driving, fined \$360; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460
 Davis, Bridget R., 38, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$4,220 balance; committed to jail
 Dixon, Jason P., 48, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$457 balance; sentenced to five days in jail
 Gonzales, Yanine C., 35, Nashville, guilty of running stop sign or light, fined \$210
 Haislip, Nikita, 34, Nashville, guilty off speeding, fined \$275
 Hanney, Franklin A., 66, Nashville, guilty of leaving scene of accident, fined \$360
 Hearon, Steve E., 62, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,328 balance; committed to jail
 Johnson, Meiaeisias, 28, Nashville, no contest, cruelty to animals, fined \$475; guilty of violation of city ordinance-banned breed dog, fined \$640
 Miller, Kerrick D., 37, Nashville, \$210 BF, expired vehicle tags/no tags
 Moore, Jacob, 25, Bauxite, speeding, under advisement for six months to dismiss
 Orange, Jazerious Oneal, 21, Mineral Springs, guilty off non-payment of fines, \$1,595 balance
 Ricardo, Ely J., 22, De

Queen, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$125; guilty of violation of ignition/interlock device, fined \$75
 Scott, Dennis E., 27, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,335 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260
 Sgrillo, Thomas H., 59, Nashville, \$210 BF, expired vehicle tags/no tags
 Smith, Lynsey Jordon, 32, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines
 Timmons, Elvina R., 40, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$467 balance
 Ware, Syllas Dayshun,

22, Mineral Springs, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months
 Wilson, Joanna, 21, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460
City of Dierks
 Doenate, Jesus V., 21, Conway, guilty of speeding, fined \$230
City of Mineral Springs
 Burns, Janell, 60, Lockesburg, guilty of shoplifting, fined \$410; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$285
 Craker, Aaron, 30, Mineral Springs, guilty of shoplift-

ing, fined \$425; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$300
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
 Carlton, Robert J., 28, Rosston, \$235 BF, yo-yo violation
 Howell, Larry D., 65, Nashville, guilty of littering, fined \$385; guilty of requirement to possess another's wildlife, fined \$235
 Payne, John L., 53, Hope, \$235 BF, light requirements after hours
Bench Trials
Howard County
 Lee, Michael D., 59, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$3,940 balance

Lockesburg man facing charges for failure to comply with sex offender requirements

By Patrick Massey
 De Queen Bee

A Lockesburg man is facing felony charges after authorities say he failed to comply with Arkansas sex offender registration requirements and violated conditions of his release.
 According to a probable cause affidavit filed in Sevier County Circuit Court, Christopher Green, 33, is charged with failure to comply with registration and reporting requirements under Arkansas law, a Class C felony.
 The Sevier County Sheriff's Office reported that on March 24, deputies were notified by the De Queen Police Department that Green had been booked into the Sevier County Jail.
 Authorities state that Green is listed as a Level 3 sex offender on the Arkansas Sex Offender Registry and has been registered since November 21, 2014. As part of his registration requirements, Green is required

to report his residence and any changes of address.
 Investigators attempted to verify Green's listed address on TJ King Road but were unable to confirm that he was residing there. The affidavit notes that no one appeared to be living at the residence at the time of the check.
 Officials later determined that Green had been staying at a different address in De Queen, where he was taken into custody by Probation and Parole prior to his arrest on March 24. Authorities say Green failed to notify the sheriff's office of his change of residence, which is a violation of state law.
 In addition, the affidavit states that Green was found in possession of a charged smartphone at the time of his arrest, which is also a violation of his release conditions.
 Authorities noted that Green has prior convictions related to the sex offender registry and is aware of the requirements but continued to remain noncompliant.

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Facts About The **BIBLE** *BY JOHN LEHTI*

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THE PRIEST WHO KILLED!
 PHINEHAS THE PRIEST, WHO WAS THE GRANDSON OF THE HIGH PRIEST, AARON, WAS SO ANGERED WHEN HE SAW ZIMRI, A PRINCE OF ISRAEL, TAKE A MIDDLE EASTERN WOMAN INTO HIS TENT FOR LICENTIOUS PURPOSES THAT HE TOOK UP A JAVELIN AND WENT AFTER THEM INTO THE TENT AND THRUST THEM THROUGH! THIS, ACCORDING TO MOSES, PUT A STOP TO THE PLAGUE THAT THE LORD HAD PLACED ON ISRAEL FOR "COMMITTING WHOREDOM WITH THE DAUGHTERS OF MOAB." AN EVERLASTING PRIESTHOOD WAS PROMISED TO HIM FOR THIS DEED! (NUM. 25:1-18)

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 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.



Photo Courtesy of DIERKS HIGH SCHOOL

STATE COMPETITION WINNERS. The Dierks High School Land Judging Team won the Arkansas State Career Development Events competition held on April 2. Zach Hodges placed first overall followed by Krissyn Icenhower in second, Mason Smith in fifth and Connor Bailey in ninth.

Make Your Nominations Now Arkansas's Best Burger Contest

The Arkansas Beef Council has announced the return of the Arkansas's Best Burger Contest, a statewide effort to identify and recognize restaurants that exemplify quality in the preparation of 100% beef burgers. The contest reinforces the Council's commitment to promoting high-quality beef, supporting Arkansas cattle producers, and engaging consumers in celebrating the state's beef industry.

Arkansas is one of the nation's leading cattle-producing states, with thousands of family farms contributing to the state's agricultural economy. Beef cattle are raised in all 75 counties, making the industry a cornerstone of rural communities.

Cattle and calves consistently rank among Arkansas's top agricultural commodities, generating more than \$824 million in cash receipts each year.

Beginning today, Arkansans can nominate their

favorite burger at arkansas-beef.org. Fans may submit one nomination per day per email address through April 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m., giving burger lovers across the state the chance to rally behind their go-to local spots.

"We're thrilled to bring back Arkansas's Best Burger Contest and shine a light on the restaurants that take pride in serving high-quality, 100% Arkansas beef," said Caleb Plyler, a beef producer in Hempstead County and Chairman of the Arkansas Beef Council. "This contest isn't just about great burgers, it's about celebrating the farmers and ranchers who raise our cattle, the restaurants that elevate beef on their menus, and the communities that support them. Arkansas knows good beef, and we can't wait to see which burger rises to the top."

To qualify, nominated burgers must be made from

100% beef and appear on the restaurant's regular or special menu during the contest period.

Restaurants with multiple locations will have nominations counted individually for each site. Regional finalists will be selected, and the burger receiving the most nominations statewide will be crowned the winner in May.

Past champions include the Big Daddy Burger from Johnson's Country Cookin' in Melbourne and the Cave-man Burger from Bailey's Family Restaurant in Cave City.

The Arkansas Beef Council is a producer-funded entity dedicated to strengthening the state's beef industry through promotion, education, and research. The Council is governed by a seven-member board appointed by the Governor, representing cattle producers and livestock markets across the state.



Spring into Action Master Gardeners Tackle Seasonal Projects

By Dawson Bailey

Howard County Extension Agent – Agriculture

The Howard County Master Gardeners have been busy so far this year. They have started several beautification projects around the county, conducted educational programs for Farm Day at the Fairgrounds, and are preparing for a raised bed garden for Howard Memorial Hospital Compass Behavioral Geriatric Center. The Master Gardeners are looking forward to a great year of growing.

You may notice some flowers planted around the county with Master Gardener signs. These are projects taken on by the Howard County Master Gardener group. A few of the Master Gardeners have volunteered their time to beautify parts of the Howard Memorial Hospital. They have planted some concrete urns with flowers and greenery to add some color to the hospital. Another group has devoted time to beautifying the city of Dierks. Several pots and urns around the city have been cleaned up, drip trays added and planted. The Master Gardeners plan to continue with these beautification projects and want to keep adding color around the county.

During Farm Day at the Fairgrounds, different organizations have booths to promote agriculture to 4th graders throughout the county. This year, the Master Gardeners instructed students about the uses and benefits of sunflowers. These kids also got to plant and take home seeds and snacked on sunflower seed butter with crackers.

Another project they have started, is a raised bed garden at Compass Behavioral Geriatric Center. So far this year, they have cleaned the raised bed up, weeded it, and put up tomato cages. The Master Gardeners have it ready to go when it comes time to plant tomatoes, squash, and peppers.

A Master Gardener is a horticultural trained volunteer for the University of Arkansas. Their role is to extend research-based information through demonstrations and educational programs using horticulture best practices. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener or want more information, contact Dawson Bailey – County Extension Agent at 870-845-7517 or visit their booth at the upcoming Peach Blossom Festival in May.

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Johnce Lyle Parrish: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME
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Special exhibit of late artist's work opens to public Friday

Runs throughout April in Hope

HOPE - An artist who left his creative mark all over southwest Arkansas will be honored throughout April with a special exhibit hosted by the Southwest Arkansas Arts Council.

Johnce Lyle Parrish (1946-2025) was an artist whose life and work were defined by curiosity, craftsmanship, and an unwavering commitment to creative expression. Knowing he wanted to be an artist by age three, Parrish held his first one-man exhibition at just eleven years old. As an adult, he became known as a "Jack of All Trades," excelling in sign painting, remodeling, and large-scale mural work throughout the region.

Parrish's artistic practice extended beyond functional craftsmanship into the realm of fine art. He earned recognition for his sculptures, pen and ink drawings, watercolor on Yupo, oil paintings, and more. After retiring

from carpentry, he dedicated himself fully to his art, teaching classes, serving on arts-related boards, and contributing to cultural organizations including the Arkansas Arts Council, the Elberta Arts Council, the Fine Arts Center of Hot Springs, AmeriCorps VISTA, and the Howard and South Pike County Literacy Council.

His work has been exhibited in galleries, featured in publications such as A Gathering of Artists, and continues to live on in public spaces including the Glenwood Library and the Crater of Diamonds State Park Visitors Center. Since his death in April 2025, Johnce's work has been featured internationally through Bifarin Galleries. Johnce painted daily after retirement, driven by an internal need to create. Though the loss of his vision eventually prevented him from continuing to paint on canvas, his artistic vision

never faded.

As Parrish once said, "Art requires honesty. This makes me a seeker, so my art is about process, not product." This retrospective honors a life devoted to that philosophy.

The Parrish exhibit will be open exclusively to SWAAC members on April 9 (5-8 p.m.) before the exhibition opens to the public on April 10 (5-8 p.m.) and remains on view through the month of April during weekday morning hours.

For more information, contact the Southwest Arkansas Arts Council at swaac13@gmail.com or visit 200 E Division St Hope.

About the Southwest Arkansas Arts Council (SWAAC)
 The Southwest Arkansas Arts Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching communities through experience, expression, and education in all the arts.

Itinerary set for Bullock Family Reunion Weekend

The itinerary for the 2026 Bullock Family Reunion Weekend has been set with the event scheduled for July 24-26 and to include a full day in Howard and Pike counties.

After events on Thursday and Friday at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Hot Springs, the family will caravan to Muddy Fork, home of the Bullock Historic Memorial Garden located within the Polk Cemetery, Saturday for a headstone unveiling ceremony at 9 a.m. There will be six headstones unveiled and another one honoring a WWI veteran who's stone is already in place.

The headstones to be unveiled will include: Alice Bullock Benson (1904), Doc Amos Bullock (1924), William Bullock (1923), John Henry Bullock (1930), Viney Bullock (1944) and Alice Jackson-Bullock (1946).

WWI veteran John Wesley Bullock's headstone will be included in the ceremony.

The Saturday event will include remarks by Pastor Kenneth McCollough, Machella Jackson, Howard County Judge Brent Pinkerton and State Rep. Jimmy Hickey, Jr., and a special Butterfly release by Charlotte Carr and singing by Denisha Coulter. At 11:00, the group will travel to the former Bullock plantation house in Pike County before heading to the Crater of Diamonds State Park for a family picnic.

Family members from all over the country are expected to attend.

Delight man charged in Clark Co.

ARKADELPHIA - A Delight man has been charged in Clark County with felony theft of property and terroristic threatening, as well as misdemeanor county of harassment.

Brian Garrett VanCamp, 27, was charged April 1 stemming from an incident in January where he is accused of stealing a four-wheeler from a residence on Highway 26 in Clark County.

After the ATV was reported stolen, Pike County deputies reportedly found it at VanCamp's home on Depot Road in Delight. VanCamp allegedly confessed to the theft.

VanCamp is also accused of threatening the ATV owner after finding out there was a warrant for his arrest involving the theft and then harassing him again at a later date.

Howard County charge
 A Murfreesboro man has been charged in Howard County with domestic battery, furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles (delivering a prohibited article) and criminal use of a weapon.

Christopher Wright, 40, was charged in Howard County on April 1.

According to case information, Wright was arrested on March 12 following an incident at an apartment in Nashville where he allegedly was involved in an altercation with a family member. When he was taken to the county jail for booking, Wright was found to be in possession of "metal knuckles."

STEPHANIE LOCKHART
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World War I

When World War I began in 1914, it was a war that mainly involved European countries and Russia. The U.S. was not involved, but did agree with one side, called the *Allies*. Germany, part of the other side, the *Central Powers*, became angry with bank loans and ships bringing cargo to Britain (its enemy). Germany threatened to use its submarines to sink any ships going to Britain - even American ships. So the U.S., on April 6, 1917, declared war on Germany.

How Did the War Begin? Why Did the U.S. Get Involved?

1. in 1914, people in the small country of Serbia (in _____) did not want the Emperor of the large nation of Austria-Hungary to their north to rule their country

2. when the Austrian-Hungarian _____ Franz Ferdinand and his wife visited Serbia, they were killed while riding in their carriage

3. this was seen as an act of _____ and the countries of Bulgaria, Italy, Germany and the Ottoman Empire sided with Austria-Hungary (Italy later switched sides)

4. France, Great _____ and Russia lined up with Serbia

5. at the beginning of the war, _____ had the largest army in the world and sent the most soldiers

6. _____ were used for the first time during this war; at first called 'land ships'; the British shipped them in crates that were supposed to be holding water tanks

7. soldiers dug _____; lived and fought in them

8. during the first Christmas of the war (1914) some _____ on both sides agreed to stop fighting; they sang songs, gave some small gifts of food - and some even took part in a football game

9. France built a fake city of _____ hoping to confuse enemy fighter pilots

10. the U.S. joined in WWI (1917) after Germany's _____ sank American ships and Germany tried to get Mexico to side with them by promising land that Mexico had earlier lost to the U.S.

11. German U-boats sank over 5,000 _____

12. was the first war fought by countries all over the _____ and was so terrible, people felt that it must be the "War to End All Wars"

13. at the end of WWI (1919), Germany, Austria and Turkey had to sign a _____ giving up their colonies (lands they had taken over)

14. new _____ were drawn, some countries added land, some new countries were created too - the map of Europe changed largely to the one we see today

In Flanders Fields
 By John McCrae
 (First Stanza)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.

How Did Animals Help the Soldiers?

During the course of World War I, animals helped the soldiers in many ways. Some were mascots and cheered up the troops. Some animals saved soldiers' lives. Can you match each to how it was known to help the soldiers?

1. Jimmy the donkey

2. Winnipeg the bear

3. Sergeant Stubby (dog)

4. horses

5. terriers

6. pigeons

7. German shepherds

A. carried soldiers; pulled wagons
 B. born on French battlefield (1916); lifted hoof in salute; carried supplies and injured soldiers
 C. brought overseas by American soldier; smelled gas and alerted soldiers, saving lives; thought to be the greatest war dog of all time
 D. worked for Red Cross; went onto battlefields to reach wounded men; used to guard soldiers
 E. trained to kill rats in the trenches; were called "ratters"; saved troops from bites and diseases
 F. flew with messages; very dependable, and information they carried saved lives
 G. black bear cub brought overseas from Canada as a mascot, donated to the London Zoo

Family Life Pop Quiz
 Read each sentence. Circle T for true and F for false.

CLARK'S PORK & BEANS

During the war, family life changed. In England a lot of food had to be sent to the soldiers in the field, so people at home were asked to save as much food as they could. The government gave out cards so that foods in short supply would be shared fairly: sugar, meat, flour, butter and milk.

Clark's supplied beans to the troops.

1. A lot of men went to war so women filled their jobs. T F
 2. With moms working in factories, many children grew up without a parent home all day. T F
 3. Boy and Girl Scouts of America handed out pamphlets on how to buy candy to support the soldiers. T F
 4. Dried foods kept a long time so demand for them rose. T F
 5. When people went to see a movie, a film 'news' reel would be shown first. T F

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Spring Hill Bears interrupt Rattler's undefeated run Lady Rattlers improve to 2-7

The Murfreesboro Rattlers bid at perfection has come to a halt as the baseball season progresses in 2026.

The Rattlers opened play on Tuesday, March 31 with a 19-2 win at Horatio.

Murfreesboro jumped out to a 5-0 lead after one inning and 14-2 after two innings of play.

Asher Howard and Isaac Kuykendall both hit home runs in the game en route to their four RBIs each for the Rattlers.

Howard and Cale Humphrey (stolen base) would each come in to score four times for MHS.

Carter Gilmer had a double, two runs scored and three RBIs.

Hunter Cox and Kale Burns each had a double and two RBIs each.

Colton Tidwell added two runs and two RBIs.

Kuykendall started the game on the mound for the

Rattlers, allowing a hit, two walks and two unearned runs to go along with five strikeouts in two innings of work.

Cox would pitch an inning, striking out the side.

The next day the Rattlers hosted the Mountain Pine Red Devils, where the big inning offense again set them apart.

Murfreesboro held a 2-0 lead after two, and put 10 more runs on the board in the third en route to the 14-0 victory.

C.D. Morrow would drive in three runs for the Rattlers, while Kuykendall, Gilmer and Tidwell each drove in a pair.

Gilmer and Kuykendall each had a double for the team's only extra base hits.

Howard scored twice and stole a base.

Gilmer pitched all five innings for the Rattlers, allowing three hits and a

walk to go along with five strikeouts.

On Tuesday the Rattlers dropped their contest at Spring Hill 1-0. Game stats were not available by press time. See next week's paper for details.

The Rattlers, now 14-1, will host Camden Fairview this Thursday and will travel to Caddo Hills for a contest with the Indians on Friday.

SOFTBALL

The Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers notched a pair of home victories last week, defeating Mineral Springs and 7-5 and Mountain Pine 17-3 to move to 2-7 on the season.

After traveling to Spring Hill Monday, the Lady Rattlers will have hosted the Bismarck Lions on Tuesday. The team will conclude their week with a game on Friday at Caddo Hills.



Murfreesboro Diamond photo

BUNT ATTEMPT. Murfreesboro Rattler Asher Howard tries to lay down a bunt during baseball action last week in Murfreesboro.

Stavelly and Associates



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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LORETTA L. CORBIN 31 PR-26-23

NOTICE OF PROBATE-TESTATE

Last known address of decedent: 911 Ash St, Nashville, Howard County, Arkansas
Date of death: February 1, 2026

An instrument dated April 10, 2006, was on February 25, 2026, admitted to probate as the last Will of the above named decedent, and the undersigned has been appointed Executor thereunder. A contest of the probate of the Will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

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

This notice first published the April 1, 2026.

Katie Wesche, Executrix, by
Aaron R. Brasel, ABN 2009138
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PUBLIC NOTICE

SCHOOL CHOICE NOTICE for the UPCOMING 26/27SY

This is a public announcement. Public School Choice in Arkansas allows students to attend a public school in a district other than the one in which they reside. Applications for students in the following counties: Howard, Little River, Montgomery, Polk, and Sevier, must be postmarked, emailed, or hand-delivered between January 1st, 2026 and June 1st, 2026, to qualify for provisions under the Arkansas Public School Choice Act 2015.

Pursuant to standards adopted by a non-resident school board, a non-resident district may reserve the right to accept and reject applicants based on the capacity of programs, class, grade level, or school building. Likewise, a non-resident district's standards may provide for the rejection of an applicant based upon the submission of false or misleading information to the above-listed request for information when that information directly impacts the legal qualifications of an applicant to transfer pursuant to the School Choice Act. However, a non-resident district's standards shall not include an applicant's previous academic achievement, athletic or other extra-curricular ability, handicapping conditions, English proficiency level, or previous disciplinary proceedings, except that an expulsion from another district may be included pursuant to Ark. Code 6-18-510. Priority will be given to applicants with siblings attending the district. The non-resident district shall accept credits toward graduation that were awarded by another district and award a diploma to a non-resident applicant if the applicant meets the non-resident district's graduation requirements. The Superintendent shall notify the parent and the student's resident district, in writing, no later than the fifteenth (15th) calendar day following the receipt of an application, of the decision to accept or reject the application. Transfers shall be granted on a non-discriminatory basis. Students who have been accepted and enrolled in previous years do not have to reapply, as approved transfers remain valid for as long as the student attends that public school.

Superintendents of BOTH school districts must be notified by the parent of their school choice request.

Students may now transfer *intradistrict* through the school choice process.

(DMESC: 41, 42)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD SHARP, DECEASED NO. 31PR-26-31

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent: 681 Buck Range Road, Nashville, AR 71852

Date of death: January 31, 2023

On March 31, 2026, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by a distributee was filed with respect to the Estate of Edward Sharp, deceased, with the Clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Howard County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. §28-41-101. The legal description of the real properties listed in the Affidavit are as follows:

A tract of land being a part of the Northeast Quarter (NE-1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE-1/4) in Section 14, and a part of the Northwest Quarter (NW-1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW-1/4) in Section 13, all in Township 10 South, Range 27 West, Howard County, Arkansas, being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the NW corner of the NE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 thence East 1960 feet along forty line to a point on the North line of said NW-1/4 of the SW-1/4; thence South 600 feet; thence West 1960 feet to the West line of said NE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 to the Point of Beginning, containing 27 acres, more or less.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the distributee or her attorney within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate. Provided, claims for injury or death caused by negligence of the decedent shall be filed within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of the Notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate.

This notice first published this 8th day of April, 2026.

Dianna Sharp, Distributee
BY: Victor Martin, ABN 2018116
Attorney at Law
420 N. Main, Suite One
P. O. Box 922
Nashville, AR 71852
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Forging History Bowie heritage festival April 24-25 at Historic Washington State Park



The City of Washington, Ark., in partnership with Buck's Maintenance Service Inc., the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana Foundation, Arkansas's Great Southwest, and Historic Washington State Park, will host the 5th Annual James Black's Bowie Heritage Festival on April 24-25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival honors legendary bladesmith James Black, who forged the first Bowie Knife for Jim Bowie in Washington. Over two days, visitors will experience Arkansas heritage through hands-on demonstrations, skilled craftsmanship, and living history.

Events will take place throughout historic Washington, including the James Black School of Bladesmithing and Historic Trades, the W.P.A. Gymnasium, the Farmers Market Pavilion, the 1874 Courthouse courtyard, the Washington Methodist Church, and the Blacksmith Shop.

This year's lineup fea-

tures noted guests such as Bill Worthen, former director of the Historic Arkansas Museum and a leading authority on James Black, and JW Wiseman, a well-known bladed weapons demonstrator. They will be joined by world-class bladesmiths who will display their work and share the stories behind each piece.

Festival highlights include live forging challenges, a knife show, demonstrations, exhibits, and the James Black Arkansas State Cutting Competition Championship, organized by Mastersmith Jerry Fisk of Nashville, Arkansas, recognized as both a National Living Treasure and Arkansas Living Treasure.

Knifemakers and artisans will be on site selling and

showcasing handcrafted blades and traditional folk art. Re-enactors will bring history to life by telling the story of Jim Bowie's journey to Washington to commission his iconic knife.

Visitors can also step into the craft themselves with demonstrations at the James Black School of Bladesmithing and Historic Trades and the Blacksmith Shop, where the Bowie Knife legacy continues.

In addition to the bladesmithing focus, guests can enjoy historic building tours, surrey rides, food vendors, and activities for all ages in one of Arkansas's most well-preserved historic communities.

A special exhibit of authentic James Black knives and antique Bowie knives, curated by Mark Zalesky, will also be on display.

Admission is free. Parking is \$5.

For more information, visit bowieknifefest.com, @VisitWashingtonAR on Facebook, or call 870-648-5084.

Arkansas Grown School Garden of Year contest offers cash prizes to winners

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture, in partnership with Farm Credit, is now accepting entries for the annual Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest. Schools, early childhood education centers, and alternative learning environments that operated a school garden during the 2025-2026 school year, or plan to begin one in 2026-2027, are encouraged to apply.

"We're proud to support a program that gives students such meaningful, hands-on experiences," said

Greg Cole, President and CEO of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services. "When kids get the chance to plant, grow, and harvest food themselves, it opens their eyes to the role agriculture plays in their everyday lives."

"Investing in school gardens is investing in Arkansas's future," said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward.

Entries will be accepted through June 26, and the application is available online here.

Contest winners will be

announced in fall 2026.

Applicants may apply for the following award categories:

- Best Start-Up School Garden Proposal - \$500 Award
- Best Education-Based School Garden - \$500 Award
- Best Harvest Partnership School Garden - \$500 Award
- Best Community Collaboration School Garden - \$500 Award
- Best Overall School Garden - \$1,000 Award
- Champion of School Garden Sustainability - \$1,000 Award

GET YOUR RUNNING SHOES ON. The 2026 edition of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce Peach Blossom Festival, set for Saturday May 2 along Main Street, will include a 5K run that starts at 8 a.m. that morning.

Food boxes coming to Nashville's Sunset Church of Christ 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 inside 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. Next

Mobile Pantry is July 15, 2026.

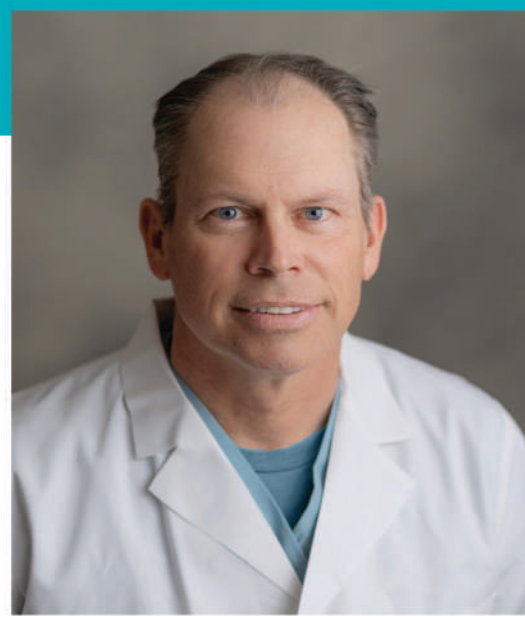
Recipients must bring updated DL with their current address or photo identification verifying they are a resident of Howard County and proof of address required. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

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All Conference, All State Bo Bell (right)



All Conference, All State, Top 5 in Class 4A Karstyn Scrivner (left)



All Conference, All State Ava Basiliere (left)



All Conference, All State Demetrus Shelley (right)



All Conference, All State, All State Tournament Emma Chambers (right)



All Conference Lyris Bennett



All Conference Sofia McCauley (left)



All Conference Angel Watson (right)



All Conference, All State Johnte Taylor (right)



All Conference Kiyanna Stewart (left)



All Conference, All State Jailyn Staggers (24)

Post-season honors

Nashville Scrapers

- Bo Bell - All Conference, All State
- Johnte Taylor - All Conference, All State
- Demetrus Shelley - All Conference, All State
- Jailyn Staggers - All Conference

Nashville Scrapperettes

- Karstyn Scrivner - All Conference, All State, Top 5 in Class 4A by Arkansas Basketball Coaches Association
- Ava Basiliere - All Conference, All State
- Emma Chambers - All Conference, All State Tournament
- Sofia McCauley - All Conference
- Kiyanna Stewart - All Conference
- Angel Watson - All Conference
- Lyris Bennett - All Conference

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

Enrique Bearden, Nashville

Enrique, a Scrapper senior, scored four goals in Nashville's 10-0 road victory over Malvern Thursday, April 2. With the win, the Scrapers are 5-2-1 overall, 2-1-1 in conference.

This weekly feature sponsored by **McDonald's of Nashville**
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