

Leader Board

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OPINION | 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

Local church to conduct kids revival April 17-19

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.

Peach Fest to be May 2; will include 5K Run

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.

The festival 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.



News-Leader photo/DEDE ROBINSON
Kinley Martin snares the ball in the Scrapperettes' win at De Queen April 7. (More baseball and softball, page 12)

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News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

REGIONAL MEETING. UA-Cossatot Chancellor Dr. Steve Cole gives an update and workforce overview of the Southwest Arkansas Community College Consortium at the State of the Southwest conference Friday, April 10, at Midtown Social in Nashville.

State of the Southwest Nashville hosts regional conference

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

About 200 business, industrial and community leaders gathered at Midtown Social in Nashville Friday, April 10, for State of the Southwest, a conference hosted by the Southwest Arkansas Development Alliance.

The two-hour session included a keynote address by the secretary of the Arkansas Department of Commerce, two panel discussions, an update on the Southwest Arkansas Community College Consortium.

Lunch was served during the presentations, and attendees had the opportunity to visit before and after the event.

Vanessa Weeks, Howard County economic development director, welcomed the crowd, many of whom arrived early to visit in the patio at Midtown Social before going inside for the speakers and lunch.

Weeks reviewed the history of the Southwest Arkansas Development Alliance, noting that it was formed "to bring education, economic development, industries and businesses together so they would communicate, work together and stay connected."

Progress "does not happen by accident," Weeks said.

SADA is headquartered in Hope and works with communities in 11 counties, including Clark, Columbia, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier and Union.

UA-Cossatot Chancellor Dr. Steve Cole was next on the program, telling about the Southwest Arkansas Community College Consortium before introducing the keynote speaker.

In 2013, officials from five Southwest Arkansas community colleges

See **State** • Page 5

Coaches reflect on successful seasons

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

For Scrapper and Scrapperette basketball, the seasons which ended at the Class 4A state tournament marked success and state recognition.

Both teams advanced to the state tourney, which was played at Morrilton High School.

The Scrapers were District 7-4A runners-up and third at the Class 4A South Regional.

The Scrapperettes were the undefeated District 7-4A champions and won the regional.

Both teams saw players earn All-District and All-State honors.

Scrapperettes

For Scrapperette Coach Paul Dean, "It was a great season. We were expected to be one of the best in Class 4A and overall. We were all season. The kids worked really hard."

Seven players earned post-season recognition, including Karstyn Scrivner, Ava Basiliere, Emma Chambers, Sofia McCauley, Angel Watson, Kiyanna Stewart and Lyris Bennett.

The Scrapperettes "came to work every day. They earned those accolades."

After winning the regional and advancing to state, the Scrapperettes fell to Batesville Southside in the quarterfinals. "I didn't have them prepared well enough," Dean said.

A slow start left them behind in the first half, but the Scrapperettes made a comeback in the third and fourth quarters and briefly took the lead before falling 63-60.

"I've never seen a team play

See **Season** • Page 5



News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

PLANT SALE. Mike Myers (seated, at right) and other volunteers from Nashville Community Gardens held a plant sale April 10-11 next to the Farmers' Market and Howard County Health Unit in Nashville. The fund-raiser included hanging baskets house plants, veggies, irises, herbs, succulents, trees, shrubs, flowers and more.



Submitted photo

LIBERTY TREE. Area members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution held a joint dedication of the Liberty Tree on the Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro Wednesday, April 8. Pike County officials participated in the event.

Liberty Tree dedication in Pike County

The DeSoto Trace Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Mine Creek-Paraclifta DAR chapter conducted a joint dedication of the Liberty Tree in Murfreesboro Wednesday, April 8, at the Courthouse Square.

Elizabeth Overton, regent for the local DAR Chapter; and Rodney Young, president of the DeSoto Trace Chapter of the SAR, were present for the event.

Others included Michael Myers of the DeSoto Trace Chapter of the SAR; Carrie McGaha, Arkansas State DAR Chaplain; Terry Haygood, Chapter Regent of the Arkadelphia DAR chapter; Sharon Whittedge, Arkansas State Recording Secretary; Judy Hile, Recording Secretary of the Mine Creek-Para-

See **Tree** • Page 5



Obituaries



Alvin Vaughn

Alvin Vaughn, 75, of Nashville died April 10, 2026.

He was born March 12, 1951, the son of the late R.C. Vaughn and Elsie Vaughn.

He was a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War where he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Bronze Star Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Devices and Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars.

After his military duty, he was a reserve officer in the Howard County Sheriff's Department for 19 years, and he was the maintenance supervisor for the Arkansas Highway Department for more than 40 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Rosetta Green Vaughn, and his brother, Ralph Vaughn.

Survivors include: two daughters, Angelia Vaughn (John) of Little Rock, Natalie Vaughn of Nashville; a son, Alex Vaughn of Nashville; a brother, Roger (Stacey) Vaughn of Mesa, Ariz.; also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be at Nashville Funeral Home on Friday, April 17, from 6-8 p.m. Graveside rites will be Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Camp Springs Cemetery near Columbus, Ark.



Teresa Gayle Fatherree Ross

Teresa Gayle Fatherree Ross, 62, was born March 12, 1964 in Nashville to Audrey and Howard Fatherree. She passed away on March 25, 2026, at UAMS in Little Rock Ark., due to stage 4 cancer. She was a Nashville High Graduate and her home church was First Assembly of God.

Survived by her mother, Audrey Fatherree Fritts. Children Amber Ross Avalos (Samuel Avas) , Tiffany Ross McGhee (Timothy McGhee), and her son, Justin Ross (Megan Ross). Her six grandchildren, Zaiden, Remington, Amelia, Leonidas, Brinley, and Ulysses, and her sibling, Darrell Fatherree (Diana).

She was preceded in death by her father, Howard Fatherree. Grandparents Mr. George and Mrs. Kline and her stepfather Clayton Fritts.

She worked about 14 years at Road Mart. She looked forward to retirement. Her hobbies included riding dirt roads, digging up pretty flowers, finding arrowheads and collecting antiques. Most of all she loved her family and grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held on April 18, 2026, at 4 p.m. at the First Assembly of God Church in Nashville Ark.

Galen Nelson Johnson

Galen Nelson Johnson, 78, of Maumelle, Ark. died April 6, 2026.

He was born in Nashville, Aug. 31, 1947, to the late Arthur and Bobbie Johnson.

He was a 1965 graduate of Nashville High School.

He was drafted to the Army in 1967, and his service included a stint in Vietnam where he was a gunner on helicopters. After the military he earned a BA in History from UALR.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Dr. Richard Johnson (Sheryl), and Jerry Johnson (Barbara). He lost his wife, Judi Johnson, in 1995 to a car accident.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Maumelle and was a member of Gideons.

Survivors include: his wife, Lisa Johnson; daugh-

ters, Lauren Richey (Mark), Becca Webb (Jason), and Brooke Gillum; also grandchildren.

Visitation was at Roller-Chenal Funeral Home (Little Rock) on Friday, April 10 from 6-8 pm. Services were Saturday, April 11 at First Baptist Church of Maumelle, followed by burial at

Pinecrest Memorial Park in Alexander, Ark.

Stephen Gosnell

Stephen Gosnell, 80, died March 31, 2026, at Texarkana.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Dana Gosnell, and son, Troy Gosnell.

Survivors include: his wife of 50 years, Margie Ann

Gosnell; his children Kevin Gosnell, Kendall Gosnell, Keith Gosnell, Stanley Gosnell, and daughter, Stephenie Combs; also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be announced later.

Arrangements are by Tri-State Cremation and Funeral Services..



VICTORIOUS BASKETBALL SQUAD. Members of the Howard County Children's Center adult basketball team placed second in the recent state tournament held at a facility in Benton. From left, team member Carrie Rand, coach Aaron Cooley, team members Martha Lugo, Jase Coleman, Billy Roach, Brodey Mills, Boone McJunkins and coach Kayla McWhorter. Not pictured, team member Cutter Ford. HCCC Administrator Rose Ray spoke to the club about the upcoming May 28 Radiothon fund-raiser which is sponsored by Rotary. The center serves clients from five surrounding counties.

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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



A dogwood tree was planted at the Nashville City Park in observance of Arbor Day 2005. The group includes Chris Carroll, Nashville Arbor Day poster winner; Nashville Mayor Mike Reese, Jonathan Crews and Betty Watkins of the AFC, and Ricardo Romo, Mineral Springs Arbor day poster winner.

141 years ago: April 1885
An effort was made to wreck the Arkansas and Louisiana train on Capt. Baird's farm in Ozan on Saturday afternoon of last week, pieces of stone culvert piping being laid on the rails in three different places.

The engine passed over the first obstruction without damage, crushing it to pieces, and the engineer detected the other obstructions in time to stop the train.

In an altercation between Joel Adams and Milton Compton near Centre Point last Saturday night, Adams was knocked senseless with a stone and Compton was dangerously stabbed in the right breast. Adams revived and is in custody awaiting the results of Compton's wound.

96 years ago: April 1930
Over 500 Pupils-Petitions are now being prepared for circulation in the districts affected, asking for the consolidation of several school districts of North Hempstead County with the Nashville School District, the consolidation to be under the provisions of the recent school law.

President C. G. Hughes of

the Nashville School Board stated that the proposed consolidation will affect more than 500 pupils, at least 75 of whom are high school students.

The Bingen, Tokio and Yancy districts are included in the list of school districts which are in the proposed consolidation.

70 years ago: April 1956
A third city officer was hired Monday and the Nashville's city council made plans for a stepped up enforcement of traffic laws.

Pete Gathright of 313 South Front Street was hired effective this week to serve with Marshal Otis Icenhower and Night Marshal

Cecil O'Bryant. The three will work on a varying combination of day and night hours to provide maximum law enforcement.

35 years ago: April 1991
A landmark Agri building in Nashville has been sold to a private owner who has eventual development plans.

On April 4th the final agreement was reached between Farm Credit Services - formerly PCA - and Faye Wade of Hope.

She said that she planned to rent out available office space in the building for a while before possibly developing it into a retirement center. The building is located at 625 N. Main.

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Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Apr. 2-8, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses
(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office)
Apr. 8. John Allen Bass, 51, Nashville, and Morgan Kay Baxley, 39, Nashville.

Civil Court
CV26-60, Apr. 2. Capital One, NA vs. Keeaundra Richardson. Debt.
CV26-61, Apr. 2. In the matter of name change of Joseph Tatum Kelley.
CV26-62, Apr. 3. Capital One vs. Baccor Faulkner. Debt.

Domestic Relations Court
DR26-32, Apr. 1. Kenneth Isham vs. Sabrina Isham. Divorce.
DR26-33, Apr. 6. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Elijah Baker. Support.

DR26-34, Apr. 6. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Kenneth D. Norman. Support.
DR26-35, Apr. 8. David Diaz Chavarria vs. Idalia Villatoro. Paternity.

Criminal Court
(NOTE: POCS = possession of controlled substance;
PODP = possession of drug paraphernalia; DOCS = delivery of controlled substance. Defendants are innocent until proven otherwise.)
CR26-21, Apr. 3. State of Arkansas vs. Avonte Gilliam, 19, black male, 912 E. Peachtree, Nashville; theft by receiving. Gilliam allegedly bought a firearm stolen from a Nashville residence.
CR26-32, Apr. 8. State of Arkansas vs. Sabrina Isham, 43, white female, 1134 Hwy. 355 S., Mineral Springs; POCS.

Land/Property Transactions
Quitclaim Deed
Apr. 6. Kerry Reed; to Steven Reed and wife Angie Reed; aggregate 3.6 ac. in S36 T8S R29W.

Apr. 6. (Correction) Sherry Pedron, widow of Timmy Pedron, deceased; to Kaylan Pedron; 0.89 ac. in S36 T8S R27W with easement.
Apr. 7. Archie Wynn Cothren and Holly Faye Cothren, managing members of Rosewood Ranch, LLC; to Archie W. Cothren and Holly Cothren, husband and wife; 2.21 ac. in S35 T7S R28W.

Apr. 8. Clayton S. Friend, Jr.; to Randall R. Chism; Lot 3 and part of Lot 4, Block 1, Holly Addition, city of Dierks.

Warranty Deed

Apr. 6. Jeff W. Winton and wife Malinda A. Winton; to Crystal Michelle Gray; Lot 4, Deerwood Estates Subdivision, Howard County, Ark. \$450,000.

Apr. 6. Dennis Hostetler and wife Linda Hostetler; to Lucas Paul Wray and wife Peyton Alexis Sprague; 1.23 ac. in S9 T11S R27W. \$95,000.

Apr. 6. Estate of Alice Sandra Holland McCullum by Executrix Kathleen McCullum; to HCMC, Inc.; 40 ac. in S26 T7S R28W.
Apr. 6. Dustin Cole Pedron and wife Katelyn Pedron; to Clifford Kroll and Samantha Kroll, husband and wife; 21.27 ac. in S36 T8S R27W. \$60,000.

Apr. 8. Jeffrey L. Miller and Sharon R. Miller, trustees of the Jeffrey L. and Sharon R. Miller Family Trust; to Stanton Miller; 5.14 ac. in S33 T11S R27W. \$700,000.

Apr. 8. William G. White and wife Dana White; to Fidel Lopez Ayala and wife Alejandra Mercado Pina; part of Lots 8-9 Block 1, Rigsby Addition, Town of Nashville. \$20,000.

Apr. 8. Terry Barnes, Terry Adams Barnes and Toni Seavers; to Michael Toliver; 0.23 ac. in S13 T7S R27W.

Apr. 8. KMS Investment Trust; to Boondocks Storage LLC; aggregate 1.03 sc. in S25/S36 T5S R29W.

Local authors invited to book signing at LR

Lee Ann Turner and Patsy Young, two local authors, were members of a group of Arkansas writers who were invited to a book signing sponsored by the Arkansas Author Association, chaired by award-winning author Michael Don Fess of Little Rock.

The event was hosted by the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind in the rotunda at the state Capitol building from 10 a.m. to 12 noon April 7.

Students from the school made decorative cookies for the visitors.

The book, *An Arkansas Anthology*, is a collection of writings by more than 20 authors from across the state of Arkansas.

The collection includes Satire, History, Op-Ed, Poetry and Inspirational articles.

An Arkansas Anthology can be found on Amazon books and all proceeds from sales of the book will be donated to the school.



At the signing were (seated) Lee Ann Turner, Newhope; (standing) Michael Don Fess, Little Rock; and Patsy Young, Dierks.

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For more information or to purchase chemicals call 870-845-4121 Ext. 3

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

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If we have missed anyone, Please accept our apologies... God Bless!

Thanks to all our sponsors for the record setting contributions!

Point of view

Hormuz Who? Iran doesn't stand a chance

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I am glad that 'we' have been able to freely and safely get through the Strait of Hormuz to bring oil.

No, wait. It's blocked.
No, wait, we can get through if we pay Iran.

At least we've wiped out their bad guys.
No, wait.

At least we've rendered their nuclear program useless. No, wait.

At least we've stopped them from bombing Israel. No, wait.

At least we've got the President's own taseteful Social Media poster of him in the role of doctor.

No, wait.

Mine Creek Revelations



By
Louie Graves



PEACH BLOSSOM 5k run. Neither me nor either of my regular readers can hardly wait.

The race will be a part of our chamber of commerce's annual festival which will be Saturday morning, May 2. The race will begin at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of First Baptist Church, and -- with their blessings -- will conclude in the same place.

If you're a participant, feel free to pass out and fall down.

Participants pay a \$35 registration fee for the pleasure of running, and they get a swell medal to show that they ran.

If the chamber really cared there would be someone at the finish line to hand out a large frozen Peach Daiquiri to each finisher. Non-alcoholic for Baptist runners. Baptist runners probably don't even know how to pronounce OR spell Daiquiri.

While they're gasping and running, I will be strolling up and down Main Street enjoying the annual event which salutes our non-existent peaches. I appreciate the growers.



NO BONE SPURS. Let me regretfully call your attention to the obituaries in today's newspaper of two local veterans of the Vietnam War.

Galen Johnson was a few years younger than I but I remember him and his family. Galen was drafted while in college. He served in Vietnam as a gunner on helicopters. He died of brain cancer a week ago in Little Rock where had lived since the military. He was an accomplished member of the medical community.

Alvin Vaughn, on the other hand, returned home between Nashville and Center Point after Vietnam. He was the road maintenance supervisor for the highway department for 40 years, and was a member of the Sheriff's Reserve for 19 years. Always cheerful and upbeat. He once told me he was offered the district highway job because he had operated tanks and heavy equipment on the ground in Vietnam.

Both outstanding men who served their country when called. Both cancer victims. Peace to their families and thanks to The Almighty for putting such wonderful people among us.



A WARNING FROM Outer Space.

Astronomers are giving us a heads up about Comet PANSTARRS which is supposed to be visible a couple of hours before dawn, low on the eastern horizon, on the mornings of Sunday and Monday, April 19-20.

Unfortunately the learned astronomers used the words "Naked Eye Sighting" with their news release.

That means:

1. The cops know I'll be standing nekkid on my driveway at those dates and times.

2. They will give me another ticket for indecent exposure. One for each day.

3. The District Court clerks will tsk-tsk and say the judge no longer lets me have a couple of months to pay off the fines.

Maybe I'll get lucky and it'll be overcast on those mornings but at least we're through with sub-freezing mornings for awhile.



LAND SPEED RECORD? Is any agency checking on the logtrucks that are currently going and coming through Nashville? They come in from the east on Hwy. 371, loaded, and head out that same way empty.

Fast? One was so fast last week that it had a sonic boom. I sincerely hope and pray that none of them ever need to stop quickly for a puppy or a doddering senior citizen.

When the trucks are eastbound they gain speed naturally because Bishop Street is a slight grade downhill. When the trucks are westbound they must gather speed early at Road Mart in order to haul their heavy bulk uphill. Either way, speed limits don't seem to apply.

IF Nashville was enterprising and IF Nashville had a duly appointed J-Turn Enforcement Officer and IF that exemplary officer volunteered his/her off duty hours then maybe the aforementioned officer could brandish his/her firearm and catch the attention of those jet jockeys.



MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?



HE SAID: "Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar." William Wordsworth, English poet



SHE SAID: "They think they can make fuel from horse manure -- now, I don't know if your car will be able to get 30 miles to the gallon, but it's sure gonna put a stop to siphoning." Billie Holiday, American jazz singer



SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Nashville News-Leader

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

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but the coronavirus threat isn't over.

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Presented in the public interest by the Nashville News-Leader

Governor seeks increased funding from Legislature for school vouchers

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

In 2008, Arkansas voters approved a constitutional amendment that established a fiscal session separate from the general session.

Legislators meet in general sessions in odd-numbered years, when they consider a wide range of issues. In even-numbered years, the Legislature holds fiscal sessions that focus on the state budget.

The Arkansas General Assembly convened the fiscal session on April 8th and will spend the rest of the month finalizing a state budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1 and runs through June 30, 2027.

Fiscal sessions last up to 30 days, although a session can be extended by 15 days with a three-fourths vote in each chamber.

Overall, the governor's proposed budget totals \$6.7 billion, reflecting a three-percent increase in state spending. Arkansas does not deficit spend or borrow to fund day-to-day government operations, so each year's budget must be balanced.

When the first Senate session gaveled in, the body officially installed Sabrina Lewellen as the Director and Secretary of the Sen-

ate. She replaces Ann Cornwell, who served the Senate for 45 years. Sabrina has held a variety of roles in the upper legislative body for 23 years.

Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court Karen R. Baker gave the ceremonial oath of office to Senator Brad C. Simon, who represents District 26.

He was previously sworn in after the February special election to replace Senator Gary Stubblefield, who passed away in September 2025.

The Senate then adjourned and joined the House of Representatives for Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders' State of the State address.

In her address, the Governor urged legislators to think about everyday Arkansans as they deliberate over her proposed budget during this session. That proposal includes boosted funding for Educational Freedom Accounts and increased pay for law enforcement officers.

Governor Sanders said she will convene a special session following this year's fiscal session to review a proposal to reduce state income taxes. Her plan calls for a two-tenths-of-a-point cut,

returning roughly \$180 million to taxpayers.

After the joint legislative session, the Senate reconvened to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Arkansas and to commend members of CASA for their work. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a national network of volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court.

The day ended with the first Joint Budget Committee meeting of the session. During the fiscal session, this committee will pore over appropriation bills and budget proposals.

The legislature's sessions are open to the public. You can attend in person at the State Capitol complex in the committee rooms or in the public galleries of the Senate and House chambers. You can also watch meetings live and on demand at <https://senate.arkansas.gov>.

You can read and download PDFs of the bills that have been filed for the session at <https://arkleg.state.ar.us/>. Click on "Bills" in the menu, where you can search by keyword or filing date.

Safe drinking water a vital part of economic growth in Arkansas

By U.S. Rep Bruce Westerman

Last week, I had the privilege of attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new City of Hot Springs Water Plant that will be responsible for delivering clean, reliable, and safe drinking water for thousands of Arkansans.

Exciting celebrations like these are timely reminders of just how important – and vital – water infrastructure is to the wellness of our local communities.

For thousands of years, civilizations have been built around abundant water sources.

A key element in urban growth, water still plays a vital role in shaping and sustaining our modern-day society.

Whether it's a drinking water storage facility, treatment plant, wastewater system, flood mitigation, or even a navigable waterway like the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS), reliable water infrastructure not only ensures residents have the supply they need for their own households, but it

also ensures a thriving ecosystem and economy.

Oftentimes, the word "infrastructure" takes our thoughts directly to the roads we drive on, the buildings that house our local businesses, and the power grids that keep our homes lit and warm. These are the tangible, physical structures that support our economic activity and transportation needs.

On the other hand, water infrastructure often goes unnoticed, either because of its literal inability to be seen or because we come to expect what they produce so readily, it tends to be forgotten. These systems allow our daily lives to function so smoothly that when working properly, they're hardly noticed and often taken for granted.

But when failure occurs, dysfunction and disruption can be felt almost immediately.

Arkansas is a water-rich state. According to the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, we proudly hold over 600,000 acres

of surface water.

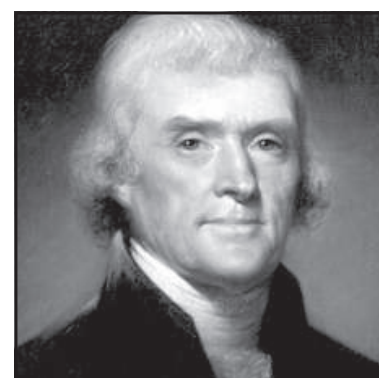
With 4.8 trillion gallons of water in our lakes, 200 trillion gallons in the ground, and Arkansans using an average of 157 gallons of water a day, our state relies heavily on a robust infrastructure system that can meet our demands and support this incredibly abundant resource.

Our growing state demands water infrastructure that can keep up with its pace.

I'm grateful to our state and local leaders for their proactive investment in updating our infrastructure to ensure safer drinking water while also supporting our economic and environmental needs.

Their dedication to mitigating flood risk to protect families, property, agriculture, and other economic infrastructure is also greatly welcomed.

I am always dedicated and proud to partner with our officials' efforts on the federal level to build a more prosperous, sustainable Arkansas.



"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.

State

Continued from page 1

met at SAU Tech in Camden to discuss economic development in their regions and determine ways in which they could help.

From that small beginning, the group went on to receive a multimillion dollar grant, Dr. Cole said, and the colleges started working with their respective communities.

"There's a lot going on here, and the two-year colleges are proud to be part of it," he said.

The chancellor returned to the lectern later in the program for an update on the consortium and a review of the workforce in SADA's counties.

In his introduction of Arkansas Secretary of Commerce Hugh McDonald, Dr. Cole said there are "people who talk and people who do. Our guest speaker is a do-er."

McDonald discussed the "Conditions of Success" with the conference attendees. "You're in the heat of the battle," he said. "Without local leadership, nothing happens. I appreciate all of you. You are creating the conditions of success."

Every community in a region "benefits when one county gets a factory. Open, honest dialog and friendly competition between counties is healthy. You're building trust every day," McDonald said. "We have to work regionally. We win when we work as a team."

McDonald said he is "so excited that they [the community college consortium] are working together. Community colleges are so important."

Arkansas "is on the rise," McDonald said. The state has made a commitment to an improved workforce and is working on a comprehensive workforce strategy.

By doing so, "We are creating conditions for success," he said. "Our mission is to champion the economic health of the state."

McDonald cited the decision by Cantex to open a facility in Nashville as an example of the state's success. Cantex acquired the former Husqvarna warehouse in a move which McDonald praised.

"It used to be that a building would remain empty for years when an industry closed. Now, it's only a year or two," the case with Can-



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

SADA Chair Anna Powell of Hope-Hempstead County Economic Development concludes the State of the Southwest program April 10 in Nashville. (More photos page 11)

west coming to Nashville.

"We have thriving industries in Southwest Arkansas. We're on the right trajectory," McDonald said. "There's momentum in our state. We need to keep pulling together. This is no time for a victory lap. There's more work to do."

Following McDonald's address, there was a panel discussion on infrastructure, utilities and economic outlook with representatives of the Arkansas Department of Transportation, Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, SWEPCO and the Genesee and Wyoming Shoreline Railroad. McDonald was the moderator.

A second panel dealt with Southwest Arkansas industry leaders and included representatives of Hostess Brands, Weyerhaeuser and Standard Lithium. Randy Zook from the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce moderated.

Between the panel sessions, Dr. Cole offered his update on the community college consortium.

"Community colleges figure out how to get it done. We're helping with every CEDS [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy] in our area."

CEDS determines the greatest needs and strengths in a city, county or other location.

"Housing is the highest need" throughout South-

west Arkansas," Dr. Cole said.

"Each of our colleges has assets. We're going to push them from Mena to El Dorado. We want to train students to build workforce housing" and meet other needs determined by CEDS.

Anna Powell of Hope-Hempstead County Economic Development and chair of the Southwest Arkansas Development Alliance, concluded the program.

Sponsors for the event included the following:

Presenting sponsor - Southwest Arkansas Community College Consortium

Regional partners - City of Nashville, FRIENDS (Sevier County Economic Development), Ideal Construction

Community partners - Albemarle, AR-TX REDI, Chevron, Developing Howard County, DNT Media, Exxon Mobil, Farmers Bank and Trust, Performance Services, Tyson Foods, Southwest Planning and Development District

Friends of the Southwest - Arkadelphia Regional Economic Development Alliance, Baldwin and Shell, City of Prescott, Cromwell Architects Engineers, Dmtar, El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, Hempstead County Economic Development, Highland Industrial Park, Sen. Steve Crowell, Siplast.

'Creating the conditions of success'

Hugh McDonald, Arkansas Secretary of Commerce

Season

Continued from page 1

as hard as they did in the second half," Dean said. "Sometimes, you just have a bad night. I'm happy with our team. One game really doesn't define you when you reflect on it."

The Scrapperettes "had a great year. I'm proud of our kids and wouldn't trade them for anybody," Dean said.

There were numerous highlights from the season, according to Dean. "We won our conference. We performed every night. We were expected to win, and everybody plays their best against you. On 10 different occasions, we got everybody's best shot and performed how we needed to," Dean said of the 10-0 District 7-4A record.

At the regional tournament played in Scrapper Arena, "Anything can happen. We stood up to the challenge and took care of business," Dean said.

"Anytime we go somewhere to play, everybody wants to watch us. They know who we are. They know these girls," Dean said. "When people come up and say the love watching you, that's a huge compliment."

The Scrapperettes represented themselves, their parents, school and community well, according to Dean. "They do things the right way. They played hard and acted right. Everybody can be proud of these girls."

Scriver has signed to play college basketball at Harding University

Chambers "is being recruited," Dean said.

Bennett wants to be a walk-on at Baylor University.

Dean is receiving online requests about Watson.

McCauley has a chance to play college softball, Dean said.

Players are involved in track, soccer and softball during off-season.

"I'm proud of them," Dean said. "We have a good group coming back" for next season.

Scrappers

For the Scrappers, "The kids did a lot of really good things. We didn't let any games we felt we should have won get away. Magnolia and Star City went to overtime. Both are good teams," Coach Aaron Worthen said.

The team overcame injuries "and the flu bug to go 20-5. That's not an easy thing to accomplish. It didn't end the way we wanted it to, but there's a lot to be proud of," Worthen said.

Going on the road "and beating a very good Fountain Lake team" was one of the highlights for Worthen. "They used to be a big conference rival."

The Scrappers were "deep into the season before we lost our first road game," an overtime decision at Magnolia.

The only other road loss came at state against Little Rock Hall.

Four Scrappers earned post-season honors, including Bo Bell, Johnnie Taylor, Demetrus Shelley and Jailyn Stagers.

Taylor set the school record for charges with 26. The old mark was held by Charles Jefferson with 24.

Shelley became the team's second all-time leading scorer behind Maurice Johnson.

Taylor is the fourth leading scorer.

"I'm proud of the kids. Four of our five losses were to teams in semifinals at state. Hall and Mills went on to the finals," Worthen said.

The Scrappers "were very talented. We got an unlucky draw with Hall" at state.

The seniors "left a legacy. They went to back-to-back state tournaments for only the second time in school history," Worthen said.

Looking to next season, Worthen wants his returning players "to see what we can put together."



Millie Sanchez controls the ball for Scrapperette soccer in a loss to Mena April 10.

Santiago Moreno inbounds the ball in Nashville's home win over Mena.

Tree

Continued from page 1

clifta Chapter; Fran Strawn, Registrar of Mine Creek-Paracrafta Chapter; Brenda Barham of the John Cain

chapter in Prescott; Velma Owens of Mine Creek-Paracrafta Chapter; Leanne Turner of Mine Creek-Paracrafta Chapter; Eddie Howard, Pike County Judge; James O'Neal, Mayor of Murfreesboro; were among those who attended.

After the ceremony was completed, refreshments were provided by the Pike County Archives and History Society located the highway across from the courthouse by Darlene Watson, Charlotte McCauley and John Gould.

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News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

NASHVILLE CHAMBER WELCOMES NEW MEMBER. Mary Carolyn Bailey and Tippy Toes, the official mascot of Topiary at Springhill Farms, were welcomed by the chamber last Thursday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The pair is pictured with chamber board members (from left) Tina Carver, Jim Pinson, Patrick Green of Green Media, NCC Executive Director Dena Tollett, Susie Berruquin and Maira Couch. The business is described as "a distinctive farmhouse boutique" located at 385 Springhill Church Road, Nashville, "offering a wide range of decor items from elegant to rustic."

Pike County starts push for alcohol sales

By PJ Tracy

Murfreesboro Diamond

The quest to get alcohol sales on the ballot for the second time has officially kicked off in Pike County.

According to the numbers provided by Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards, there are currently 6,184 registered voters in Pike County. That will require the group to obtain a minimum of 2,387 valid petitions (38%) to place the referendum on the November ballot for voter consideration.

The referendum failed by six votes at the polls in 2022.

Lisa Harvill said the effort has officially begun dispersing petitions to volunteers across the county that will help in collections.

While she said the effort currently has approximately 20 volunteers, she said more would likely be required.

Anyone that is willing to help with petition efforts — regardless of availability — is asked to call (870) 557-1860.

Harvill said that having achieved the effort once gave a bit of calm to the group this time around.

"Due to the success of achieving ballot placement four years ago, we now have a bigger interest group volunteering to cover the entire county with volun-

teers in Kirby, Newhope and Glenwood, as opposed to being Murfreesboro based. We are confident to get the referendum to the ballot for voters to decide on the issue in November," Harvill said.

An effort by Howard County volunteers to get the sale effort on the ballot was recently abandoned after they failed to gain enough volunteer effort and signed ballots.

For Harvill, the effort is all about the economic growth of Pike County.

"Our county has so much to offer -- but we are not tapping into all of our resources. Alcohol sales would drive economic growth and give us a competitive advantage over our neighboring counties."

She said the lack of "night life" and evening entertainment is affecting extended stays by tourists, who are leaving Pike County for a livelier atmosphere in many cases. In turn, Pike County is becoming more of a day-tripping destination.

"It's important because we need to grow into something more than just a day destination ... extended stays by tourists with a well-rounded experience will benefit Pike County immeasurably," Harvill said, noting that can include an

alcoholic beverage at dinner or entertainment options at night.

According to Harvill's research, roughly 60% of Americans report consuming alcohol annually, and about half or more say they choose to drink while on vacation.

"Tourists are often looking for evening entertainment—which may or may not include alcohol—but if it's not offered, they will often choose to go elsewhere."

Since the last election, two Murfreesboro based restaurants -- Tellinga's Mexican Restaurant and the Feed Bin Cafe -- both obtained private club licenses to sell alcoholic beverages. In addition, the State of Arkansas passed legislation in 2025 to allow state parks, including the Crater of Diamonds, to sell alcohol at the park.

"We have the opportunity to be so much more than we currently are, and we -- as well as the businesses that sell alcohol -- have seen no real negatives since they started doing so."

Overall, having more tourists will positively impact the growth of small businesses in the county. In addition, more jobs will help combat the population loss of the county, which is pro-

jected to fall under 10,000 perhaps as soon as this year.

"This is in a county that holds one of the most unique attractions in the nation," Harvill said referencing the Crater of Diamonds State Park. "For the people that say they want everything to remain exactly the same as it has been, we will begin to see more and more issues with the decline in population across the county."

Also, alcohol sales will benefit the county as a whole, and the individual municipalities via added revenue through tax collections -- which will benefit local residents.

"The extra revenue can be utilized to help fund infrastructure projects, city and county services, as well as reducing the county's dependence on grant funds that may dry up in the future. As we have seen in both Clark and Little River Counties, who both voted for alcohol sales, there were immediate gains to be seen to the tax collections."

For those that would like to sign a petition, can visit Harvill Insurance at 325 West Main Street, Murfreesboro or the Gypsy Underground Flea Market located at 111 West 13th Street, both in Murfreesboro, where petitions are available.

Howard County District Court

April 9, 2026

BF=Bond Forfeited

Howard County

Bearden, Donne L. Jr., 40, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$2,854 balance; committed to jail-suspended conditions

Deaton, William G., 69, Amity, \$333 BF, overload

Foran, Brad C., 39, Dierks, \$255 BF, speeding

Jones, Aimee Lalia, 19, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$160; guilty off failure to appear, fined \$260

Markcum, Michael Eugene, 55, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$3,760 balance; committed to jail for 30 days-suspended conditions

Mayes, Jonathan Brent, 44, Newhope, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460

Mayes, Lori N., 41, Newhope, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Robinson, Dustin William, 39, De Queen, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$2,920 balance

Ruth, Dakota A., 26, De Queen, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245

Wright, Tanner B., 32, Amity, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

City of Nashville

Abalos, Claudia E., 38, De Queen, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$425 balance; committed to jail-suspended conditions

Bohon, Kimblery, 59, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$125; guilty

of expired vehicle tags/ no vehicle tags, fined \$125; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Horn, Vanessa G., 40, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Johnson, Robert, 56, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$4,659 balance; committed to jail for 30 days; guilty of shoplifting, fined \$575; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$300

Lamb, Amanda M., 39, Nashville, guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$285

Mayes, Jonathan Brent, 44, Newhope, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$500 balance

Osorio, Richard, 53, De Queen, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Stacy, Cason Lane, 18, Lockesburg, \$245 BF, speeding

Williams, Kevin K., 53, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,987 balance

City of Dierks

Brock, Bo, 17, Dierks, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,125, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course.

Stokes, Chassity P., 35, Dierks, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Bench Trial

City of Mineral Springs

Vachon, Lauren E., 26, Dallas, Texas, possession of controlled substance, under advisement for one year to dismiss

Dierks High School students collecting items for Nashville Animal Shelter

A handful of students from Dierks High School have taken on the Nashville Animal Shelter as a community project and will be collecting dry puppy/dog food, cat litter, milk bone treats and cat toys until April 30.

There is a box in front of the DHS office for donations.

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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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Kirby man sentenced in two Pike Co. cases

A Kirby man was sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court to 12 years in prison in two different cases.

Nathan Peek, 46, pleaded guilty to felony charges of terroristic threatening and possession of a firearm by certain persons.

He was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Correction on each charge for a 12-year total.

The charges stem from an incident on June 13, 2025 where Peek made threats while armed with a gun.

Peek also pleaded guilty to being one of nine Pike County inmates charged with furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles—delivering a prohibited article involving an incident where marijuana was smug-

gled into and smoked in the county jail. On that charge, Peek was sentenced to five years in the ADC with five years suspended.

Conway man charge
Felony drug charges were filed April 10 in Pike County against a Conway man.

John J. McMurry, 44, is charged with possession of a controlled substance (psilocybin mushrooms) and possession of marijuana, under four ounces.

McMurry was arrested on March 30 during a traffic stop near Newhope. An alleged strong odor of marijuana resulted in a search of his vehicle where various marijuana products were located, including vape cartridges, THC wax and mushrooms.

McMurry was also cited for speeding during the stop.



BARGAIN BUYS. The Nashville Community Garden's annual two-day plant sale last week was a big success and drew in plenty of customers, including (above) Jeanette McConnelly and Judy Johnson, and newlyweds Mason and Kara Sillavan, who were shopping for plants to spruce up their new place.

News-Leader photos/JOHN BALCH

Umpire VFD benefit May 2

The Umpire Volunteer Fire Department will host its annual fish fry fundraiser on Saturday, May 2.

The event will take place at the Umpire Fire Department, located at 15790 Highway 278.

Serving will begin at 5

p.m., with an auction to follow. Dinner plates will include fish and chicken with all the fixings by donation.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward vital equipment and training for the department and its volunteers.

Delight Cemetery clean-up April 25

The Delight Cemetery Association will be hosting a Decoration and Clean-Up day on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 9 a.m. Supplies will be available to help clean up the cemetery and

gravestones.

There will be a meal of hot dogs, chips, dessert and drinks for those who come and participate. For more information, contact Celeste May at 501-941-9196.

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March freeze likely wiped out state's entire 2026 peach crop

By Ryan McGeeney

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

The 2026 Arkansas peach crop was likely eliminated during a mid-March weather event that saw freezing temperatures in the low 20s across the state.

Amanda McWhirt, extension fruit horticulture specialist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, said the preceding weeks of warm weather earlier in March had left most of the statewide crop particularly vulnerable.

"Unfortunately, peaches in many parts of the state had broken bud and were in full bloom," McWhirt said.

Peach flowers in open bloom are typically damaged somewhere around 27 degrees Fahrenheit, she said.

Arkansas farmers grow between 100 and 200 acres of peaches across the state, typically as one part of a larger operation, McWhirt said. Most Arkansas growers tend to prioritize early ripening peaches, which were easy prey for the low temperatures struck in March.

Although peaches are an annually blooming crop with no "second chances" during a given season, McWhirt is encouraging farmers to continue to irrigate and care for their trees to lay the groundwork for a healthy crop next year.

"But because peach trees don't have a crop on them, we have to be careful about not over-fertilizing them," McWhirt cautioned. "They'll wind up growing very aggressively, creating the need for a lot more pruning next winter."

The reduction or elimination of an Arkansas peach crop is not unusual, she said, noting that the state typically only sees a full harvest about one out of every three to four years. The routine impact on crops has, in fact, led to a decline in peach growing efforts over the past decade, McWhirt said.

Some varieties of blueberries were also damaged during the March cold snap.

"They were in a similar situation, having broken bud and were in peak bloom, particularly for southern highbush and some rabbiteye blueberries," McWhirt said. "In particular the southern highbush type is very early to bloom, and they're in a similar boat to peaches, where the majority of the crop was lost."

"If people had northern highbush types, they were still dormant," she said. "They've just now, in the past week or so, begun to flower. I think we'll have a fine crop with those types. But a lot of people have southern highbush because, again, they like the earlier fruit, particularly in central and southern Arkansas."

Arkansas farmers grow between 200 and 300 acres of blueberries each year, McWhirt said.

Thirsty Arkansas strawberry crop gets off to early start

By Mary Hightower

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Arkansas' strawberry crop is not only looking good, but is also running a little early this year, said Amanda McWhirt, extension fruit and vegetable specialist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Good thing too. Berries are flying off the shelves at the Ferndale Market, which noted on its Facebook page last week that it twice sold out of the fruit.

"Many growers across the state have been picking for seven days or more now," McWhirt said on Monday.

"Generally, there has only been minor damage from the mid-March freeze," she said. "Some blooms were killed in that event which will delay the start of the season for some growers in northwest Arkansas."

On the plus side, there's been little disease, likely due to the very dry conditions statewide.

"Growers are irrigating more this year than what has been typical in years past because of how dry it is," she said.

"Despite the freeze, I think we are still running a tad early, so there will be fruit for Mother's Day!" she said. "Hopefully temperatures stay cool and we can have a nice long season. If it gets too warm too early — with temps in the upper 80s-90s — things will start shutting down."

Cossatot River State Park hosting clean-up Saturday

Cossatot River State Park & Natural Area will host a Great American Cleanup on Saturday, April 18 from 9-11 a.m. at Brushy Creek Recreation Area. All supplies

and T-shirts will be provided and attendees are advised to wear protective, but water-friendly shoes and clothing. The event is open to all ages.

EHC GARAGE SALE

APRIL 17, 2026 – 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
 APRIL 18, 2026 – 8:00 AM TO NOON

425 N. MAIN HOWARD CO. EH CENTER

Reminder Proclamation ceremony this Thursday for Child Abuse Prevention Month

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.

Predicting poultry pathogens focus of free webinar on April 22

When it comes to identifying bacterial contamination in poultry, speed and accuracy become critical in protecting people and the state's most valuable agricultural commodity.

Aranyak Goswami, a computational biologist and assistant professor with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, uses advanced genomics and machine learning to predict and combat disease in poultry faster than traditional laboratory methods.

Goswami will host the next Arkansas Research Alliance Project Scope webinar on April 22 to talk about the methods he uses to analyze the complete DNA of harmful bacteria to identify specific genes responsible for outbreaks, which allows researchers and industry partners to respond quickly to emerging threats, reduce economic losses and improve flock health.

The free and public webinar will be held from 11 a.m. to noon CDT that Wednesday.

Goswami is a member of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station's Center for Agricultural Data Analytics and is affiliated with the departments of animal science and poultry science for the Division of Agriculture and the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

The experiment station is the Division of Agriculture's research arm.

According to the 2025 Arkansas Agricultural Profile, Arkansas is No. 3 in national broiler production with a value of more than \$5.6 billion. Broilers are chickens that are raised specifically for meat production rather than egg production.

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Bingen Volunteer Fire Department

503 Hempstead CR 27N • Nashville

Annual Fish Fry Live Auction and Raffle
Saturday, April 18

Meal for a minimum \$10 donation
 Serving starts at 5:30 p.m.

For more information follow us on Facebook at Bingen Volunteer Fire Department

AUCTION NASHVILLE, ARKANSAS ESTATE OF R.D. ROUSE SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 SALE TIME: 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION: 203 WEST CASSADY ST., NASHVILLE, ARKANSAS

NOTE: Mr. Rouse was an attorney in Prescott for many years. We have moved this estate to Nashville for better parking and location. We will also have other small items added to this sale. The sale will be inside and will be held rain or shine. Microwave, Cedar Trunk, Antique Buffet, Antique Dining Table & Chairs, Antique Curio Cabinet, (3) sofas, Antique Wardrobe, Bedroom Suite, Small Round Tables, Library Table, Refrigerator, Entry Table, Small Dining Table, Drop-Leaf Table, Antique Dresser w/ Mirror, Antique Rocking Horse, Dresser, Washer, Dishes, Glassware, Recliner, Lamps, Bar Stools, Cast Iron Skillets, Antique Fans, End Tables, Coffee Table, China, Many more items, Wicker Estate Small Air Compressor, Lincoln Welder, Floor Jack, Metal Work Tables, Delta Planer, Table Saw, Dixon Z Turn Riding Mower, Drill Press, Chop Saw, Spray Tank, Hand Tools, Power Washer, Stihl Blower, Carnival Glass Many more items, S 10 Chevy Blazer 186 000, Miles, Chevy Pickup, Pro Lift Car Lift, Big Air Compressor, Alignment Machine, Balance Machine, 18-4-34 Tractor Tires, 12-4-28 Tractors tires New, 10- R 22 Truck Tires, Truck Tires All Sizes, 20 ft Bumper Pull Trailer, JD Gator, Shop Fan, and many more items too numerous to mention.

Go to AuctionZip.com for complete listing with pictures.

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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING IN NASHVILLE AND DIERKS

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

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

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

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

Trial dates set for three; two sentenced last week in Howard County court

During the regular day for Howard County criminal cases, last Wednesday, trial dates were set for defendants who have entered not guilty or not true pleas.

On the bench was Judge Tom Cooper.

Trial dates were set for: Colby Westbrook, 29, white male, De Queen; charged with residential burglary and theft of property. A pretrial motions date was set for May 27.

Ulises Avalos, 46, white male, Nashville; charged with aggravated assault upon household or family member, terroristic threaten-

ing, and simple aggravated assault. Motions will be heard May 27.

Bethany Sigman, 31, white female, Nashville; charged with probation failure on her 2022 conviction. A probation revocation trial was set for May 13, and her bond was set at \$25,000.

Two defendants pleaded guilty and were sentenced:

Tiffany Green, 37, white female, Dierks; charged with 2nd degree forgery. She was sentenced to six years of probation and a fine of \$3,000.

Amanda Klin Lamb, 34, white female, Texarkana, Ark.; charged with two

counts of drug possession. One charge was amended downward and one was not pursued by the state. She was sentenced to five years in the Arkansas Department of Correction with a further five years suspended imposition of sentence.

A failure to appear warrant was ordered for Christopher Wright, 40, white male, Murfreesboro, who missed his court date on charges of 3rd degree domestic battery, and furnishing or possessing prohibited articles -- in this case brass knuckles. When apprehended he will not be granted bond.



NEWLY CERTIFIED IN PIKE COUNTY. The Arkansas Division of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (ADLEST) has announced the graduation of Class 2026-A from the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA) in Camden, including Pike County Deputy Brent Staggs, who is pictured here with Sheriff Travis Hill and Pike County Chief Deputy Shaun Furr. The 77 graduating cadets represented 46 various departments during their completion of an intensive training program designed to prepare them for the responsibilities and challenges of a career in law enforcement. Their time at ALETA has tested their strength, sharpened their skills, and reinforced their commitment to service. "Each graduate standing here today has earned their place through hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to doing what is right," said ADLEST Director Chris Chapmond. "They are entering a profession that requires both strength and compassion, and we are proud to welcome them into the law enforcement community." These cadets have received comprehensive training in areas including criminal law, firearms, defensive tactics, emergency response, and community engagement, preparing them to serve with integrity and professionalism.

Murfreesboro man's murder case granted continuance until Aug. 10

The case against a Murfreesboro man charged with second-degree murder has been granted another continuance with a pretrial now set for Aug. 10.

Gage Allan King, 24, was officially charged Sept. 18, 2025 in Pike County Circuit Court for the death of Daniel Cain Lamb, 44, of Delight on June 18, 2025.

A Sept. 3 trial date has also been set.

According to Pike County Clerk Sabrina Williams, the case was continued Monday while authorities await evidence from the Arkansas State Crime Lab.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed in the case in 2025, the Arkansas State Police was called in concerning a shooting that had occurred at 220 Pike City Road. An investigator arrived at approximately 12:46 a.m. at the intersec-

tion of Pike City Road and Highway 26 and observed paramedics and Pike County deputies were already on the scene.

The investigator was informed that Lamb had been shot in the chest by a suspect identified as King, who was later taken into custody by county deputies.

Lamb had left the scene of the shooting in a vehicle driven by Melissa Campbell, 52, who had driven to the intersection and was met by first responders. Lamb was pronounced deceased at the intersection.

ASP Special Agent James Avant interviewed Campbell in his patrol unit at the intersection. The agent reported that Campbell said she and Lamb went to 220 Pike City Road to "confront King regarding a prior incident" and that King had came outside holding a

gun. She said Lamb exited the vehicle and had begun to approach King when King fired the gun, which was reportedly a .22 caliber rifle. Lamb was able to get back into the vehicle with Campbell.

Campbell further stated that King had pointed the gun at her vehicle and that she drove forward and struck King with the front of her vehicle before fleeing the residence.

While King was in county custody, he told an ASP investigator that Campbell and Lamb had come to the residence and made threats towards him.

He said he went inside to get the rifle and that when Lamb exited the vehicle and began to approach he warned him multiple times to stop before firing the one fatal shot.

Bingen VFD fish fry benefit this Saturday

The annual Bingen Volunteer Fire Department fish fry, live auction and raffle will take place Saturday, April 18 at the fire

station, 503 Hempstead County Road 27 N, Nashville. The meal will cost a minimum of \$10 and serving will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Sign up now for Peach Blossom 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.

Pike County church to sing all night April 24

The Saline Church of Christ will be hosting their annual singing on Friday, April 24, starting at 7 until midnight. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome

to come and enjoy a night of singing and fellowship.

The Saline Church of Christ is located at 1248 26E., between Murfreesboro and Delight.

Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund issues donation report

The following donations have been given to the Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2026.

- \$240.00 --Winston Hile
- \$200.00 -- Gloria Hill
- \$100.00 -- Karen Goff

The upkeep of the cemetery is made possible by your donations. Mowing season is here and your

continued support will be appreciated.

Donations may be given to Marc Jackson, Margaret Byrd, Kayla Kuykendall, Mary Jean Barbre or Joyce Woodruff.

Donations may also be mailed to:

Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 185, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958

FOR SALE

This 60 acres near Old Washington and 2 miles from Grandview Wildlife Management Area is a **Hunter's Dream**. Lots of oak and pine timber and a beautiful creek running through the middle plus a pond. Access is through a locked gate with a gravel timber company road that dead ends into the property. The area around the property is leased and controlled which makes this place very private. **\$165,000.**

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World of Oceans!

Would you like to live in a house under the ocean? It might be possible, but we don't know enough about the world's oceans yet to be able to build cities and live in the sea. Oceanographers, scientists who study the ocean, hope to unlock its many secrets. They study how the ocean affects our earth and our lives. They watch the effect our actions have on the oceans and ocean life.

You can be an "oceanographer" for a few minutes. Look at a flat map of the world or run your finger along a globe to see how the world's oceans join into one huge global or "world ocean." Notice how the continents (large land masses) divide the world ocean into four or five large oceans (depends upon the map or globe).

Please help to keep all bodies of water clean!

The oceans cover more than 70% of the earth and contain 97% of its water. **Use a globe or map to fill in the crossword:**

- Which ocean is the largest and deepest?
- This ocean lies between North America and Europe.
- Some people say that this ocean is part of the Atlantic Ocean. It is the water north of Asia, Europe and North America.
- This ocean is east of Africa and south of Asia.
- The waters of this ocean surround Antarctica. Some say it is only the southern parts of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Fighting Water Pollution

If water at a beach or in a stream has high levels of bacteria or other pollution problems, it may be unsafe to swim in or eat its fish.

Match the numbered phrases to their second parts to see how people can fight water pollution:

- as much garbage and trash as we can
- to help cut back on pollution from cars that can cause acid rain
- all trash we produce while hiking, biking, picnicking or visiting the beach
- any household or boating products into the water
- spills from ships and factories that hurt plants and animals in the water
- all medical waste

Gifts from the Ocean

We fish the ocean for food. We travel on it. The ocean gives us many gifts! **Can you find and circle some of these gifts below?**

What will happen if I just pull on this a little....?

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P	T	S	B	G	T	D	E	A	S	Z	K	J	Y	V	T	O	J	A	M	O	Y	G	T	L	O	Y	R
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J	W	A	T	E	R	P	I	J	M	G	T	F	A	E	D	C	G	H	O	P	M	O	H	F			

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How SW ARKANSAS PLAYED THE LOTTERY IN MARCH 2026

County	Cash 3	Cash 4	Fast Play	Instant Settlement	New Lotto	Lucky for Life	Mega Millions	Natural State	Power Ball	Total Sales
Hempstead	\$71,220	\$32,762	\$11,653	\$450,662	\$2,504	\$6,790	\$5,390	\$2,299	\$9,967	\$593,247
Howard	57,660	18,341	13,376	28,793	1,722	4,140	3,570	1,626	5,739	384,967
Little River	6,671	4,840	2,999	164,075	1,008	2,795	2,500	1,322	4,763	190,973
Pike	802	662	6,229	142,927	2,034	4,030	2,550	1,710	4,994	165,938
Sevier	6,262	300	1,785	228,895	1,772	4,860	1,870	2,295	6,080	254,119
State Total	\$1,126,219	\$636,515	\$1,327,642	\$43,122,680	\$636,396	\$1,303,390	\$1,072,710	\$560,856	\$1,741,720	\$51,528,128

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

SOURCE: Arkansas Lottery Commission

Incident that played out in Nashville involving Prescott coach under investigation

An incident that played out last week at Scrapper Stadium during a recent track meet has resulted in a Prescott coach being placed on paid administration leave after being accused of sending inappropriate messages to a 15-year-old girl from another school district.

The Prescott School District said last week the coach is on leave pending the results of an investigation triggered by the incident. The unnamed coach is also an instructor in the school's alternative learning center and coaches track

and football.

The school district posted the following messages last week:

"The district became aware of a social media post that was made from a track meet at Nashville High School at which a staff member was confronted by two people who were evidently broadcasting live on Facebook. Once administration was made aware, the staff member was immediately removed from the premises, taken home by

the District, and notified that they were not to return until a meeting could be held this morning with the District Superintendent."

The two people who confronted the coach during the track meet and live-streamed the encounter are associated with the social media group "Preds vs Prey." The group's stated goal is to expose alleged child predators and bring attention to potential criminal behavior, often broadcasting encounters live on social media platforms.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLENE SHARP, deceased 31PR-26-36

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND FILING OF CLAIMS

Estate of CHARLENE SHARP, deceased

Address of decedent: 2539 Mt. Pleasant Dr. Nashville, AR 71852
Date of Death: JANUARY 26TH, 2026

The undersigned person was appointed Administrator of the estate of the above-named decedent on the 10th day of April, 2026.

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

This notice first published the 15th day of April, 2026.

Sherri Lynn Marshall
Administratrix
P.O. Box 810,
De Queen, AR 71832
Mailing Address

Prepared by:
Erin Hunter
Attorney at Law
(EH: 43, 44)

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Jodi King, Sales Agent: 870-557-0747

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: KIRK ALAN BELL
31 PR-26-30

NOTICE OF PROBATE-INTESTATE

Last known address of decedent: 517 S. Crawford, Mineral Springs, Howard County, Arkansas
Date of death: October 24, 2024

Lesla Bell was appointed the Administratrix of the Estate of Kirk Alan Bell, by order dated April 1, 2026. All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published the 15 day of April, 2026.

Lesla Bell, Administratrix, by
Aaron R. Brasel, ABN 2009138
Post Office Box 813
Nashville AR 71852
(870) 845-4100 – Telephone
(AB: 43, 44)

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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
(870) 845-5256 phone
(VM: 42, 43)

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Audien Hearing

State of the Southwest brings economic officials to Nashville

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



About 200 officials from 11 counties gathered at Midtown Social Friday, April 10, for State of the Southwest, hosted by the Southwest Arkansas Development Alliance.



UA-Cossatot Chancellor Dr. Steve Cole (second from left) visits Cossatot Ambassadors Noel Rostro, Mariana Castillo and Keytlyn Hernandez.



Arkansas Secretary of Commerce Hugh McDonald speaks at State of the Southwest.



Howard County Economic Development Director Vanessa Weeks welcomes the crowd to Nashville.



Gail Hearnberger, Dr. John Hearnberger and State Rep. Dolly Henley visit before the meeting.



Industry leaders from Weyerhaeuser, Standard Lithium and Hostess Brands hold a panel discussion April 10 at State of the Southwest.



Howard County Judge Brent Pinkerton (right) talks to Clint O'Neal, executive director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, after the meeting was over. Pinkerton and Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway met with Secretary Hugh McDonald and O'Neal in Little Rock the morning after Husqvarna announced the closing of its Nashville operation. The state officials wanted a face-to-face meeting with Dunaway and Pinkerton to help the community and county move forward.



Carsyn Murphy of Little Rock, administrative coordinator of the Arkansas Waterways Commission, was among the crowd at State of the Southwest. She is the granddaughter of Louie Graves and the late Jane Graves of Nashville.

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Scrappettes, Scrappers go 7-0 last week

News-Leader photos/DEDE ROBINSON, JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Hayden Gray bats for the Scrappers in their 3-2 District 7-4A win at De Queen April 7. They also defeated the Leopards 4-3 April 10 at Wilson Park.



Teammates congratulate Scrappette senior Landyn Tompkins on a home run against De Queen in Nashville's road win April 7. The Scrappettes added another conference victory over the Leopards April 10 at Futrell Field. Also last week, Nashville defeated Bauxite and Fouke in non-conference games.



Brayley Lowery and Ava Brown return to the dugout after back-to-back scores at De Queen.



Parker Tate makes the throw for an out at De Queen.



Carson Kirby arrives safely at first base against De Queen. The Scrappers defeated De Queen twice and earned a non-conference win over Lakeside last week.



Maddon Arnold gets the out in the victory at De Queen.



Karson Chambers pitches in the home win over De Queen.



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Rayleigh Harmon records a hit against De Queen.



Baylee Smith pitches in the home win over Fouke.



Coach Zack Stewart confers with the Scrappers during their victory over De Queen at Wilson Park.

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	SERVICE AND HANDLING	+\$130
	Sale Price⁶	\$36,597

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

Hayden Gray, Nashville

Hayden, a Scrapper senior, made the game-winning hit to drive in Peyton Fritts in the bottom of the 7th inning during Nashville's 4-3 District 7-4A win over De Queen Friday, April 10, at Wilson Park.

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