

Leader Board

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OPINION | 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

MS church to sponsor soup kitchen on April 22

The Mineral Springs Church of Christ soup kitchen will be Wednesday, April 22, from 2-5 p.m.

The menu includes sandwich, chips and cookies.

Pantry boxes will be available.

The church is located at 318 Bridgeman Drive.

Citywide clean-up continues in Nashville

The City of Nashville has revived a popular citywide Spring Cleanup Week tradition.

The cleanup is underway through Sunday, April 26.

Residents are invited to place clean up debris into dumpsters which will be located:

Behind the fire station on Washington St.

At the intersection of Sandhill and 27 Bypass.

Behind the Toland Heights fire station.

At the Howard County Fairgrounds.

The city requests that all items be placed directly into the dumpsters, leaving no trash on the ground.

OCC workshop planned May 2 in Glenwood

An Operation Christmas Child Workshop will be held Saturday, May 2, from 1-6 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 904 Highway 70 West, Glenwood.

Guest speaker Lyda Giedd received a shoebox as a child in Cambodia. She will share her story of what the box meant to her from 5-6 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served during the workshop.

Inside the News-Leader
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Youngster captivates NSD board with reading

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

The Nashville School Board took care of several items related to the 2026-27 academic year during the group's meeting Monday, April 20.

Board members hired a school photographer, re-employed faculty and staff, approved the contract for summer floor upkeep, and named a new principal at Nashville Elementary (see related story).

But the real star of the evening was Anari Beth, a kindergartner from Nashville Primary School.

Anari read *Love Monster and the Perfect Present* to an enthralled audience of board members, school personnel and family.

Kindergarten teacher Casey Goodwin held the book and turned pages as Anari read the story.

Afterward, Goodwin said the youngster loves to read any time she gets a chance.

She's so good at it that Nashville Junior High Principal Hannah Topor invited her to read to a couple of classes at NJHS before they go into the state-mandated ATLAS testing.

Superintendent Doug Graham and the board members invited Anari to join them for a picture after her presentation.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

APPRECIATIVE LISTENERS. Kindergarten student Anari Beth (center, with books) shows Nashville School Board members the book she read and the one she almost read during their meeting Monday, April 20. The group includes (front) David Hilliard, Nick Britt, Anari Beth, Tem Gunter and Anthony Whitmore; (back) Superintendent Doug Graham and Jerry Wilson.

Kids are always a tough act to follow, but the board worked through the meeting agenda after thanking Anari for coming.

Members approved a recommendation from Graham that the board hire Heritage Portraits of Van Buren as the district's photographer.

Heritage served more than 150 schools across Arkansas and Oklahoma, according to the company's website. Services include fall and spring portraits, groups, special events, senior portraits and others.

Several area schools similar in

enrollment to Nashville use Heritage, Graham said.

NHS Principal Ashley Riggs said other schools report Heritage is "easy to deal with, and they send plenty of workers. They're looking at doing our senior portraits in May."

Those who want to come photograph Homecoming and other events will still have the opportunity to do so, according to Graham.

Heritage will replace Lifetouch after Nashville and a number of other schools severed ties with the photography firm over alleged

connections between a former company official and the late Jeffrey Epstein.

The schools also cited lack of communication and poor service as a reason for dismissing Lifetouch.

In other business, the board approved a summer floor contract with Boom Boom Floor Shine.

The company has cleaned and waxed the district's floors during the summer for several years and has earned high marks from

See School • Page 5

Teacher to become elementary school principal

The Nashville School Board Monday named Tabitha Jones the new principal at Nashville Elementary School for 2026-27.

The vote to hire Jones for the position was 5-0.

Jones currently teaches fifth grade language arts at Nashville Elementary.

She will succeed Tyra Hughes, who is retiring at the end of the academic year.

Jones is a 2002 graduate of Nashville High School.

With the selection of Jones, administrative positions in the district are filled for the upcoming year.

Washington-on-the-Brazos



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

The schoolhouse where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed.

By Don Hall
News-Leader staff

Texans are proud of their state, with good reason, and they like to say, "Everything's bigger in Texas."

We Arkansans know that everything is *better* in Arkansas, but we don't tell Texans; we want them to stay where they are.

As Americans migrated to Texas in the early 1800s, many of them followed the Southwest Trail, which stretched from St. Louis to Fulton, Ark.

There they could take the ferry across the Red River, from the Promised Land (Arkansas) into Texas.

Their last stop on the journey into the wilder-

ness would have been our neighbor to the south, Washington.

Founded in 1824, Washington had stores, hotels, taverns, a blacksmith shop (where the Bowie knife was invented,) and was host to Jim Bowie, Sam Houston and Davy Crockett in the 1830s as they rested there on their way to Texas.

Now here's where it gets interesting.

Until the railroads came, rivers were the superhighways in Texas. The Brazos River runs from Abilene, west of Fort Worth, southward, ending at Freeport, between Houston and

See Town • Page 5

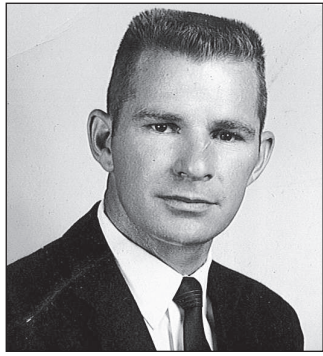


News-Leader photo/DON HALL

MUSEUM SITE. Jaree Hall of Nashville stands at the entrance of the Star of the Republic Museum in Washington, Texas.



Obituaries



Samuel Reeder McCullough

Samuel Reeder McCullough of Nashville, Ark., passed away on 4-18-26 at the age of 95. Of course, he was a little upset as his goal was to make it to 100. He loved life, and did not want to miss out on anything. Whether it was a potluck, Scrapper game or church. But, especially Scrapper activities and visiting with family and friends.

He was born in Nathan, Ark., on 11-17-30 and raised in a family of 12. He was Member the Sunset Church of Christ. Preceded in death by his parents, John T. and Delia McCullough, his loving wife Emma Nell McCullough, son Rick McCullough, grandson Myles McCullough. As well as many brothers and sisters. And his fur children Cowboy and Bernie Mac. He is survived by daughter, Rita Simpson, daughter-in-law, Teresa McCullough. Sister, Vickie Mc Mahan. Granddaughters Heather Berhalter, Sara McCullough DeBuhr, Jessica McCullough, Andrea Simpson and grandson, Jon Simpson. His loving great-grandchildren, Sam McCullough, Lilly and Lucas McCullough, Grant, Reed and Archer Berhalter, Lev and Inola DeBuhr, Harriet and Virginia Simpson and numerous nieces and nephews and extended family.

His early years were spent in the metropolis of Nathan where he attended early education until consolidated with Murfreesboro. He grew up during difficult times, a child of the depression which engrained in him a sense of saving and making do with what you are given. See us if you need some "stuff." Although, this did not stop him in his later years from numerous Publishers Clearing House orders. And yes, he always kept those entries because he was going to win!

He transferred to Nash-

ville High School, where he played football and as he tells it, finally as a senior became quarterback. He said "I thought they would never ask! I don't know what was wrong with them, and why it took so long." If you don't know, he certainly had a competitive spirit. He proudly noted that he played when there were limited players, so you played offense and defense. A time as he noted, when men were men and no time for whining. He loved supporting the Scrappers. He was a super fan. As evidenced by him still wanting to make sure his season football tickets were paid for this fall.

He started working at the Coca-Cola plant out of high school 1949-53. He knew Emma growing up and says he was smitten at 15 with that first kiss and knew he would marry her. He confessed he never left her alone. They married in 1950 and as he recalled it, he saved Emma from the dreaded peach orchard work when she finally gave in and agreed to marry him. It is not clear if that was Emma's story.

He joined the military during the Korean conflict and was stationed at Ft. Sills artillery training, fire direction, and remained stateside. He had a great joy in becoming a barber and worked and trained at Barksdale AFB which allowed him to move back to Nashville in 1964 and raise his family in a much beloved community and once more to be a Scrapper.

He was a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, friend and mentor. He enjoyed meeting people, socializing. He supported the Scrappers whether through the barbershop, at games, or making pies for sports snack times. He cut hair for many generations of families over the years. He loved multi-generational connections. He would tell funny stories about cutting kids hair and getting in trouble particularly for a few girls haircuts. The girls would tell him that Mom gave them permission for a questionable cut such as flat top or Mohawk. He tells of Ruth Ann Futrell, who received by his standard, a good looking flat top, but Mama didn't think it was so great. "Boy was I in trouble with Mama." Lesson

learned!

He was a high school football referee for many years. A fisherman, hunter, beekeeper, animal lover, hardener, cook and baker. Not too much of a cleaner. A lover of AM coffee and one of America's main food groups, Little Debbie Donut sticks. As we often had to transport Little Debbie contraband from Kansas as Walmart was always out and Amazon always crushed his donut sticks.

He was fiercely independent and had the stubborn McCullough gene. But, that also served him well. That stamina and perseverance kept him going strong for years with repeatedly delaying retirement. After retiring in his 80's, to stay busy, he built by himself a replica of Emma's grandmother's one room house, which became a great playground for the grandkids. He took care of Emma in his retirement as her health declined. He continued cutting hair at the nursing homes and private homes for those that had the need. As he said, it was great to cut hair for the old people. Forgetting he was older than many of them.

He enjoyed his church family, as well as friends and community. He painfully realized he had outlived many of his friends and family and missed them so.

He was loved and will be missed by many.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2026, in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Nashville. Interment will follow in Academy Cemetery near Nathan, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.



Betty Jean Coulter

Betty Jean Coulter, 89, of Mineral Springs, Ark., entered into the presence of her Savior on April 10, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Tollette, Ark., to the late Samuel Odie and Verna B. Johnson. Preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Cleophus Edward Coulter.

Mother Betty Coulter was a woman of unwavering faith whose love for the Lord shone through every aspect of her life. She leaves to cherish her memory, 3 daughters and 2 sons: Wanda Jean Anderson, Jacquelyn Louise Anderson, Anthony Lewis (Sabine) Coulter, Wayne Edward (Bree) Coulter, and Julie Ann Coulter who preceded her in death, 11 Grandchildren and 8 Great-Grandchildren. As well as a host of many relatives and friends.

Visitation will be Thursday, April 23, from 3-5 p.m. at Hicks Funeral Home in Hope. Funeral services will be Friday, April 24, 2 p.m. at Williams Memorial Church of God in Christ, Nashville.

Stephen Gosnell

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

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 Saturday, April 25, at 1 p.m. at First Christian Church in Murfreesboro.

Academy Cemetery seeks donations for upkeep

Mowing season and upkeep of Academy Cemetery is underway and is possible by donations.

Donations may be sent to:

Gary L. Cox, 27 Bacon Creek Farm Rd., Nashville AR 71852.

Basel Cox, 11 Bacon Creek Farm Rd., Nashville.

Jimmy Goodwin, 122 Britt Rd., Nashville.

The cemetery committee asks that flowers on the ground be removed.

Sentences for six delivered in court

During Howard County's regular day for criminal court, last Wednesday, sentences were handed down for six defendants who pleaded guilty or true to charges.

The true plea was Ronald Eskew, 41, white mail, Nashville, who was charged with probation violation. He was convicted in 2022 of a pair of terroristic charges. For the violation of the probation he was sentenced to two years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC), plus another four years suspended imposition of sentence.

Charles Edward Horton, Jr., 28, black male, Hope, pleaded to a charge amended down in classification. He was sentenced to three years in the ADC plus seven years suspended imposition of sentence.

Revienna George, 41, white female, Nashville, also pleaded guilty to amended charges. She was sentenced to eight years in the ADC plus 10 years suspended imposition of sentence.

Javarez D. Carthorne-Brown, 24, black male, Nashville, also pleaded to amended charges, originally terroristic acts. He was sentenced to six years of probation plus 120 days in the county jail.

Nickolas Lemons, 33, white male, Nashville; originally charged with 1st degree criminal mischief, was sentenced to four years in the ADC plus two years suspended imposition of sentence. Must make restitution to the sheriff's office for damages at jail.

Portia Gray, 43, white female, Nashville, was charged with two drug-related charges, one of which was not pursued. She was sentenced to three years in the ADC with three years suspended of sentence.

A not plea was heard by Sabina Ishma, 43, white female, Mineral Springs, who is charged with possession of controlled substances. Pretrial motions will be heard June 24.

The May 12 trial date was affirmed for Stanley W. Gosnell, Jr., 53, white male, Murfreesboro, who is charged with two counts of drug possession; one count of drug paraphernalia possession; and tampering with physical evidence. Sixty-five potential jurors will be called.

A failure to appear warrant was ordered for Donte Gilliam, 21, black male, Nashville, who missed court appearances to face a separate pair of felony charges. Court documents note that he is incarcerated in Oklahoma. His bond was revoked.

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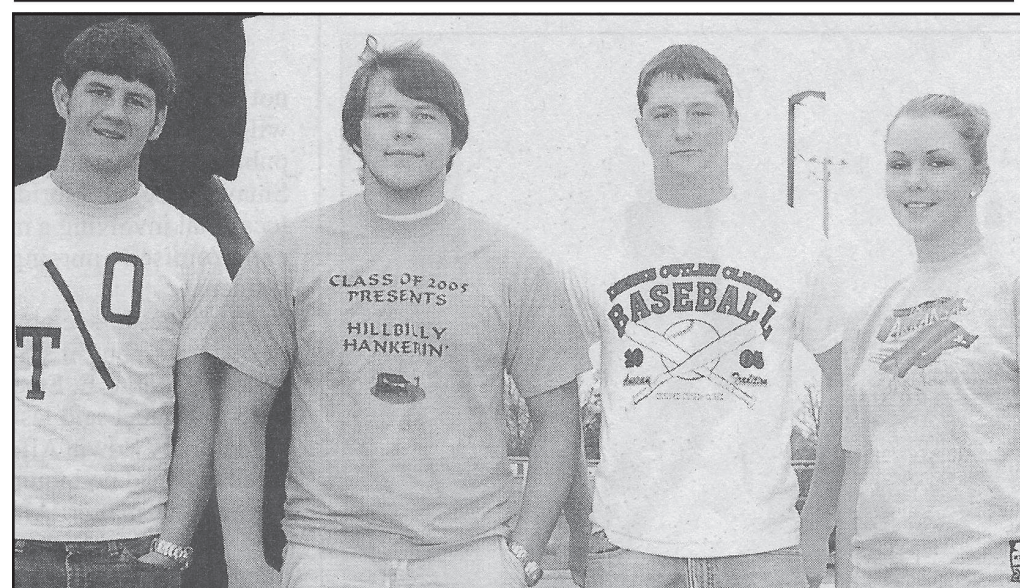
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THE CECIL "BIRDDOG" HARRIS MEMORIAL EARLY FILES

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



Dierks High School basketball players who received 7AA-West District honors for the 2004-05 basketball season include Ben McLaughlin, all-district; Caleb Harper, all-state and all-district; Lance Stone, all-region and all-district; and Aundra Young, honorable mention all-district.

120 years ago: April 1906

The Hempstead County grand jury put the lid on Fulton last week, but it is impossible to say how long it will stay put.

A factional fight developed in that good old river town and the blind tiger men caught it from all sides.

The grand jury got busy and returned nearly one hundred bills against law-breakers of that town. Blind tigers have been running at Fulton with both eyes wide open, and the situation grew so bad that all parties got on the war path and went to giving the game away right and left.

106 years ago: April 1920

Notice: From Gibbs Reese, Marshal:

1. In using the streets, all must drive to the right.
2. Motor cars must have front and tail lights at night,

and sound horn at crossings at all times.

3. Speed limit is 10 miles per hour.

4. Railroad crossings must not be blocked.

5. Shooting targets within city limits is a violation of the law.

6. No kind of stock is allowed on the cemetery grounds.

95 years ago: April 1931

Beautiful Lake Nichols and the new city water plant, which has just been completed and put into operation by the Southwestern Gas and electric company, were shown to several hundred visitors Saturday, when the formal opening of the plant was held.

The lake, which has been officially named Lake Nichols by the city council, covers an area of more than 40 acres and has a capacity of more

than 60 million gallons of water.

The lake was formed in a natural basin by the building of a puddle core dam across Mine Creek just outside the Nashville city limits to the north.

46 years ago: April 1980

"Relish this moment, remember it" were Pastor James Phifer's instructions to First Assembly of God members Sunday at the ground-breaking for their 11,600 square foot church.

The church, established in Nashville in 1945, hopes to move into the new building by December 1.

About 30 members of the congregation turned out Sunday afternoon for the groundbreaking ceremonies. The facility will be the first new building for the congregation and will face Highway 24 West.

Unity Church sets Decoration Day


Unity Baptist Church located near Nashville in the Buck Range community will

host its annual Decoration Day on Sunday, May 3.

Worship service will be

at 10:30 a.m. with a potluck lunch to follow. The public is invited.

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

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CITY OF NASHVILLE

SPRING CLEANUP Week

Get ready to freshen up your home and community!

Let's work together to keep our town clean and beautiful. Please be sure to:

- Place ALL items directly into the dumpsters
- Do NOT leave trash on the ground
- Help keep areas clean and accessible for everyone
- No household garbage, tires or flammable liquids

Now through Sunday, April 26th

Dumpster Locations:

- Behind the Fire Department on Washington St.
- Intersection of Sandhill and 27 Bypass
- Behind the Fire Department at Toland Heights
- Howard County Fair Grounds

Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Apr. 9-15, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

- Marriage Licenses**
(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office)
Apr. 15, John Robert Middleton, 26, Nashville, and Paige Nicole Shepherd, 21, Nashville.
- Civil Court**
CV26-63, Apr. 10. Independence Capital vs. Charlotte Snell. Debt.
CV26-64, Apr. 13. LVNV Funding vs. Anthony Bates. Debt.
CV26-65, Apr. 13. Cascade Capital Funding vs. Donnie Bearden. Debt.
CV26-66, Apr. 13. Pharus Finding vs. Dalton Icenhower. Debt.
CV26-67, Apr. 13. LVNV Funding vs. Lialisha D. Williams. Debt.
CV26-68, Apr. 13. LVNV

- Funding vs. Andrea Benear. Debt.
CV26-69, Apr. 14. LVNO Funding vs. Stanley Bailey. Debt.
CV26-70, Apr. 14. LVNO Funding vs. Stanley Bailey. Debt.
CV26-71, Apr. 14. Triad Financial vs. Kenneth Harris. Contract.
CV26-72, Apr. 14. LVNO Funding vs. Stanley Bailey. Debt.
CV26-73, Apr. 15. Amanda Stone vs. Jack Matthew Lovelis. Property.
CV26-74, Apr. 15. Amanda Stone vs. Jack Matthew Lovelis. Property.
CV26-75, Apr. 15. Amanda Stone vs. Jack Matthew Lovelis. Property.
CV26-76, Apr. 15. LVNO Funding vs. S. Witherspoon. Debt.
- Domestic Relations Court**
DR26-36, Apr. 9. Joseph Ray Floyd vs. Meghan Menhyounne Floyd. Divorce.

- DR26-37, Apr. 14. State of Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Donny Deer. 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.)
No new Criminal Cases filed since CR26-32, Apr. 8.
CR26-33, Apr. 15. State of Arkansas vs. Sravanthi Joginipelli, 44, female, Bryant, Ark.; Arkansas Hot Check Law, class C felony.
CR26-24, Apr. 15. State of Arkansas vs. Ransdale Hockaday, 77, white male, Nashville; Arkansas Hot Check Law, class C felony.
- Land/Property Transactions**
Quitclaim Deed
Land transactions for the period will be in next week's newspaper.

Tax reductions approved by Congress

By Sen. John Boozman
The old saying goes that "there are two certain things in life: death and taxes."

Congress passed another signature tax reform package in 2025.

The Working Families Tax Cuts not only stopped a trillion-dollar tax hike — it also made critical adjustments to the tax code to benefit everyday, hardworking men and women.

Policies we championed such as no tax on tips and overtime, or the new bonus deduction for seniors on Social Security, are helping deliver larger average refunds for households around The Natural State and throughout the country.

In fact, the U.S. Department of the Treasury shared an important recent update about the impact.

Many Americans could receive the largest refund in years, helping them to pay down debt, catch up or get ahead on monthly expenses, grow their savings accounts

or cover the costs of the vacation.

As of late March, IRS

data showed that average refunds were about 11 percent higher.

General Practice of Law

Victor Martin
Attorney at Law

420 N. Main, Suite 1 • Nashville
phone: 870-845-5256
fax: 870-845-5899
vmartinlaw@gmail.com

MINE CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Mine Creek Conservation District located at 101 South Washington St. in Nashville sells pasture chemicals and has the following in stock: 2-4-D, Grazon P+D, Cornerstone, Round Up, Remedy, Outrider, Polaris AC, MSMA, Class Act surfactant. We can also order any chemicals we don't keep in Stock.

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Point of view

More Hormuz One step forward, two steps back

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, glad to be back at my keyboard. Since I spent most of last week in the hospital, I've not had time enough to cook up any devilment. Therefore I am repeating most of last week's column expanded. It also helps that 'our' situation in the Gulf of Hormuz is more-or-less fluid, depending on the news cycle of the lying media and the President's own late night sensible posts.

Mine Creek Revelations



By
Louie Graves

I am also glad that 'we' have been able to freely and safely get through the Strait of Hormuz. 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, there's been a change.

At least we've rendered their nuclear program useless. No, wait, there's been a change.

At least we've stopped them from bombing Israel. No, wait, there's been a change.

At least their leaders are giving in to the President's demands. No, wait, there's been a change.

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

No, wait, there's been a change.



AND YES, I was hospitalized for 3 days, admitted from the Emergency Room.

My daughter (who coaxed me to go to the ER and who stayed the whole time with me) says I owe apologies to many members of Howard Memorial's staff.

Apologies owed --- not particularly for anything I did or said --- but for what became my very offensive Bed Head.



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 either at the finish line or along the way.

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 peaches.



LAND SPEED RECORD? Is any agency checking on the log-trucks 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?



WORD GAMES. I love oxymorons: When interviewing for a job on a television show I was told to Act Naturally.



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

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

Legislators deal with numerous issues during second week of fiscal session

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

The fiscal session in the Arkansas General Assembly continued this week. This was a busy week in which legislators really dug into budget details.

Some highlights:

The Joint Budget Committee directed the legislative staff to draft a reappropriation measure that would bar the Department of Corrections from spending any of the \$73.7 million in state funds for construction of a prison in Franklin County. The funds were left over from a previous prison expansion in Calico Rock.

The committee also approved a \$1 million appropriations bill for the Department of Corrections for a pilot program designed to detect, identify, and terminate illegal cell phones used by inmates in state prisons.

It is estimated that one out of every four inmates have access to an illegal cell phone. Prisoners are using these phones for a wide range of criminal activity.

Over the last several years, Arkansas prison officials have recovered over 6,500 illegal phones from inmates, but not all of them can

be found because prisoners hide them in many places. This system will find any phone as soon as it connects with cell service for calls, messaging, or other apps. A similar program in Georgia eliminated 10,000 contraband phones from its prison system. The pilot project will take place at the Cummins and Varner units.

The Senate convened Tuesday afternoon to honor the late Senator Gary Stubblefield with a memorial resolution recognizing his many contributions to the state and to his community.

After serving one term in the Arkansas House, Sen. Stubblefield represented his district in the Senate from 2013 until his passing in September 2025.

Senators also joined together to commission a portrait of Sen. Stubblefield by artist Barry Thomas. The painting will hang in the Senate through the remainder of what would have been his term, after which it will be presented to the Stubblefield family.

Following adjournment, senators lined up to visit with and embrace members of the Stubblefield family, reflecting the deep respect

and affection felt throughout the chamber.

On Wednesday, Senator Mark Johnson presented the Senate Memorial Resolution honoring former Senator Luther Boyd "Lu" Hardin, who passed away in August 2025. He was elected to the Arkansas Senate in 1983, where he served for 14 years. After his legislative career, he served on Governor Mike Huckabee's cabinet as the Director of the State Department of Higher Education. He later served as the President of the University of Central Arkansas. His son Scott Hardin delivered thanks to the chamber.

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.

House looks at property tax relief

By State Rep. Dolly Henley

The House completed its second week of the 2026 Fiscal Session with a focus on both the state budget and a proposal aimed at providing additional property tax relief for Arkansans.

In a 92-0 vote, members approved HR1006, a resolution that would allow for the introduction of a non-appropriation bill to increase the homestead property tax credit. During a fiscal session, legislation outside of the budget requires approval by a two-thirds majority in both chambers before it can be filed. If the Senate also approves the resolution, a bill will be introduced to raise the credit from \$600 to \$675.

The homestead property tax

credit was established in 2000 after Arkansas voters approved Amendment 79. The credit for qualifying homeowners is funded through the Property Tax Relief Trust Fund, which is supported by a half-cent sales tax. Over time, revenues to the fund have exceeded original projections, creating opportunities for lawmakers to revisit and adjust the credit amount. Most recently, the General Assembly passed Act 330 during the 2025 Regular Session, increasing the credit from \$500 to \$600.

Budget work also continued in earnest this week. In the Joint Budget Committee, members approved an appropriation of \$1 million for contraband interdiction and corrections intelligence

technology within the Department of Corrections. This investment is aimed at detecting and preventing illegal wireless device activity in correctional facilities. It is important to note that appropriation bills authorize spending only when funds are available; they do not allocate funding themselves. Actual distribution of funds is determined through the Revenue Stabilization Act.

The House also passed several appropriation bills for state boards, commissions, and colleges as the fiscal session continues.

The House will reconvene on Tuesday, April 21. You can watch all committee meetings at House floor proceedings at www.arkansasashouse.org.

'Second Chance Month' recognized in U.S.

By U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman

Last week, I was proud to introduce a bipartisan, bicameral resolution that recognizes April as Second Chance Month. This resolution raises awareness for unlocking opportunities for successful reentry into society following incarceration that ultimately reduces recidivism rates.

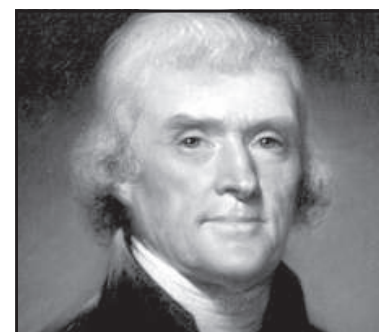
Arkansas's ranking as the third highest for recidivism rates in the nation highlights the need for us to look at opportunities to enact real change and ultimately create a more prosperous future for our

state. According to the Arkansas Department of Corrections, forty-six percent of those released from prison in the state are readmitted within three years.

Offering incarcerated Arkansans the opportunity to succeed by reducing the barriers that keep them from establishing good-paying jobs and earning sought-after respect after being released is proven to be a critical key to reducing recidivism rates. Investing in these individuals who have proven to be committed to rectifying their mistakes is ultimately an

investment in the future success and safety of our communities.

While we hope that crimes are not committed, it remains an unfortunate reality. Over twenty years ago in his State of the Union Speech, President George W. Bush said, "We know from long experience that if [incarcerated individuals] can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit more crimes and return to prison. ... America is the land of the second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life."



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

Nashville News-Leader

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

You may contact us at
Nashville News-Leader
418 N. Main
P.O. Box 205
Nashville, AR 71852
Phone 870-845-0600

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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.

Town

Continued from page 1

Galveston, where it pours into the Gulf.

Steamboats carried people and goods north and south on the Brazos, and a town was founded in 1833 by one John Hall, where a ferry crossed the Brazos. He named the new town (supposedly) after one in Georgia. Welcome to Washington, Texas.

What a coincidence. Washington, Ark., is where legend has it, Bowie, Houston, and Crockett came up with secret plans to make Texas an independent country.

Washington, Texas, is where Texans officially signed their Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836

The Texas Revolution actually started on October 2, 1835, and ended with the Battle of San Jacinto, April 21, 1836.

The Republic of Texas existed for nearly 10 years before becoming a part of the United States in 1845, and had several capitals during those years.

Its final capital was Washington, Texas, by then called Washington-on-the-Brazos, supposedly to distinguish it from Washington, D.C.

At its heyday, Washington-on-the-Brazos boasted

more than 1,700 residents. Doctors, pharmacists, carpenters, lawyers, grocers, bakers, hotels, churches, bars, pool halls, you name it. All because of steamboat traffic on the Brazos River.

Then in 1858, officials from the Houston and Texas Central Railroad showed up and offered the town a deal: you pay us \$11,000 (almost a half million in today's dollars) and we'll run our new railroad through Washington.

The town leaders were convinced that steamboat traffic would continue to thrive, and they turned down the railroad's offer.

The town declined rapidly, with most residents moving to nearby Navasota or Brenham, which were on the railroad line. Finally, in 1912, a fire destroyed what little was remaining of Washington, Texas.

Then beginning in 1916, the state of Texas began buying up land where the town had been. Over the years, as more land became available, the state bought it. Finally, in 2019, after purchasing all of the original land where Washington-on-the-Brazos had once stood, the site was officially transferred to the Texas State Historical Commission.

Now, the contrast. Today, Washington, Arkansas is a state park. So is Washington, Texas. Washington, Arkansas



ESTABLISHING CHURCHES

"My travels on horseback have exceeded 2,000 miles. . . . Our present numbers are 20 societies, 325 members. . . . We have taken some steps toward founding a college and some smaller seminaries."

MARTIN RUTER, 1838

Methodists led by Martin Ruter and other missionaries founded many churches in Texas. Their preachers on horses, called circuit riders, made Methodism the largest denomination in Texas by 1860.

News-Leader photo/DON HALL

The first resident of Washington, Texas, was a Methodist minister.

is the former capital of the Confederate state of Arkansas. Washington, Texas is the former capital of the Republic of Texas.

Washington, Arkansas, has 54 buildings, with 30 being historically significant. Washington, Texas has seven structures of fresh pine and cedar "built in the historical style," according to a state parks employee, and markers where other buildings used to be.

Washington-on-the-Brazos has an impressive, mod-

ern visitor's center, as well as the Star of the Republic Museum (worth your time), and the Barrington Living History Farm, with staff and volunteers in period clothing giving tours and explaining life in early Texas (also worth your time).

Washington, Ark., has the Williams Tavern where you can get a really good meal for a really good price.

Which would you prefer? Everything's bigger in Texas, true enough, but it's still better in Arkansas.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Nashville Primary School teacher Casey Goodwin (right) holds the book for Anari Beth as the kindergarten student reads at the school board meeting Monday, April 20.

School

Continued from page 1

teachers when they return in late July and see the results of Boom Boom's work.

The cost will be \$90,253.

Following a 30-minute executive session, the board re-employed licensed and classified staff for 2026-27.

Resignations were accepted from high school teacher and former coach Brian Bearden and from ESL para-professional Martha Lucia Lewis.

Hirings included Jana Stewart, primary school nurse; Gabi Beville, junior high art; Ashley Pratt, ESL/Dyslexia para-professional; and Tabitha Jones, elementary principal.

In the financial report, Graham said the district is 70 percent through the budget and has an operating balance of \$6,170,000.

All board members were present at the meeting, including president Jerry Wilson, David Hilliard, Nick Britt, Tem Gunter and Anthony Whitmore.

Peach Blossom 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.

The festival will include a 5K Run on Saturday, May 2. The race begins at 8 a.m. 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/DON HALL

One of the "old" buildings in Washington, Texas. The town was founded in 1833 by John Hall where a ferry crossed the Brazos River.



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

The inn/tavern that served as the seat of Texas government. The Republic of Texas existed for about 10 years before becoming part of the U.S. in 1845.

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After the storm:

- When venturing outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume any dangling wires you encounter are energized and dangerous. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.



- 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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ASP alerts about scam call claiming to be ICAC officer

The Arkansas State Police (ASP) is alerting the public to a recent scam in which callers falsely claim to be officers with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Several Arkansas residents have reported receiving calls from individuals identifying themselves as "Officer Jackson" with ICAC and demanding a return call regarding an alleged investigation.

In some cases, the caller left callback numbers, and in at least one case, the caller threatened to issue a warrant if the individual did not respond.

This is an intimidation tactic commonly used in fraudulent schemes.

These calls are not legitimate.

The Arkansas ICAC Task Force and ASP do not contact individuals to notify them that they are the subject of an investigation, nor do they request that citizens return

calls regarding investigative matters. Law enforcement agencies do not issue threats of arrest over the phone or demand immediate compliance.

"These scammers are exploiting the public's trust in law enforcement to intimidate and deceive. The Arkansas State Police will never call to announce an investigation or threaten arrest over the phone. We want Arkansans to stay vigilant, protect their personal information, and report suspicious calls immediately," said Col. Mike Hagar, ASP Director.

ASP urges anyone who receives a call of this nature to take immediate action: hang up right away, do not provide personal information, and promptly report the incident to their local law-enforcement agency, the Arkansas State Police, or the Arkansas Attorney General's Office at (501) 682-2007, or email oag@arkansasag.gov.



News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

COMING TOGETHER TO RAISE AWARENESS. A special proclamation ceremony was held last week on the Howard County Courthouse lawn to promote April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event was attended by city and county officials and was hosted by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children and the Texarkana Children's Advocacy Center. CASA serves Howard, Nevada, Little River, Hempstead, Miller, Lafayette, Cass and Bowie counties. CASA advocates for children in foster care who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect and last year the volunteers served 284 children, attended 541 court hearings and helped 57 children find safe, permanent homes. Volunteers are crucial to the agency and there are currently 144 children in foster care without a dedicated Court Appointed Special Advocate. Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway issued a special proclamation for the occasion naming April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Howard County. For more information about CASA or to become a volunteer, visit casacac.org.

4 sentenced Monday in Pike County court

Four defendants were sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court, including two more county inmates charged with bringing marijuana in to the jail.

Montanna Curry, 24, of Mount Ida, and Glen McCurdy, 45, of Caddo Gap, both pleaded guilty to the charge of furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles-delivering a prohibited article involving an incident where nine inmates were charged.

Curry and McCurdy were each sentenced to 10 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with five years suspended.

Also Monday, Jesse Jackson, 27, of Murfreesboro, pleaded guilty to the charge of aggravated assault. He was sentenced to six years in the ADC with three years

suspended. He was also credited for time served.

Nicolas Payte, 43, of Glenwood, pleaded "true" to violating the terms of his probation. Payte was sentenced to one year in the county jail and had his probation extended for one year.

Charge Filed
A Glenwood man was charged in Pike County April 17 with felony fleeing and a misdemeanor traffic charge.

Shawn Williams, 21, made his first court appearance on the charge Monday when his bond was set at \$7,500 and a June 22 pretrial date was set.

Williams is accused of leading a Glenwood officer on a high-speed chase on March 16 before wrecking out and fleeing into a residential area.

Lockesburg VFD fish fry, auction this Saturday

The Lockesburg Volunteer Fire Department will host its annual fish fry fundraiser on Saturday, April 25, with serving starting at 5 p.m. There will also be live music and an auction to follow.

We watch and study birds... ...at parks, playgrounds and beaches. Kids: color stuff in!

Newspaper Fun!

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Billions of Birds!

Billions of birds live on our planet - in the forests, jungles, deserts, grasslands, near water and even in snowy areas. Millions of people like to watch or photograph birds simply because birds are so beautiful! It is fun to watch birds move and fly, and listen to how they communicate. Some people study birds' habits and life cycles. You can join in the fun and watch birds in your yard or at a park near you. Think about starting a notebook in which to draw, color and write what you learn about birds as you watch them!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle about birds!

- Birds are warm-blooded and have backbones. They are _____.
- Flying birds have hollow _____ that make their bodies lighter, and powerful wings covered with feathers that help to lift them into the air. Only birds have feathers!
- Most birds have four _____, three in front and one in back, to help them perch.
- Ducks, geese and other water birds have _____ feet that help them swim.
- Birds have _____, but no teeth. The shape of a bird's beak is suited to its diet.
- Birds may eat fruit, seeds, _____, fish, flower nectar and, in some cases, meat.
- Female birds lay eggs, sometimes on the ground, but mostly in _____ they build.
- When their _____ hatch, many mother birds will chew food, then feed it to them.
- Birds _____ with each other using chirps and tweets. Some birds, such as parrots, can mimic human speech.
- Birds live almost _____: forests, deserts, jungles, grasslands and on mountains.
- Birds may fly south before the _____ to warmer areas where it's easier to live.
- Some birds, like eagles, live in pairs while others, like geese, stay together in a _____.

Fill in the crossword puzzle with words related to birds.

Clues: 1. vertebrates, 2. flock, 3. babies, 4. nests, 5. communicate, 6. winter, 7. bones, 8. toes, 9. beaks, 10. insects, 11. everywhere, 12. everywhere.

Flamingo's Fun Facts

Did you know that flamingos are born with gray feathers? Our pink color comes from eating algae and crustaceans (animals, like shrimp, whose bodies are protected by a hard shell). When the coloring from these foods goes through our livers, the extra coloring travels into our feathers and we look pink.

- The fastest swimming bird is the **gentoo penguin**, which can swim up to about 22 miles per hour.
- The largest bird is the **ostrich**. It cannot fly. It lays the biggest egg!
- The smallest bird is the **hummingbird**. It has the fastest wingbeat of all birds, flapping its wings up to 50-60 times in one second.
- The **booby** has the largest wingspan of any flying bird, up to 11 feet.
- A **phoebe** will steal shiny items and put them in its nest.
- Vultures** are sometimes called buzzards. They eat dead animals.
- Burrowing owls** in the Americas live underground in holes dug by prairie dogs. Unlike most owls, they are active during the day.
- The **peregrine falcon** is one of the fastest flying birds, and may go as fast as 200 miles per hour in a dive.
- Chickadees** are the most common birds in the world.
- About ten million birds, like **parakeets**, are kept as pets in the U.S.

Fill in the birds' names in each fun fact by using the letters in the word **FLAMINGO**. Cross off each letter as you use it.

Flamingo's Fun Facts: n a i m o f i o a g a n o m g l o n a l i m n g i m

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MAKEOVER IN THE HOLLER. Work on the \$1 million makeover at Ayers Field in Dierks is now underway with crews removing and leveling the natural surface to make way for a new turf field. Dierks High School was named the T-Mobile Friday Night 5G Lights sweepstakes last year which included the field upgrade and a weight room renovation by Gronk Fitness.

Howard County District Court

April 16, 2026

BF=Bond Forfeited

Howard County

Bickerstaff, Austin Joseph, 28, Prescott, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$575
 Blanchard, Rebecca L., 49, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460
 Chorak, Stefanie Marie, 46, Cove, \$265 BF, speeding
 Collins, Layla Michelle, 25, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260
 Crabtree, Don, 47, Lockesburg, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460
 Donato, Sabrina L., 43, Mineral Springs, \$255 BF, speeding
 Empty, Anthony C., 42, Lockesburg, guilty of improper display of lights, fined \$210; guilty of speeding, fined \$420; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260
 Ferguson, Robert Alfred, 65, Queen City, Texas, \$265 BF, speeding
 Finley, Ashley Monique, 36, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$277 balance
 Garza, Aaron D., 43, Dierks, guilty of criminal trespass, fined

\$270; guilty of first-degree criminal mischief, fined \$960
 Howard, Alan, 63, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$160
 Kinsey, Dakota C., 28, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$640 balance
 Linares Hidalgo, Leonel, 28, Dallas, Texas, \$260 BF, no copy of duty status; \$575 BF, non-English speaking driver
 Luckey, Julie Rodgers, 46, Dallas, Texas, \$255 BF, speeding
 Owen, Daniel J., 40, Ashdown, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license
 Qualls, Elizabeth, 31, Broken Bow, Okla., no contest, possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months; no contest, failure to appear, fined \$225; no contest, driving left of center, fined \$210
 Smith, Christopher Jacob, 16, Lockesburg, \$215 BF, speed too fast for conditions; \$265 BF, speeding
 Taylor, Jaxson, 17, idabel, Okla., \$360 BF, careless or prohibited driving
 Weaver, Ivy, 41, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$2,285 balance; committed to jail for 30 days
 Witherspoon, Anthony R., 53, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,470 balance
City of Nashville
 Acosta, James, 17, Nashville,

\$245 BF, speeding; \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license
 Clemons, Chuck G., 73, Nashville, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months
 Davis, Margaret, 57, Mineral Springs, guilty of leaving scene of accident, fined \$360
 Delarosa, Marissa, 30, Blevins, guilty of violating city ordinance-banned breed of dog; guilty of non-payment of fines, \$3,175 balance; committed to jail-suspended conditions
 Gates, Michael L., 61, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$310 balance
 Haire, Christopher R., 28, Texarkana, \$360 BF, no proof of liability insurance
 Harrison, Alexandria A., 36, Little Rock, \$255 BF, speeding
 Henry, Sheila, 18, Texarkana, guilty of speeding, fined \$245; guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months
 Howard, Alan, 63, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$322 balance
 Jackson, Sarah, 40, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines
 Lozano, Deibyn R., 33, Garland, Texas, \$245 BF, speeding; \$260 BF, failure to appear
 Maldonado, Edis, 40, Nashville, guilty of first-degree criminal mischief, fined \$400 plus \$400 restitution

Neal, Alisha Helleen, 55, Nashville, \$275 BF, speeding; \$260 BF, failure to appear
 Nuttall, Dusty, 49, Nashville, \$50 BF, failure to present insurance
 Palmer, Tyquadrian D., 26, Texarkana, Texas, guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months; \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license
 Pedron-Nunez, Martha, 49, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license
 Perez, Jose, 35, Prescott, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license; \$360 BF, no proof of liability insurance
 Reed, Rachel Chantel, 34, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$905 balance; committed to jail-suspended conditions; guilty of third-degree domestic battery, fined \$725
 Stewart, Jkhya Rontell, 21, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,685 balance
 Trimble, Orlandis, 38, Childress, Texas, \$160 BF, no proof of liability insurance
 Vasquez, Abraham, 14, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license; \$260 BF, passing on yellow line
 Ward, Mark A., 42, Dierks, \$245 BF, speeding
City of Dierks
 Copeland, James, 38, Delight, \$360 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Davis, Christopher E., 34, Dierks, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460
 Garza, Aaron D., 43, Dierks, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$345
 Santos, Israel, 21, Cicero, Ill., \$230 BF, improper or prohibited passing
 Stevenson, Denzel L., 31, West Memphis, \$360 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$260 BF, failure to appear
 Teehee, Stephen B., 39, Lockesburg, \$60 BF, no seat belt; \$260 BF, failure to appear
 Webb, Brandon R., 38, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360
Bench Trials
City of Nashville
 Duckett, Javonte L., 28, Texarkana, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months
 Orange, Jazerious O'Neal, 21, Mineral Springs, possession of controlled substance, deferred adjudication
 Sears, Debra, 53, Murfreesboro, guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$575; guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months
City of Dierks
 Jackson, Jacob, 29, Delight, guilty of no tail or brake lights, fined \$210

The following businesses would like to salute their Administrative Professionals on their special day, Wednesday, April 22nd.

Thank you *Monica and Esmeralda* for all your hard work.

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We salute our hardworking, dedicated **Administrative Professionals.** Thank you for keeping us on track.

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Thank you to all of our Administrative Professionals for your hard work, tireless effort and every day enthusiasm. Your work is a key to our success! We appreciate you today and every day.

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MURFREESBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS BANQUET

1. Murfreesboro Elementary School Teacher of the Year Carle Gatliff with Principal James Riley
2. Murfreesboro High School Teacher of the Year Brittany Harris with Principal Riley
3. Citizen of the Year Jack Bonds (at left) with chamber member Ricky Branch
4. Volunteer of the Year Terry Cox with chamber member Dee Branch

Murfreesboro chamber making big plans for 2026 Juneteenth event

The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce discussed the upcoming Juneteenth celebration at the April 14 meeting. This year the entire celebration will be contained to the city park on Saturday, June 13, the Saturday before the official Juneteenth holiday on Friday, June 19. The event will kick off with the annual parade, starting at 9 a.m., which will go from the Chimney Rock grocery store parking lot to the city park. Other planned events will include a domino tournament, a bounce house, bingo with prizes and a spades tournament. Hot dogs, watermelon, chips and drinks will be served for lunch.

Event organizers said a baseball tournament proposal received no response, so was not in the works. A live disc jockey will be present with room for a dance, which Mayor Jim O'Neal said was a good idea. Last year Mauney Street was blocked in the evening hours off for a dance/block party, but the mayor felt that

was "dangerous, even with the street blocked off." "By having it all at the park, there will be restrooms available and no need for a time schedule," O'Neal said. On Sunday, June 14, an interdenominational sunrise service will be held at the park, which will be set to conclude before other church services begin. Event organizers plan to sell sponsorships on a t-shirt to help fund the activities. All proceeds from the sponsorships and t-shirt sales will go to the event.

Cheerleaders to raise funds with loaded baked potato meal

Murfreesboro High School and Junior High School cheerleaders have begun their fundraising efforts for the upcoming school year in order to raise money for cheerleader uniforms and camp. "The expenses for these girls are enormous and these girls have planned a cheer-

leader dinner fundraiser to assist with these expenses," said junior high cheer sponsor Melissa Cornish. The cheerleader loaded baked potato dinner fundraiser will be held Monday, May 4 at the Murfreesboro High School activity center from 5-6:30 p.m. Cheer members

are selling drive-thru dinner tickets for \$10 each. A smoked loaded potato (with optional butter, sour cream, cheese and bacon bits included), salad, cookies and drink will be the meal offering. The group is also asking businesses/individuals to donate items for a silent auc-

tion to be held online the week of Saturday, April 25-Saturday, May 2 prior drive thru fundraiser. The auction will be held at: Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/1616182166266674. All proceeds from the auction and ticket sales will go toward cheerleaders' expenses.

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 Sunday (Eng.) - 9 a.m.
 Sunday (Esp.) - 11 a.m.
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 1st Friday - 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday (Esp.) - 6:30 p.m.
Fr. Salvador Vega, Pastor
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 Sunday Morning Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.
 Pastors: Lankford & Mary Alice Moore

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 Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.
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Facts About The **BIBLE** *BY JOHN LEHTI*

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HOW JESUS' FEET WERE REALLY WASHED!

YEARS AGO A YOUNG BIBLE STUDENT FOUND WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE AN ERROR IN ONE OF THE STORIES TOLD IN LUKE! HOW COULD IT BE, HE ASKED HIS INSTRUCTOR, FOR THE WOMAN TO WASH JESUS' FEET WHEN JESUS WAS ALREADY SITTING DOWN TO EAT AND THE WOMAN STANDING UP BEHIND HIM? (LUKE 7:38) WHEN IT WAS EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT IN THOSE DAYS PEOPLE DID NOT SIT AT THE TABLE AS WE DO TODAY, BUT INSTEAD LAY DOWN IN COUCHES WITH THE HEAD TO THE TABLE AND THE FEET STRETCHED OUT BEHIND THEM, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THERE WAS NO ERROR IN THE STORY BUT JUST IN THE YOUNG STUDENT'S UNDERSTANDING THE WAYS OF THESE ANCIENT PEOPLE! LOTS OF THINGS TOLD ABOUT IN THE BIBLE SEEM ODD OR UNTRUE TO US...

...TODAY, BUT WHEN WE STUDY ABOUT THEM WITH QUALIFIED TEACHERS WHO KNOW THEIR SUBJECTS, THEN WHAT SEEMED SO CONFUSING AND SO CONTRARY, SUDDENLY BECOMES VERY UNDERSTANDABLE AND COMPREHENSIVE!

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 Jim Henderson, Pastor

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 Morning worship 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
 Evening worship 6:00 p.m.
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First Christian Church
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 (Corner of Main & Bishop)
845-3241
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 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.



THE LITTLE THINGS HELP. The Howard County Farmers' Market recently added new sun shade on the east end of the pavilion, made possible through the generous support of local sponsors. This improvement is part of a series of upgrades designed to enhance the market experience for both vendors and visitors, including the planned installation of overhead fans and upgraded lighting. The market continues to grow thanks to strong community support, and additional sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and individuals who would like to contribute to ongoing improvements. Vendor applications are also open for the upcoming season. The first market of the season will be held on May 1. For more information about becoming a sponsor or vendor, email howardcountyfarmersmarket@gmail.com or find us on Facebook. Pictured here are members of the Howard County Farmers Market Overseers Committee (from left) Howard County Judge Brent Pinkerton, Denise Graves, Jill Parker (Parkerosa Farms), Lauren Clements, Nashville Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Revels and Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway.

Murfreesboro City Council April Meeting

By John Balch
News-Leader staff

The Murfreesboro City Council amended an ordinance during its quick April meeting that will change the schedule of billing for the Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department.

Fire Chief Ricky Branch said the change affects pay for fire calls outside the city limits for non-members, which he said have been billed incorrectly in the past. The change will involve the billing for emergency services to be in accordance with the Arkansas Uniform Fire Department Insurance Billing Reimbursement Form.

Branch said a lot of insurance companies will not pay for the emergency services rendered for non-members if the report does not adhere to uniform rates, which are established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The amount also must not

exceed \$1,000.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 277 with Ordinance No. 2026-1 was approved by unanimous vote.

In related business, the council unanimously voted to give Chief Branch permission to seek bids for a new brush truck after being unable to secure a state bid. The spending limit was set at \$75,000. The new truck will be paid for out of the city's fire truck fund which currently has a balance of approximately \$175,000.

Branch reminded the council the fire department will be audited for ISO ratings this year and that the department is currently testing and flushing fire hydrants. "The water may be muddy at times, but it will clear-up," Branch said.

The council also voted Monday to give Murfreesboro Police Chief Randy Lamb permission to pursue a matching grant to partici-

pate in the Arkansas Highway Safety Office's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, which includes such programs such as "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket."

The council allotted \$5,000 for the program which will help pay time and a-half overtime for the city's officers that participate.

The council also approved Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb's financial report, which included the following beginning and ending balances for March:

General/Operating	\$312,025 / \$297,376
Street/Operating	\$381,275 / \$398,633
Park Funds	\$47,490 / \$51,885
Special Funds	\$311,781 / \$316,783
Advertising & Promotion	\$74,680 / \$65,278
Waterworks Combined	\$901,068 / Not Available

Little River Co. man killed in Howard Co. crash

A Little River County man was killed Sunday, April 12 in a one-vehicle accident in rural Howard County, according to the Arkansas State Police.

The accident killed Joe Walter Baker, Jr., 44. Baker was traveling eastbound on Highway 27 near Shiloh Road when he failed to negotiate a right curve, left the

roadway and struck several trees.

The ASP reported weather and road conditions were clear and dry when the wreck occurred at 1:25 a.m.

A Nuclear Option? Group interested in storing spent nuclear fuel rods in Sevier County

By Patrick Massey
De Queen Bee

DE QUEEN – Could Sevier County become a site for storing spent nuclear fuel? What are the hazards? What are the opportunities? Would the community even allow it?

Local officials are beginning to explore those questions following recent meetings with a consulting group looking to find the next place to store the nation's unusable nuclear material.

Members of the Sevier County Quorum Court were introduced Monday to the concept of hosting a "consolidated interim storage facility" for spent nuclear fuel following recent meetings with representatives of Arkansas Nuclear Voice, a consulting group working with the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy.

According to Arkansas Nuclear Voice, the effort is part of "a federal research initiative to engage communities across the country about the potential siting of an interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel." The material is often referred to as "nuclear waste," though the group notes that term is not technically accurate.

Arkansas Nuclear Voice is one of 12 organizations nationwide selected by the Department of Energy to gather feedback and gauge interest from communities. A representative of the group did not respond to a request for comment by press deadline.

However, Sevier County Judge Sandra Dunn said the discussions began late last year when she and county emergency management officials first met with the group.

"They presented this program... and we listened," Dunn said. "I felt like the quorum court and the citizens need to at least know about this, whether they'll be for it or against it. They should make their opinion based on good information."

Dunn introduced the topic during Monday's quorum court meeting, emphasizing that the county is taking a neutral stance and focusing first on education and public input.

"We just want to make a good decision if it's something we want to get into, or if we don't, we'll know that," she said, noting that even expressing initial interest would not commit the county to the project. "There

would be several steps in the process."

Mike Branson of the Sevier County FRIENDS organization echoed that sentiment, saying local leaders have only received preliminary information and are not advocating for or against the idea at this stage.

"We've listened to what they had to say, but at this point, that's really all we know," Branson said. "We have to get the facts on the table and understand the pros and cons and any risk, so that we can make an educated decision."

Branson acknowledged that the concept is certain to raise concerns among residents, but said officials believe it is worth studying further.

"I know that sounds like it'll probably scare people to death," he said. "But the way it was explained to us was that it's a very safe process."

During their presentation, representatives of Arkansas Nuclear Voice also pointed to some characteristics that could make Sevier County a viable candidate, including access to existing railroads and the availability of large, relatively isolated tracts of land that could accommodate the roughly 1,200-acre standalone facility.

While still highly speculative, the potential economic impact was among the factors discussed. Branson said representatives indicated a facility could bring both short-term construction jobs and long-term employment.

"They told us there would be some 300 full-time jobs... good-paying jobs, \$75,000 plus a year," Branson said. "It's federally funded and mandated, so it would be a long-term commitment to the community."

The proposed facilities are designed to store spent nuclear fuel from existing reactors until it can be reused or permanently disposed of. Federal officials have said much of the material still contains usable energy, with newer reactor technologies potentially capable of utilizing a large portion of the remaining fuel.

Despite the potential benefits, several quorum court members voiced concerns during Monday's meeting,

including on whose deer lease the site would be built. Still, the court agreed to continue discussions and pursue additional information.

Dunn said the next step will likely involve inviting Arkansas Nuclear Voice back for a public meeting, allowing residents to ask questions and learn more about the concept.

"I didn't feel like it was up to just a few of us to make this decision," Dunn said. "We want to be very careful and get as many voices as possible."

Branson emphasized that any future decision would ultimately depend on community support.

"It'll be the community that makes the decision. It won't be us," he said. "We're not advocating. We're just neutral and trying to understand the possibility."

Officials also noted that the outreach effort is taking place in multiple communities across Arkansas and the nation, and there is no guarantee Sevier County would be selected even if local interest were expressed.

For now, county leaders say their focus remains on gathering information and ensuring transparency as the conversation continues.

Delight man catches Nevada Co. drug charge

A Delight man has been charged in Nevada County Circuit Court for possession of methamphetamine.

Colby Dean Gustafson, 41, was charged April 20.

According to case information, Gustafson was charged by the Prescott Police Department on Aug. 14 after he allegedly dropped drugs on the floor at a convenience store where he worked.

A store employee reported finding suspected meth on the floor at New Loves in Prescott. A review of surveillance footage allegedly showed Gustafson in the area where the drugs were found that appeared to drop from his person.

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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.



News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

WELCOME BACK. Nashville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dena Tollett welcomed Misty Wilson and her Main Street business, Unique Body Salon, back into chamber ranks last week with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Pictured with Tollett and Wilson are salon employees (from left) Joy Manasco, Yolanda Moreno and Amber Morrow. Not pictured are employees and associates Amber Abalos, Kandi Garland, Chelsie Nolen, Jessica Goodson, Kyleigh Hudman, Bere Contreras and Orselinda Barragan.

DHS freshman earns ASBA scholarship for District 4

The Arkansas School Boards Association (ASBA) Educational Foundation has announced Carlee Mounts of Dierks High School as the 2026 Freshman Scholarship recipient for District 4.



Carlee Mounts

The ASBA Educational Foundation Freshman Scholarship Program supports the sons, daughters, or legal wards of Arkansas school board members entering two- or four-year colleges.

Mounts was chosen for this \$2,500 scholarship based on her outstanding academic achievements, leadership, community service, and commitment to personal and professional growth. She is the daughter of Jeffrey Mounts, a member of the Dierks School Board.

Mounts will graduate as valedictorian, having earned college credit hours and two technical certificates during her high school career.

She has been actively involved in leadership and community service, including National Honor Society, Student Council, FCCLA,

and FCA. She is also a cross country and track athlete, earning All-State honors in both.

In her essay, Mounts wrote that her community "has taught me compassion, leadership, gratitude, and responsibility," and she hopes to give back through a career in the medical field, specializing in Sonography and CT scans. She plans to attend National Park College before transferring to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Stavely and Associates

#26006476 - Beautiful Country home on approx 7 acres with a creek, pool and shop - minutes from Nashville. This stunning home 4 bedroom 3 1/2 bath home offers over 3,000 sq ft of heated/cooled living space, combining comfort, functionality and natural beauty. Inside, you will find two spacious living areas, kitchen w/lots of cabinet space, dining area, and office. Ceramic tile throughout for easy maintenance and timeless style. Step outside and enjoy your private retreat - a sparkling pool with slide and cover, plus a beautiful covered back deck with a large cathedral ceiling, perfect for entertaining or relaxing while taking in the peaceful views. Fenced pasture ideal for horses or livestock and a creek running through it adds to the serene setting. 20x26 shop building provided space for hobbies, storage or projects. * AGENT OWNED * for more information or to schedule a private tour contact our office. **ADVERTISED PRICE \$485,000.**

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3 bedroom, 2 full baths with approx. 2,037 sq. ft. of living space situated in the heart of Nashville. Large kitchen with spacious storage (electric range and refrigerator convey with sell of home). Home features two living areas (formal living and family area with gas fireplace). Home also has a large bonus room/sun room. 2 car attached carport. Central A/C & Heat replaced in 2025. Property is located at 911 Ash St., Nashville
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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LARRY FRANCIS BRUNGARDT, DECEASED
 NO. 31PR-26-24

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTRIX AND FILING OF CLAIMS

Last known address of decedent: 357 Cedar Cove Lane, Dierks, AR 71833
 Date of death: 10/05/2025

An instrument dated September 20, 2022, was on the 20th day of March, 2026, admitted to probate as the Last Will of the above-named decedent, and the undersigned has been appointed executrix thereunder. A contest of the probate of the will can be affected 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 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 this 22nd day of April, 2026.

Lisa Linville, Executrix
 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: 44, 45)

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

Lesa 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.

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

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.

Sherrilyn 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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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS CIVIL DIVISION

21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff(s)
 vs. CASE NO.: 31CV-26-16

CODY BLAIR AKA CODY O'NEAL BLAIR; DEANNA M. BLAIR AKA DEANNA CRISP; THE CURRENT SPOUSE OF CODY BLAIR AKA CODY O'NEAL BLAIR; THE CURRENT SPOUSE OF DEANNA M. BLAIR AKA DEANNA CRISP; CURRENT OCCUPANTS OF 523 MAIN AVENUE, DIERKS, AR 71833, Defendant(s)

WARNING ORDER

A description of the property or res to be affected:
Lots 1 and 2 of Block 8 of the Original Town of Dierks, Howard County, Arkansas.
Together with that certain 2000 76X16 Palm Harbor Country Place mobile home with Vehicle Identification Number(s): PH079797

The Defendant(s), THE CURRENT SPOUSE OF DEANNA M. BLAIR AKA DEANNA CRISP and CURRENT OCCUPANTS OF 523 MAIN AVENUE, DIERKS, AR 71833, unserved, is/are warned to appear and answer the Complaint of the Plaintiff in this Court within thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this warning order or face entry of judgment by default or be otherwise barred from asserting his or her or its interest.

Failure of the Defendant(s) to answer within thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this warning order could result in judgment against the Defendant(s).
 Dated: 10-APRIL-2026
 Angie Lewis, Howard County Circuit Clerk
 /s/ Gabrielle Davis
 PADGETT LAW GROUP
 GABRIELLE DAVIS, ESQ.
 Arkansas Bar # 2022261
 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203
 Tallahassee, FL 32312
 (850) 422-2520 (telephone)
 (850) 422-2567 (facsimile)
 attorney@padgettlawgroup.com
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 (PNA: 44,45)

PUBLIC NOTICE

2007 TOYOTA COROLLA
 VIN#1NXBR32E67Z824995

2002 CHEVROLET BLAZER
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2018 INTERNATIONAL TRUCK
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ARE BEING HELD AT BYPASS DIESEL & WRECKER SERVICE, INC. 9224 HWY 278 WEST NASHVILLE, AR 71852, 870-845-1597, DUE TO ABANDONMENT. VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CLAIMED WITHIN 10 DAYS. FAILURE TO RECLAIM VEHICLES WAVES ALL RIGHTS, TITLE, & INTEREST IN ABOVE VEHICLES. VEHICLES MAY BE RECLAIMED DURING BUSINESS HOURS BY PROVIDING OWNERSHIP, AND BY PAYING ALL CHARGES AGAINST VEHICLES.
 (BD: 44)

Pike County District Court

April 7, 2026

BF=Bond Forfeited

Pike County

Armstrong, Sylvester Jr., 35, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$540 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$220

Avilez, Nathen Bradley, 23, Newhope, guilty of no driver's license, fined \$140

Queen, \$150 BF, speeding

Clower, Joseph Allen, 48, Kirby, guilty of expired vehicle license-tags, fined \$125; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340

Cogburn, Jonathan, 37, Norman, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$140

Culpepper, Kason Paul, 20, Kirby, guilty of DWI-drugs, fined \$1,235, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Diallo, Thierno Mamadou, 39, Alpharette, Ga., \$185 BF, fails report of log duty status

Fletcher Bryson Drake, 20, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Flores, Israel C., 32, Wickes, \$135 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Goanna, Maria Julia, 48, Batesville, \$140 BF, no driver's license

Golden, Danny R., 60, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$520 balance

Gonzalez, Viviana Lopez, 31, De Queen, \$325 BF, driving with suspended license; \$205 BF, failure to appear; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Green, Thomas Alandillon, 24, Amity, \$180 BF, speeding

Hamilton, Faith Marie, 27, Amity, \$140 BF, no vehicle license

Hamilton, William A., 54, Malvern, guilty of speeding, fined \$140

Holmes, Sara Sunshine, 28, Mena, \$235 BF, public intoxication

Kizer, Michael Andrew, 21, Amity, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125

Kuykendall, Linda Nacole, 40, De Queen, \$140 BF, speeding

Martins, Felipe, 42, Orlando, Fla., \$140 BF, operating on learner's permit without CDL holder; \$210 BF, brakes general

Miller, Kevin R., 34, Murfreesboro, guilty of third-degree domestic battery, fined \$1,000

Pierce, Gregory Cort, 30, McCaskill, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325

Roberts, Danielle Faye, 21, Mineral Springs, guilty of failure to pay, \$315 balance

Spears, Chloe Lynn, 22, Murfreesboro, \$140 BF, speeding

Starr, Samuel, 54, De Queen, \$220 BF, overweight

Stephens, Danielle R., 42, Kirby, \$140 BF, fictitious tags

Thomas, Aimee Leann, 36, Amity, \$205 BF, failure to pay

Weeks, Jeremy, 46, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,365 balance

City of Murfreesboro

Lorey, Gerald, 54, Shreveport, La., \$275 BF, dumping trash or refuse in city

McDonald, Heather, 38, Livingston, La., possession of controlled substance, under advisement for three months to dismiss, fined \$525

Parris, Kelly, 52, Arkadelphia, \$345 BF, driving with suspended license; \$90 BF, no seat belt; \$145 BF, failure to pay registration; \$225 BF, failure to appear; \$225 BF, failure to appear

Pierce, Gregory Cort, 30, McCaskill, guilty of obstructing government operations, fined \$250; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$265

Sorrells, Jacob Matthew, 27, Nashville, \$160 BF, speeding

Walters, Misty Flora, 39, Okolona, guilty of DWI #3, fined \$2,655, sentenced to

90 days in jail, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Whichard, Christopher Allen, 35, Hot Springs, guilty of terroristic threatening, fined \$520; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$265; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$280

City of Glenwood

Clower, Joseph Allen, 48, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,240 balance; committed to jail-suspended conditions; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205

Driggers, Braxton James, 18, Glenwood, \$160 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$350 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Fogle, Johnell Capri, 23, Glenwood, \$350 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Martin, Elizabeth Erin, 45, San Bernardino, Cali., \$160 BF, speeding; \$240 BF, failure to appear

Mayberry, Bobbie Jo., 39, Bismarck, guilty of violation of city canine/feline ordinance, fined \$190

Quintana, Isaias Belmontes, 59, Little Rock, \$170 BF, speeding

Taylor, Presley Gavin, 20, Glenwood, \$160 BF, failure to register tags/expired

Wilson, Chase Allan, 26, Glenwood, guilty of careless prohibited driving, fined \$160

Umpire VFD fundraiser feed set for May 2

The Umpire Volunteer Fire Department's annual fish fry will take place Saturday, May 2, starting at 5:00 with an auction to follow.

The event will be held at the fire station, located at 15790 Highway 278.

All funds raised will go toward vital equipment and training for the department and volunteers.

Beauty pageant added to Peach Blossom Festival

The Nashville Chamber of Commerce and Golden Grace Boutique will host the Peach Blossom Pageant in conjunction with the 2026 Peach Blossom Festival to be held on Saturday, May 2 along Main Street.

The pageant's theme will "Spring Elegance & Southern Charm" and will start at 1 p.m. Participants will compete in "Peach Blossom Spring Wear" only with natural beauty and personality-based judging. The age divisions are 0-1, 2-4, 5-7, 8-10, 11-13 and 14-18. The entry fee will be \$25 per participant.

For more information, contact Crystal Leyva at 870-200-3941 or Dena Tollett at the NCC office at 845-1262.

Rusty Relics will come to life May 16 for annual show

The annual Rusty Relics Antique Tractor Club will host its annual show on Saturday, May 16.

The show will be in a large vacant lot at 424 Yorks Chapel Road west of Nashville.

Hours are 9-3:00, and admission is free.

In addition to the exhibit of antique tractors, farm equipment, 18-wheelers and old engines, there will be concessions. The public is invited.



LIVE + ONLINE

SPORTSMAN AUCTION

APRIL 25, 2026
9AM
LIVE AND ONLINE

QUARTERLY AUCTIONS:
JULY 11, 2026
OCTOBER 10, 2026

PREVIEW APRIL 24TH 12-5 PM

SPORTSMAN ACCESSORIES ONLINE ONLY AUCTION APRIL 27TH 7PM



ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS BY APPOINTMENT MONDAY - FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM.



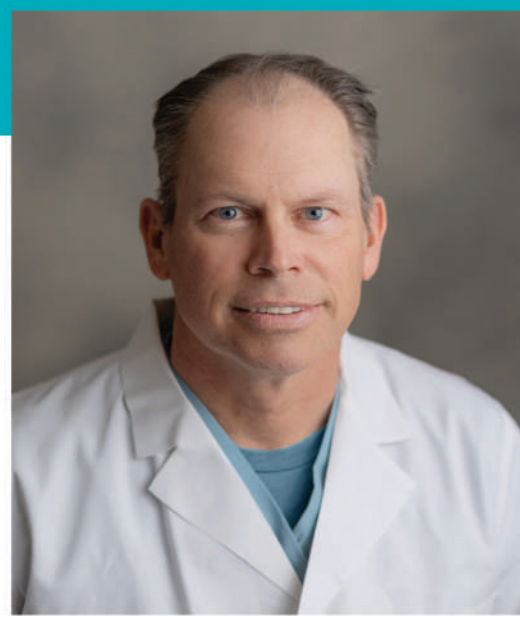
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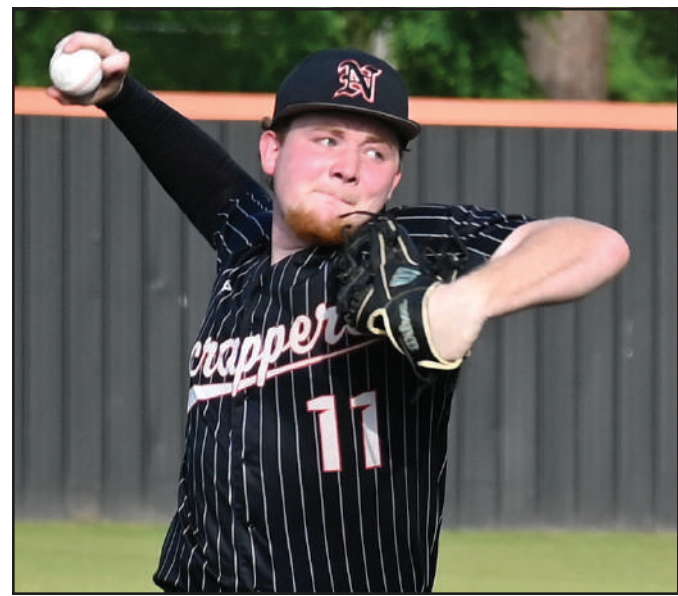


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NHS teams earn wins as regular season begins to wind down

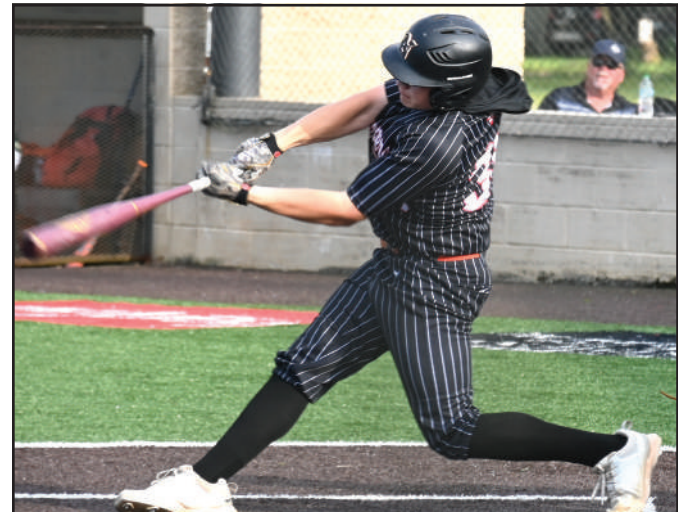
News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Dalton Manlove pitches in the Scrappers' 12-2 non-conference win over Malvern April 13 at Wilson Park.



Catcher Landyn Tompkins (left) makes the play at home plate to stop the Maumelle runner, but the Class 5A Lady Hornets went on to take a 10-3 win over Nashville



Carson Kirby takes a turn at bat against Malvern. The Scrappers defeated the Leopards and earned two conference wins over Hope last week, 9-1 and 19-1.



Rayleigh Harmon scores in the second of Nashville's two conference victories over Hope last week.



Ava Brown gets set for the catch during the Scrapperettes' District 7-4A home win over Hope April 16.



Luke Boon bats for the Scrappers against Malvern.



Kayla Bretado pitches in the Scrapperettes' 15-0 District 7-4A victory over Hope April 16 at Futrell Field.



Ellen Spigner, Women's Player of the Year in GAC Scrapperette alumna named Player of Year, All-Conference by GAC

RUSSELLVILLE - Ellen Spigner of Nashville, a senior at Arkansas Tech, was named Women's Golf Player of the Year by the Great American Conference. She was also a unanimous First Team All-GAC selection and was included on the GAC Academic Honor Roll.

The player of the year award for Spigner is a culmination of a standout four-year career as a Golden Sun and adds her to a list of four other former Golden Suns to be named the GAC Player of the Year and is the first for Tech since 2021. In being named First Team All-GAC, Spigner also becomes the fifth women's golfer in Tech history to be four-time all-conference.

Ranked No. 18 in all of Division II women's golf this year, Spigner has won three tournaments and car-

ried a 73.4 stroke average into the GAC Championship Tournament. She has also already recorded 10 rounds under par, giving her the single-season record at Tech. For her career to this point, Spigner has had 24 rounds under par, tying her for the career record.

Tech went on to win its first Great American Conference Women's Golf Championship since 2019 as the Golden Suns completed a wire-to-wire victory April 15 from Stone Creek Course at Page Belcher Golf Course.

Spigner won Medalist honors by six shots. She shot a 2-over par 72 to post 1-over 214 for the week. She became the sixth GAC Player of the Year to go on to win the GAC Championship title.

Spigner was an All-State golfer at Nashville High School.



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Coming up
Friday, April 24
Senior Night
for Scrappers
and Scrapperettes

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

Dalton Manlove, Nashville

Dalton, a Scrapper senior, helped lead the team to a win over Malvern and two over Hope. He also played "The Star-Spangled Banner" before the second victory against the Bobcats at Wilson Park.

This weekly feature sponsored by
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