

## Leader Board

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### OPINION | 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

### Soup kitchen set May 13 at MS church

The Mineral Springs Church of Christ soup kitchen will be Wednesday, May 13, from 2-5 p.m.

The menu includes baked chicken, potatoes, green beans and dessert.

The church is located at 118 Bridgeman Drive in Mineral Springs.

For more information, call 870-451-4441.

### Church plans summer meals for kids, teens

Free grab and go meals for kids and teens 18 and under will be available while school is out May 28-Aug. 16 at the Mineral Springs Church of Christ.

The USDA summer program will provide free and nutritious meals from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.

Parents and guardians may pick up three or four days of meals per visit.

All meals are pre-packed, shelf stable, and ready to eat.

Each meal pack contains breakfast and lunch.

### Heritage symposium July 24-25 at Washington

Historic Washington State Park will hold its 20th Annual Red River Heritage Symposium July 24-25.

The conference theme is "Threads Along the Red River: 250 Years at One of America's Crossroads." Topics will focus on significant 19th century events of the Great Bend Region of the Red River.

An all-day researcher workshop will be Friday, July 24, and a morning program on Saturday, July 25 for teachers and researchers.

The cost is \$25 per person for those who attend the workshop on Friday and \$15 for Saturday morning. Lunch for both days is provided in the cost.

The fee for the symposium will be \$20. Those who attend all of the programs will have a discount price of \$50.

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News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

**EXCITEMENT IN CROSSETT.** Scrapperette Baylee Smith celebrates after driving in the game-winning run in Nashville's 5-4 eighth-inning victory over Hamburg May 9 in the Class 4A South Regional at Crossett. The Scrapperettes secured the region's third seed going into state May 14-16 at Futrell Field in Nashville.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

**ON THE MOUND.** Jaydon Goodson pitches for the Scrapppers in their 6-5 win over Camden Fairview in the Class 4A South Regional Saturday, May 9, in Crossett. With the victory, the Scrapppers earned the region's three seed as they advance to the Class 4A state tournament May 14-16 at Wilson Park in Nashville.

# State bound

## Scrapppers, Scrapperettes to host Class 4A tournament

By John R. Schirmer  
News-Leader staff

For the Nashville Scrapppers and Scrapperettes, the road to the Class 4A state tournament won't be quite as long as it was to Crossett for the 4A South Regional May 7-9.

Instead of the almost three-hour journey to Ashley County, players and fans will make a short drive to Nashville's Wilson Park for baseball and Futrell Field for softball.

Nashville will host the first three rounds of the 4A state tournament May 14-16.

Championship games will be

played at Majestic Park in Hot Springs May 21-23.

The Scrapppers and Scrapperettes followed similar roads back to their home fields for state.

Both teams won opening round games May 7 against Hamburg and Star City, respectively.

Each lost in the semifinals the next day, with the Scrapppers falling to Monticello and the Scrapperettes to Warren.

Both teams held leads at different times during the semifinals but came up short at the end.

Both finished third at the region-

al, with the Scrapperettes defeating Hamburg and the Scrapppers winning over Camden Fairview in consolation games May 9.

### State

The Scrapppers will play their first game of the state tournament at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14, against Joe T. Robinson of Little Rock, the two seed from Region 3. The winner will face Brookland or Dardanelle at 10 a.m. May 15.

The Scrapperettes' first game will be at 12:30 p.m. Thursday against Morrilton, the two seed from Region 3. The winner will

move on to the quarterfinals at 10 a.m. Friday to take on Brookland or Pottsville.

Semifinals will be Saturday, May 16, at 12 noon and 2:30 p.m.

### Regionals

The Scrapppers opened the regional tournament with a 6-4 win over Hamburg Thursday, May 7.

The Scrapperettes defeated Star City 10-5 in the opening round.

With the wins on Thursday, both teams qualified for the state tournament.

See **State** • Page 5A



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

**SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS.** Jaree Hall of Nashville stands at a 100-foot waterfall at Big Bend National Park in Southwest Texas.

## Near the Rio Grande

By Don Hall  
News-Leader staff

### Big Bend Part 2

Last week we began a trip to Big Bend National Park in extreme Southwest Texas, a magic land of stark mountains and barren desert.

We'll pick up today where we left off, on the banks of the Rio Grande River.

The Rio Grande is a beautiful river that forms the boundary between the U.S. and Mexico.

It's easy to get to in Big Bend, and the water is pleasantly warm at the many river accesses. Tourists wade where the river is calm and shallow, while canoe and rafting tours are popular through canyons with walls that soar high into the sky.

Mexicans on horseback ride across the Rio Grande to sell food or souvenirs, and there's even a ferry at Boquillas Crossing that will take you to the Mexican town of the same name for a \$5 round-trip fee. But don't forget your passport if you plan to cross over—it's an official border

crossing.

And then you need to see the dinosaur exhibit. Big Bend National Park sits in an area that scientists tell us was completely under a sea 130 million years ago.

The waters finally receded after 60 million years, give or take a million or two, but it remained a coastal, marshy area, only becoming a desert a mere 11,000 years ago. That's like "the day before yesterday" in geological terms.

The first dinosaur discoveries were made in the 1940s, and continue with ongoing archeological digs.

The Fossil Discovery Exhibit is eight miles north of Panther Junction, one of the five main visitor centers in the park. With fossils that show some of the more than 90 species of dinosaurs that have been found there so far, it's well worth the 16-mile round trip.

When to visit Big Bend? The rainy season typically runs from July through September, but it can start mid-June and continue into October, with daily afternoon thunderstorms.

Riverbeds that have

been dry for months become full and raging, and flash-flooding and rapidly rising water can make the lower areas dangerous. Not a good time to hike the low country.

Couple the rain with average high temperatures ranging from 61° F in December to 94° F in June, sometimes over 100° in the summer months, and it's easy to understand why most folks choose to visit Big Bend between November and April.

Don't worry about being too cold; the desert air is so dry that even the cooler winter and early spring temps are quite comfortable.

### Where to stay?

For those of you whose idea of Roughing It is to check into a Holiday Inn without a reservation, the town of Terlingua, 11 miles before you get to Big Bend, is what you're looking for.

There are local motels (no Holiday Inn), restaurants, and almost 550 vacation rentals. These rentals run from rustic to ridiculous.

See **River** • Page 5A



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

**MUSIC AT THE ARENA.** Stacia Petty directs Nashville Primary School second graders in their patriotic musical performance Tuesday afternoon, May 5, at Scrapper Arena. The program was part of "Celebration of America," which also featured the district-wide student art show May 5-7 at the arena. The show included work from students on all four of the district's campuses.



# Obituaries



**James 'Macky' McKnight**

James "Macky" McKnight, 75, of Delight, Ark., went to be with his Lord and Savior on May 5, 2026, in Arkadelphia, Ark. He was born on June 30, 1950, to Raymond Ira and Martha Frances Miller McKnight.

He was a member of Delight First Missionary Baptist Church and enjoyed sharing his faith with others. He and his wife owned and operated McKnight's Grocery in Delight for 38 years, where he enjoyed seeing familiar faces and visiting with friends and neighbors.

He cared deeply about his community and served as President of the Delight Cemetery Association for 16 years, was one of the founders of the Delight Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Delight Lions Club. He supported the Make-A-Wish Foundation through Fun Runs and BBQ Cook-offs and helped grant wishes to wish kids. He believed in serving others and supporting local businesses.

Macky enjoyed the simple things in life, like mowing his yard and spending time with his family. He especially loved going to his granddaughters' activities and being there for them whenever he could. They truly were his "pride and joy."

Macky is survived by his wife of 57 years, Rheta Norman McKnight; children Jeff (Melody) McKnight and Celeste (Chris) May; grandchildren Madison (Braden) Healy, McKenzie (Bryle) Fatheree, Jenna May, Coley Caldwell, and Carol Basurto; great-grandchildren Aiden and Alec Basurto, Kannon and Aspen Cain; one very special uncle, Larry Miller; a special daughter,

Rosalia Palacios, along with other aunts and uncles, a multitude of cousins, friends and former store patrons.

Visitation will be 6-8 p.m., Friday, May 8, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m., Saturday, May 9, at Delight First Baptist Church, with Bro. Bryan Sellers and Bro. Verlon Wood officiating, burial to follow in Delight Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Mid-South Make-A-Wish Foundation or the Delight Cemetery.

You may send an online sympathy message at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com)

**Joe Ray Bradford, Jr.**  
Joe Ray Bradford Jr. 74, of Texarkana died April 28, 2026. He was born Nov. 2, 1951, in Shreveport, La., the son of the late Joe Bradford, Sr., and Vernell Bradford.

He was preceded in death by two wives, Margaret Brown and Karen Bradford.

Survivors include: two sons, Rhupert and Joe Bradford; two stepsons, Joseph and Jason Wilson; a brother, James B. Bradford; three sisters, Kathy Keels, Sharon Hamilton, and Edna Hendrix; also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be Friday, May 8, 2026, from 3-5 p.m. at M&H Memorial Chapel, Hope.

Funeral services will be 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 9, at First Church of God, Tolleto. Burial will follow at Crofton Cemetery in Tolleto. Arrangements by McFadden & Hitchye Funeral Enterprises, Hope.

**Jane Ann Dyer**  
Jane Ann Dyer, 70, of Hope, died May 5, 2026.

She was born Feb. 25, 1956, in Nashville, the daughter of the late JC Dyer and Jackie Simpson Dyer.

Survivors include: her sister, Judith Blalock and husband Rick; a daughter, Jenna Sullivan and husband Mikey; also grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Graveside services will be Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Restland Memorial

Park in Nashville with Ed McCrary officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Nashville Funeral Home.

**Youlanda Darlene Hesslund**

Youlanda Darlene Hesslund, 50, of Nashville, died Friday, April 24, 2026.

She was born Oct. 20, 1975, in Ashdown, the daughter of Hazel Laverne McDaniel and the late John Robert Burch.

She was preceded in death by her two brothers, Wesley Arrington and Donald Woody.

Survivors include: her husband of seven years, Donald Hesslund of Nashville; her three children and son-in-law, Samantha Hobbs and Mykel Shields of Murfreesboro; Joseph Hobbs Jr. of Nashville; and Don Hobbs of Louisiana; a stepson, Chris Kerns; her four brothers, Merritt Woody of Little Rock, Ralph "Abe" Woody of Nashville; Turner Woody of Oklahoma, and Freddie Woody of Nashville; also grandchildren.

Cremation arrangements by Smith Family Funeral Home- Glenwood.



**Rayburn L. "Ray" Johnson**

Rayburn L. "Ray" Johnson, passed away on Dec. 31, 2025, after a long battle with diabetes. Ray was born in Manila, Ark., on Sept. 28, 1950, to Ruben and Ruby Johnson.

Ray was a 1968 graduate from Nashville High School, in Nashville, Ark. He got his first 8-to-5 job from Mr. Bernie Kreul at Western Auto on Main Street in Nashville. Ray's work as a licensed electrician took him to many different places in the USA but he loved his family with all his heart and enjoyed coming home to Murfreesboro for family get-togethers.

He was preceded in death by both parents; two sisters, Berniece Rogers of Lake Forest, Calif., and Inell Brewer of Kirby, Ark.; two brothers, Walter Johnson of Lake Forest, Calif., and Al Thomas (Joe) Johnson of Nash, Texas; his step-father, Hearl Walls and step-brother, Raymond Walls of Murfreesboro, Ark.

He is survived by two sisters, Edith Witt of Kennesaw, Ga., and Deronda Daniel of Barling, Ark., as well as a daughter, Samantha Couch and granddaughter Sarah Couch of Huntsville, Texas. He was blessed with several nieces and nephews and a host of cousins.

Ray was a strong believer in the Lord and was always prepared to minister the words of God whenever the opportunity arose.

A graveside memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Academy Cemetery in Nathan, Ark., with Pastor Joe Kelly officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation for maintenance of the cemetery. Checks can be made to Academy Cemetery, c/o Gary Cox, 27 Bacon Creek Farm Rd., Nashville, AR 71852.

Online at [brothertonbrothersfuneralhome.com](http://brothertonbrothersfuneralhome.com).



**SOAPSUDS EVERYWHERE.** A donation-only carwash to raise funds for youth group projects was held Saturday morning at Life Tabernacle Church in Nashville. Above, the carwash crew awaits another dirty vehicle.



**A REMINDER.** Nashville Rotary Club president-elect Bobby Miller is beside the Main/Bishop Street intersection banner reminding citizens of the annual radiothon to raise funds for the Howard County Children's Center. The club has sponsored the event for more than 30 years, and it is one of the principal fundraisers for the center.

## Jury delivers long ADC sentence and heavy fines for Murfreesboro man

A Howard County jury took less than 40 minutes to arrive at a guilty verdict after hearing a trial on multiple charges, Monday.

Stanley W. Gosnell, Jr., 53, white male, Murfreesboro, was charged in March of 2025 with three felonies and one misdemeanor, most drug-related, but he was also charged with tampering with physical evidence. According to court documents he was arrested in Nashville after a routine traffic stop. The charges included possession of

methamphetamine, drug paraphenalia and marijuana.

After hearing the case, the jury retired at 4 p.m. and returned with the guilty verdict 39 minutes later.

Likewise the time for consideration of punishment was short, taking only 26 minutes to arrive at a sentence: a total of 35 years in the Arkansas Department of Correction and fines totaling \$32,500.

On the bench was Judge Bryan Chesshir.

## Two students from Howard County selected for single-parent scholarships

Two students from Howard County recently received scholarships awarded by the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund.

The fund awarded a total of \$659,600 in Spring 2026 scholarships to 453 single parents statewide, helping student parents across 69 counties stay enrolled in college or trade school while supporting their families.

In Howard County, ASPSF awarded \$3,200 to two spring students, including Amber Burchette and Miracle Haislip. Burchette is studying education at Arkansas State University and wants to work in a K-6 classroom.

"Without the help of this scholarship, I would not be able to continue my education and live life happily in my career or provide for my family," Burchette said.

Haislip is studying nursing at Cossatot Community College-UA to become a registered nurse and eventually earn her master's degree to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

"This scholarship helped me get me through LVN school and hopefully RN as well," she said. "I was able to manage motherhood and

being a student. Stress was lifted off my shoulders."

ASPSF scholarships can be used for expenses that often stand between a single parent and graduation, including child care, trans-

portation, housing, utilities, and school-related costs.

The financial aid is paired with support services to help these nontraditional students successfully balance school, work, and parenting.



**ART SHOW.** Nashville art teachers welcome visitors to Art at the Arena, the Nashville School District's annual student art show May 5-7 in Scrapper Arena. The teachers include Julie Chesshir, primary school; Lori Chambers, elementary; Megan Worthen, junior high; and Shawn Dale, high school. The art show featured work from students on all four Nashville campuses.

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## The Nashville News-Leader

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

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

Single issue price: \$1.00.

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

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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



Lesley White sits behind at the wheel of a John Deere Model 420 at the Rusty Relics Antique Tractor show in May 2004.

**134 years ago: May 1882**

One reason why some people read the Bible so little is because it tells them so many things they don't want to know about themselves.

There are men who stand up in church and say they are willing to do anything for the Lord, who make their wives carry in all the wood.

Jacob saw the angels passing up and down the ladder, but he didn't see them taking anybody to heaven with them. It takes men to do that.

(Adv.) For fresh beef and mutton, go to A. M. Hartsell's new market on Main Street.

**71 years ago: May 1955**

Commencement exercises will be held May 26 and Baccalaureate Services on May 22 for the graduating class at Nashville Senior High School. Both exercises will begin at 8 p.m. in White-side Hall.

Diplomas will be awarded to 62 graduates. The honor graduates are Phyllis Schirmer, valedictorian; and Lester Bradley Jr., salutatorian.

Governor Sidney McMATH, engaged in a bitter political battle with former governor Ben Laney, will campaign in Nashville at 3 p.m. Saturday. McMATH will speak from the sidewalk

near the First National Bank building. Two blocks on Main Street will be roped off to care for an expected crowd of several thousand.

**50 years ago: May 1976**

Approximately 6,000 people went through the gates of Scrapper Stadium for the poultry festival and chicken dinner, but chilly weather almost emptied the stands by the end of the program.

Temperatures dropped five degrees per hour during the program. Weather records at the Peach Station showed that the temperature at 6 p.m. was 68 degrees and by the time the fireworks were over at 10:40 p.m. it was down to 48 degrees. When the lights came on after the fireworks were over, only about 300 people were left in the stadium.

**30 years ago: May 1996**

Tadd McCullough was named Distinguished Honor Graduate for Nashville High School class of Nashville High School class of 1996 during the Rafe Goodlett Honor Graduate Banquet. The Lions Club sponsored the event.

Other 1996 Nashville High School honor graduates include Courtney Portier, valedictorian; and Holt Woodruff, salutatorian.

# The Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period Apr. 30-May 6, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

**Marriage Licenses**

(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office)

No marriage licenses were issued during the period.

**Civil Court**

CV26-82, Apr. 30. In the matter of Hunter Morgan. Name change.

CV26-83, May 4. Farm Bureau Bank vs. Kolton Ortiz. Debt.

CV26-84, May 4. LVNO Funding, LLC vs. Greg Gadsen. Debt.

CV26-85, May 5. LVNO Funding, LLC vs. John Santos. Debt.

CV26-86, May 5. LVNO Funding, LLC vs. Barbara Boyles. Debt.

CV26-87, May 6. LVNO Funding, LLC vs. Monica Brown. Debt.

**Domestic Relations Court**

DR26-45, May 5. Tracy Lynn Jackson vs. Nancy Elizabeth Jackson. Divorce.

**Criminal Court**

(NOTE: POCs = possession of controlled substance; PODP = possession of drug paraphernalia; DOCS = delivery of controlled substance. Defendants are innocent until proven otherwise.)

CR26-32, May 4. State of Arkansas vs. Ivy Catrice Waver, 41, white female, 173 Hempstead County Road 351, Nashville; PODP, class D felony.

CR26-33, May 4. State of Arkansas vs. Kyle Wade

Whisenhunt, 63, white male, 342 Academy Rd., Nashville; tampering with physical evidence, class D; PODP, misdemeanor; POCs, class D.

**Land/Property Transactions**

**Quitclaim Deed**

May 1. Sherry Tabler, fka Sherry A. Myers, and husband Joe Stephen Tabler; to Sherry Tabler and husband Joe Stephen Tabler; aggregate 1.15 ac. in S35 T9S R28W.

**Warranty Deed**

Apr. 30. (Special) First Nest LLC; to Jackie Dee Murray; part of Block 30, Town of Mineral Springs. \$79,500.

May 1. Christie Stone; to Jennifer McKnight; part of Lots 7 & 8, Block 81, Town of Nashville. \$230,000.

May 1. Christie Stone; to Jennifer McKnight; 0.018 ac, part of Lot 3 Block 86, Town of Nashville.

May 1. Lawrence Ray Teague and David Carlton Teague, co-trustees of the Herschell R. and Cay Carlton Teague Living Trust; to Dana White and husband William White; property in S26 T9S R27W, Wilson-Ferguson Addition, City of Nashville. \$200,000.

May 1. Royce Katzer and wife Joan Katzer; to William Osorio; 2.86 ac., Lot 15, Rolling Hills Subdivision, Howard County. \$99,900.

May 5. Carop Leasing, Inc.; to SWA PAWS; 1 ac. in S17 T10S R27W. \$0.

May 6. (Trustee) Doris Jeanette McConnell, trustee of the McConnell Family Revocable Trust; to Duane Crawford Trust; 2 tracts in S7 T6S R28W.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-3

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2024-14 THE 2025 HOWARD COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE.

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: The 2025 Howard County Budget Ordinance No. 2024-14 should be Amended as follows:

County Judges Salaries, Full-Time (1000-0100-1001) should increase by \$1,980.00, Overtime & Other Premiums (1000-0100-1005) should increase by \$1,660.48, Social Security Matching (1000-0100-1006) should increase by \$200.97, Retirement Matching (1000-0100-1007) should increase by \$1,658.99, Health Insurance Matching (1000-0100-1009) should increase by \$16.14, Life Insurance (1000-0100-1016) should increase by \$100.80, Cell Phones and Pagers (1000-0100-3022) should increase by \$115.00. \$2,123.00 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. The County Judge General Supplies (1000-0100-2001) should decrease by \$2,354.27; Postage (1000-0100-3021) should decrease by \$ 91.00; Travel (1000-0100-3030) should decrease by \$461.15, and Dues and Memberships (1000-0100-3090) should decrease by \$ 702.96.

County Clerk's Salaries, Full-Time (1000-0101-1001) should increase by \$6,879.54, Retirement Matching (1000-0101-1007) should increase by \$3,501.24, Life Insurance (1000-0101-1016) should increase by \$196.00. \$3,420.00 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. The County Clerk Other Professional Services (1000-0101-3009) should decrease by \$7,156.78.

Circuit Clerk's Salaries, Full-Time (1000-0102-1001) should increase by \$3,420.00, Retirement Matching (1000-0102-1007) should increase by \$2,478.15, Life Insurance (1000-0102-1016) should increase by \$241.92, Telephone & Fax-Landline (1000-0102-3020) should increase by \$10.69. \$3,420.00 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. Computer Services (1000-0102-3003) should decrease by \$2,444.62; Postage (1000-0102-3021) should decrease by \$286.14.

County Treasurer's Salaries, Full-Time (1000-0103-1001) should increase by \$2,120.00, Retirement Matching (1000-0103-1007) should increase by \$1,590.57, Health Insurance Matching (1000-0103-1009) should increase by \$16.02, Life Insurance (1000-0103-1016) should increase by \$134.40, Telephone & Fax-Land (1000-0103-3020) should increase by \$47.27. \$2,120.00 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. General Supplies (1000-0103-2001) should decrease by \$1,788.26.

County Collector Salaries, Full-Time (1000-0104-1001) should increase by \$5,285.63, Retirement Matching (1000-0104-1007) should increase by \$1,783.51, Life Insurance (1000-0104-1016) should increase by \$193.21. \$4,204.11 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. General Supplies (1000-0104-2001) should decrease by \$3,058.24.

County Assessor's Salaries Full-Time (1000-0105-1001) should increase by \$2,690.88, Retirement Matching (1000-0105-1007) should increase by \$2,749.34, Life Insurance (1000-0105-1016) should increase by \$333.20. \$4,200.00 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. Postage (1000-0105-3021) should decrease by \$1,573.42.

County Equalization Board Travel (1000-0106-3030) should increase by \$97.56. Advertising and Publications (1000-0106-3040) should decrease by \$97.56.

The Quorum court Advertising and Publications (1000-0107-3040) should increase by \$573.95. Travel (1000-0107-3030) should decrease by \$500.00; Paupers and Welfare (1000-0107-3095) should decrease by \$73.95.

County Courthouse Maintenance Life Insurance (1000-0108-1016) should increase by \$61.60; General Supplies (1000-0108-2001) should increase by \$3,020.15; Maintenance and Services (1000-0108-2024) should increase by \$9,394.25; Telephone and Fax-Land (1000-0108-3020) should increase by \$3,021.54, and Utilities-Electricity (1000-0108-3060) should increase by \$741.81. Parts and Repairs (1000-0108-2023) should decrease by \$16,239.35.

County Elections Social Security Matching (1000-0109-1006) should increase by \$379.02. Extra Help (1000-0109-1003) should decrease by 379.02.

County Health Postage Department (1000-0300-3021) should increase by \$269.45. Internet Connection (1000-0300-3023) should decrease by \$269.45.

County Sheriff's Salaries, Full-time (1000-0400-1001) should increase by \$9,588.50, Overtime & other Premium Compensation (1000-0400-1005) should increase by \$27,449.57, Social Security Matching (1000-0400-1006) should increase by \$1,373.28, Retirement Matching (1000-0400-1007) should increase by \$10,888.53, Life Insurance (1000-0400-1016) should increase by \$624.40, Fleet Liability (1000-0400-3053) should increase by \$252.00. \$9,588.50 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001). Fuels, Oil, and Lubricant (1000-0400-2007) should decrease by \$16,224.57; Repair (Auto) (1000-0400-2032) should decrease by \$15,394.21; Miscellaneous Law Enforcement (1000-0400-3093) should decrease by \$8,969.00.

County Circuit Court Telephone & Fax-Land (1000-0401-3020) should increase by \$568.29, Internet Connection (1000-0401-3023) should increase by \$169.80. Jurors & Witnesses (1000-0401-3092) should decrease by \$738.09.

Circuit Court Judge Computer Services (1000-0402-3003) should increase by \$532.42, Telephone & Fax-Land (1000-0402-3020) should increase by \$1,972.94, Fire and Extended Coverage (1000-0402-3052) should increase by \$8.00, Dues and Memberships (1000-0402-3090) should increase by \$35.00. Jurors & Witnesses (1000-0402-3092) should decrease by \$2,500.00; Meals and Lodging (1000-0402-3094) should decrease by \$48.36.

Prosecuting Attorney Salaries, Full-Time (1000-0416-1001) should increase by \$415.01, Social Security Matching (1000-0416-1006) should increase by \$1.94, Retirement Matching (1000-0416-1007) should increase by \$872.20, Life Insurance (1000-0416-1016) should increase by \$50.40, Utilities-Electricity (1000-0416-3060) should increase by \$220.61, Dues and Memberships (1000-0416-3090) should increase by \$135.00, Other Miscellaneous (1000-0416-3100) should increase by \$20.00. Telephone & Fax-Land (1000-0416-3020) should decrease by \$1,213.47, Travel (1000-0416-3030) should decrease by \$501.69.

County Coroner Retirement Matching (1000-0419-1007) should increase by \$504.71. The increase comes from unappropriated and unanticipated revenues.

County Office of Emergency Services Salaries, Full-Time (1000-0500-1001) should increase by \$489.25, Social Security Matching (1000-0500-1006) should increase by \$37.30, Retirement Matching (1000-0500-1007) should increase by \$252.10, Life Insurance (1000-0500-1016) should increase by \$21.84, Internet Connection (1000-0500-3023) should increase by \$79.87. \$528.26 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. Travel (1000-0500-3030) should decrease by \$352.10.

County Veterans Services Utilities-Gas (1000-0800-3061) should increase by \$35.84, Other Miscellaneous (1000-0800-3100) should increase by \$359.75. Utilities-Electricity (1000-0800-3060) should decrease by \$395.59.

District Court Salaries Full-Time (1800-0409-1001) should increase by \$3,169.59, Retirement Matching (1800-0409-1007) should increase by \$1,445.82, Health Insurance Matching (1800-0409-1009) should increase by \$32.28, Life Insurance Matching (1800-0409-1016) should increase by \$201.60. 3,169.59 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. General Supplies (1800-0409-2001) should decrease by \$1,679.70.

County Road Department Salaries Full-Time (2000-0200-1001) should increase by \$17,193.02, Salaries Part-Time (2000-0200-1002) should increase by \$5,269.00, Overtime & Other Premium Compensation (2000-0200-1005) should increase by \$3,358.98, Retirement Matching (2000-0200-1007) should increase by \$16,184.74, Life Insurance (2000-0200-1016) should increase by \$1,010.47, Small Equipment (2000-0200-2002) should increase by \$7,620.04, Tire and Tubes (2000-0200-2008) should increase by \$2,249.81, Building and Materials (2000-0200-2020) should increase by \$198.03, Gravel, Dirt, and Sand (2000-0200-2027) should increase by \$6,236.72, Internet Connection (2000-0200-3023) should increase by \$625.64, Advertising and Public (20000-0200-3040) should increase by \$189.05, Fleet Liability (2000-0200-3053) should increase by \$1,301.45, Other Sundry Insurance (2000-0200-3054) should increase by \$178.26. \$17,300.67 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. Asphalt (2000-0200-2025) should decrease by \$44,314.54.

Treasurer's Automation Fund Computer Services (3000-0103-3003) should increase by \$7,675.27. Small Equipment (3000-0103-2002) should decrease by \$7,675.27.

District Court Automation Fund Telephone & Fax-Land (3003-0409-3020) should increase by \$1,020.41, Internet Connection (3003-0409-3023) should increase by \$812.88. Lease-Machinery and Equipment (3003-0409-3073) should decrease by \$1,833.29.

County Library Salaries Full-Time (3008-0600-1001) should increase by \$2,331.70, Overtime & Other Premium Compensation (3008-0600-1005) should increase by \$351.64, Health Insurance Matching (3008-0600-1009) should increase by \$24.27, Life Insurance (3008-0600-1016) should increase by \$134.40. \$2,331.70 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. General supplies (3008-0600-2001) should decrease by \$510.31.

County Sanitation Salaries Full-Time (3009-0701-1001) should increase by \$3,673.45, Salaries, Part-Time (3009-0701-1002) should increase by \$91.04, Life Insurance (3009-0701-1016) should increase by \$270.49, Tires and Tubes (3009-0701-2008) should increase by \$3,602.28, Other Sundry Insurance (3009-0701-3054) should increase by \$15,918.90, Utilities -Waste Disposal (3009-0701-3063) should increase by \$7,089.73. \$3,673.45 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund (1001) for Employee Bonuses. Fuel, Oil, and Lubricant (3009-0701-2007) should decrease by \$26,343.36; Parts and Repairs (3009-0701-2023) should decrease by \$629.08.

County Jail Salaries, Full-Time (3017-0418-1001) should increase by \$11,651.29, Salaries, Part-Time (3017-0418-1002) should increase by \$512.52, Overtime & Other Premium Compensation (3017-0418-1005) should increase by \$13,554.94, Retirement Matching (3017-0418-1007) should increase by \$12,020.23, Life Insurance (3017-0418-1016) should increase by \$845.60, Telephone & Fax-Land (3017-0418-3020) should increase by \$302.51. \$11,651.29 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund. Maintenance and Service (3017-0418-2024) should decrease by \$27,235.80.

County 911 Salaries, Full-Time (3020-0501-1001) should increase by \$528.26, Social Security Matching (3020-0501-1006) should increase by \$37.26, Retirement Matching (3020-0501-1007) should increase by \$252.38, Life Insurance (3020-0501-1016) should increase by \$21.84, Parts and Repairs (3020-0501-2023) should increase by \$2,352.99. \$528.26 of the increase comes from the Contingency Fund. Monthly 911 charges (3020-0501-3024) should decrease by \$2,664.47.

County Victim Witness Salaries, Full-Time (3025-0416-1001) should increase by \$2,976.23, Retirement Matching (3025-0416-1007) should increase by \$3,546.58. Life Insurance (3025-0416-1016) should increase by \$92.40. Travel (3025-0416-3030) should decrease by \$92.40. Salaries, Part-Time (3025-0416-1002) should decrease by \$6,522.81.

County Defense of Indigents General Supplies (3026-0417-2001) should increase by \$648.11; Other Professional Services (3026-0417-3009) should increase by \$2,133.12; Internet Connection (3026-0417-3023) should increase by \$286.35; Utilities-Water (3026-0417-3062) should increase by \$108.99, and Rent-Land and Building (3026-0417-3070) should increase by \$999.33. Telephone & Fax-Land (3026-0417-3020) should decrease by \$1,552.13, Postage (3026-0417-3021) should decrease by \$300.00, Cell Phones and Pagers (3026-0417-3022) should decrease by \$593.49, Travel (3026-0417-3030) should decrease by \$1,700.00, Utilities - Electricity (3026-0417-3060) should decrease by \$14.28, and Utilities-Gas (3026-0417-3061) should decrease by \$16.00.

SECTION 2: This ordinance is to be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Brent Pinkerton, Howard County Judge

ATTEST:  
Keri Teague, Howard County Clerk  
February 17, 2026

(This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$814.95)

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# Point of view

## More bad fruit news Peach growers elsewhere had fight with canneries

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I'm thinking today about a Helen Keller quote: "I cried because I had no shoes until I saw a man who had no feet."

The moral is that there is always someone who has it worse than you do.

So, for awhile I was sorry that some arctic weather undid all of the hard work peach orchardists Tim Jones, Lou Jamison and their crews, had put in on the crop of 2026 .... until I read about the several hundred California farmers who grew peaches for Del Monte.

Del Monte has closed its California peach canneries and that part of their industry has reportedly gone into bankruptcy.

Will those farmers plow down their 420,000 trees and turn to some other cash crop?

The article says that the Del Monte crop is 30-35% of the state's peaches (theyn taste really yucky compared to ours).

The California peach growers are now facing a glut of the fruit and no one to sell it to.

Just their luck that a late winter blast killed the Arkansas crop, while the weather has been lovely in California.

I'm crying because my shoes look so ratty.



NOT ALL READERS want to give this columnist a good paddling for his remarks that were perceived to be Anti-President Trump.

I am going to frame a letter I got this week from a reader who says he agrees with the remarks and for me to keep up the good work.

The late great Arkansas governor and senator Dale Bumpers once told me that if I didn't offend someone some of the time, then I wasn't doing my job.



ANIMAL CRACKERS. Is this the year for the Baltimore Oriole? Several of my correspondents report multiple multiple and many sightings of that brilliant orange and black bird.

And some correspondents report many sightings of Rosebreasted Grosbeak.

And some correspondents report many sightings of Blue Buntings.

All I see are these ratty shoes and a Mockingbird that is pestering the Bluebirds that have a nest and five tiny blue eggs in the birdbox on my patio fence.

AND THIS REMINDS ME: This is the XXth year in which I failed to keep my promise to keep a weather eye out for the annual arrival of the Mississippi Kites (And that is not 'annual' anyway since they didn't always drop by seasonally).

Have you spotted the Kites, yet?



SMOKING LAMP IS LIT. A discussion among siblings during the Mother's Day weekend reveals this priceless bit of knowledge: You can still buy old fashioned candy cigarettes at the Hawkins Store in Murfreesboro.

All of my brothers and sisters present during that conversation admitted to 'smoking' those candy cigs in the days before we were brave enough to light up in public or in front of Mom or Dad.

That conversation was steered to the number of us who once smoked real cigarettes but have managed to quit.

Cars and trucks no longer come with ashtrays or cigarette lighters, one sibling observed.

Yeah, and cigarettes now cost more than \$6 a pack, another sibling retorted.

Still, just look at the ground at the entrance of convenience stores and you'll see hunnerds of cig butts, yet another sib said.

A few years ago the Nashville Rotary Club got a grant for some large outdoor ashtrays for downtown Nashville.

Even so, in a follow-up club members counted literally hunnerds and hunnerds of cig butts on the ground instead of in the ashtrays.

That 'smoking lamp' quote was the Navy's way of announcing that sailors could now smoke throughout the ship. Until the announcement "Smoking lamp is out."

I'm betting that the Navy no longer allows smoking anywhere.



MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: CHICKENS --- The only animal you eat before they are born and after they are dead.



WORD GAMES. I love oxymorons. "He was the Wisest Fool I ever knew."



HE SAID: "In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." Mark Twain (pen name for Samuel Langhorne Clemens), humorist



SHE SAID: "The person interested in success has to learn to view failure as a healthy, inevitable part of the process of getting to the top." Joyce Brothers, psychologist, television personality, advice columnist



SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Mine Creek Revelations

By Louie Graves

## Love Thy Neighbor, and GET THE COVID VACCINE!

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



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

## Legislature approves governor's plan to reduce funds from state income tax

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders issued a proclamation on Thursday, April 30, calling the Arkansas General Assembly into an Extraordinary Session, which started May 4.

The governor called the session to, according to the proclamation, "amend the individual income tax brackets and rates to a top rate of 3.7%, effective January 1, 2026, and following tax years."

The proclamation further states that the session is also to cover the amendment of "income tax brackets and rates for domestic and foreign corporations to a top tax rate of 4.1%, effective January 1, 2027, and following tax years..."

Previously, the top individual income tax rate was 3.9% and the top corporate income tax rate was 4.3%.

Taxes in Arkansas have steadily decreased since 2015. Legislators have cut taxes in each major session and multiple special sessions, reducing the top personal income tax rate from 7% and the top corporate income tax rate from 6.5% in 2015.

Proponents of the tax cut say

that it is important to keep lowering income taxes for the state to maintain economic competitiveness.

Critics have shared concerns that such a tax cut will not provide much benefit for most Arkansans and would make the state more reliant on sales taxes.

On Monday, the Senate's Revenue and Tax committee reviewed Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Senator Jonathan Dismang, which outlined the proposed tax rates for individuals and corporations.

The committee heard from several citizens who spoke against the bill. Committee members thanked them for their testimony and stated that the current bill does not diminish any services.

The committee voted "do pass," which is a formal action indicating the committee supports the bill and wants to move it to the full Senate chamber for a vote.

Day two of the special session began with the full Senate meeting to discuss and vote on Senate Bill 1.

Senators Clarke Tucker and Greg Leding spoke against the bill. Senator Matt McKee spoke in favor.

The Senate passed the bill and transmitted it to the House for further discussion and vote.

The Senate Revenue and Tax committee met briefly and voted "do pass" on House Bill 1001, which is identical to the Senate bill, sending it to the full Senate for a vote the following day.

The Senate then passed the bill 27-6 on Wednesday morning to send for the governor's signature.

After the vote, the body honored the senators who are serving their final terms. Senators Fred Love, Reginald Murdock, Kim Hammer, Greg Leding, Blake Johnson, and Jane English were recognized with humor and heartfelt tributes from their fellow senators.

Accomplishing its goals, the First Extraordinary Session of the 95th Senate was adjourned sine die by Lt. Governor Leslie Rutledge, the President of the Senate, after a motion by President Pro Tempore Bart Hester.

Wednesday afternoon, Governor Sanders signed the tax bills into law.

Arkansas income tax rates are now at their lowest levels since the tax was enacted in 1929.

## Drug take back efforts important

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

Arkansans once again took part in Drug Take Back Day, joining Americans across the country in a shared effort to safely collect and dispose of unused and expired prescription medications. These events continue to provide an important avenue to keep them out of the wrong hands and reduce the risk of misuse in our communities.

Arkansas has long been a strong participant in this initiative. Since 2010, Arkansans have turned in approximately 367 tons of unused prescription drugs through Take Back programs. In addition to the twice-yearly Take Back Days, there are more than 300 permanent drop-off locations available across the state year-round. These sites make it simple for individuals and families to safely dispose of medications they no longer need.

Early reports from this spring's Take Back Day show exceptional involvement across the state. On April 25 alone, the Tri-County Drug Task Force, managed by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, safely collected more than 314 pounds of unused prescription medications. Additional collection efforts in Pine Bluff, White Hall and Redfield brought in another 405 pounds. That success carried over from last October when the Arkansas State Police and Arkansas National Guard collected an additional 26,000 pounds of medication.

Overall, a little more than 50,000 pounds of expired and unused medication were safely collected of during the April Take Back event, another strong showing. These efforts represent the demonstrated need to responsibly dispose of unused medications and the commitment of community leaders and members to protect their loved ones, friends and neighbors.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Arkansas had the highest dispensing rate of opioids in the nation in 2024. Other nearby states continue to experience similarly high rates of prescribing, and Drug Take Back programs remain one of many important tools in reducing the risk of these surplus prescription pills being abused.

Research has shown that a significant portion of opioids and other controlled substances used outside of a medical setting come from family and friends, often without their knowledge. When unused medications are left in the home, they can create unnecessary risk. Safe disposal helps reduce that risk and removes one more pathway that can lead to addiction.

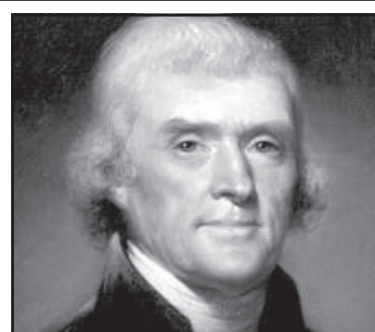
Addressing the broader opioid crisis requires continued coordination between federal, state and local partners. Law enforcement, health care providers and community organizations all have a role to play in prevention, treatment and recovery efforts.

I have supported initiatives aimed at strengthening that response. This includes funding for specialty courts such as drug courts and veterans' treatment courts, which help individuals struggling with substance use disorder receive treatment while reducing incarceration.

I have also supported legislation to expand prevention, education, treatment and recovery programs, as well as efforts to increase access to naloxone, a medication that can reverse opioid overdoses and save lives. Additionally, I continue to support research into non-addictive alternatives for pain management to help reduce reliance on opioids when appropriate.

Drug Take Back programs—both on designated days and year-round—remain a practical and effective part of this broader effort. They provide an easy way for individuals to take responsibility for unused medications and help protect their families and communities.

I encourage Arkansans to continue taking part and make use of the permanent drop-off locations available throughout the state. These actions may seem small on their own, but together they make a real difference. There is always more work to be done and I will continue working across all levels of government to address substance abuse, support recovery and keep our communities safe.



"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  
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The Nashville News-Leader is published weekly by Nashville Leader, Inc.,  
418 North Main, Nashville, AR 71852.

### Letters policy

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

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

E-mail: jrs@nashvilleleader.com

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

# River

Continued from page 1A

lous and include cabins, container homes, trailers, and even weird-looking glass bubble "space pods" and "luxury yurts" (look it up) on the side of a mountain. More about that in a moment.

Highly recommended is the Ten Bits Ranch, a few miles north of Terlingua and two miles down a well-maintained gravel road. Built to look like an old Western town, it's off the grid with 19 cabins and more under construction, and all have a killer view of Chimney Rock Mountain. Each cabin has a microwave oven to reheat your restau-

rant left-overs, and there's a shared cooking/grilling building, the *Cantina*, where people who are tired of restaurants can prepare meals for themselves on one of several ranges and gas or charcoal grills.

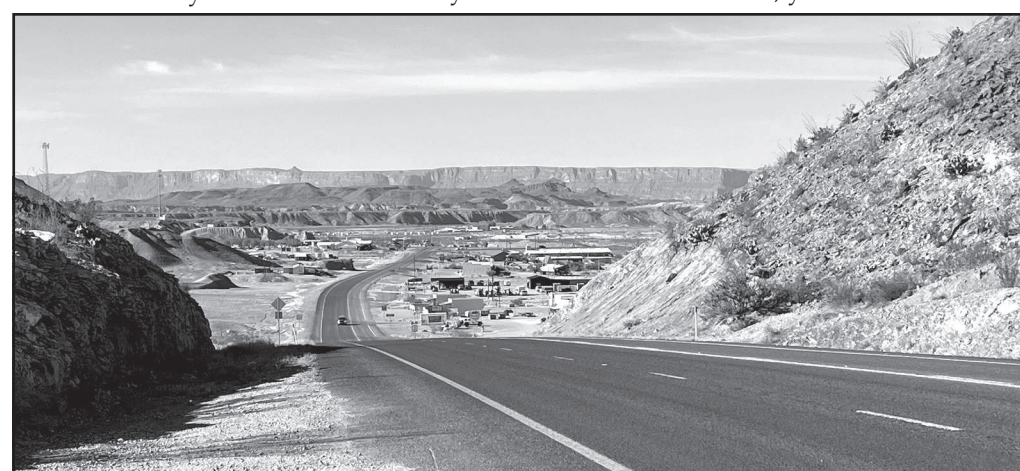
Each cabin at Ten Bits has a different theme, like a barbershop or bank or blacksmith's shop. The Bath House even has a small, 4' deep swimming pool (heated!) inside the cabin, sitting underneath a 4'X6' skylight.

The space pods and yurts appeal to a large segment of the population who love looking at the stars but live in areas with so much light pollution that it's difficult or impossible to see them well. Think Dallas or Houston. Big Bend is an International Dark Sky Park with some of

the blackest skies and whitest, brightest stars you'll ever see. March to October is best for stargazing, especially if there's a "new" moon (no moon in the sky) and if you haven't been washed away by a monsoon in the rainy season.

Finally, two things. Fill up with gas before you get there; it's available in Terlingua and in the park itself, but it's crazy expensive.

And get ready to see vast ranches in the last hundred miles or so from Alpine south to Big Bend. In Arkansas, ranchers need 1.5-2 acres of land to support a single cow. But in the desert of Southwest Texas, that number goes up to 30-100 acres per head. Well, it is the desert, you know.



News-Leader photo/JAREE HALL

Terlingua



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

Yard art in Terlingua



News-Leader photo/DON HALL

Jaree Hall at the Rio Grande



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Wednesday Night  
6:00 p.m.

Rev. Kevin Sartin

**Don't be Penalized!**

All Commercial and Personal Property must be assessed by **June 1, 2026**

All Personal Property may be assessed by calling **870-845-7511** or online at **www.countyservice.net**

Commercial forms **MUST** be turned into the office by **Monday, June 1, 2026**

**Howard County Assessor**



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

First baseman Rayleigh Harmon (left) makes the catch for an out against Warren.

# State

Continued from page 1A

In the regional semifinals May 8, the Scrapperettes fell to Monticello 6-4, while the Scrapperettes lost to Warren 8-7.

The Nashville teams played in consolation games May 9 to determine the region's third and fourth seeds going into the state tournament.

The Scrapperettes' 5-4 win over Hamburg came in a game that went to extra innings.

Nashville and the Lady Lions were tied 4-4 after seven innings.

Under international softball rules, the eighth inning gave each team the chance to start with a runner on second base and attempt to score from there.

The Scrapperettes held Hamburg at the top of the inning and earned the opportunity for the win.

They put Emma Hill at second base and went to work to drive her home.

Hamburg intentionally walked Landyn Tompkins to start the bottom of the eighth.

Baylee Smith was up next

for the Scrapperettes. She hit a shot to left field, scoring Hill and securing a 5-4 walk-off win for Nashville.

The Scrapperettes also won on a walk-off.

Nashville trailed Fair-

view 5-4 in the bottom of the seventh.

From there, Carson Kirby hit a home run to tie the game at 5-5. Karson Chambers went on to drive in Luke Boon for the 6-5 win.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Luke Boon pitches at the Class 4A South Regional in Crossett.

## Scrapper soccer advances to state

The Nashville Scrapper soccer team will compete at the Class 4A state tournament May 14-16 at Green Forest.

The Scrapperettes will be the two seed from the South region.

They will play Batesville Southside, the three seed

from the North, at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 14.

The winner will move on to play the winner between Star City and Morrilton at 4 p.m. Friday, May 15.

The semifinals will be May 16 at 4 p.m.

State finals will be played next week.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (OR OTHER MEASURE) REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 95th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 1. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2025 Session by Representative Ray and filed as HJR 1018.

#### ISSUE NO. 1 Popular Name

A Constitutional Amendment to be Known as "The Citizens Only Voting Amendment" and Providing That Only a Citizen of the United States Meeting the Qualifications of an Elector Under the Arkansas Constitution May Vote in an Election in This State.

#### Ballot Title

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO CREATE "THE CITIZENS ONLY VOTING AMENDMENT"; TO PROVIDE THAT ONLY A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES MEETING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION MAY VOTE IN AN ELECTION IN THIS STATE; AND PROVIDING THAT A PERSON WHO DOES NOT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO VOTE IN ANY STATE OR LOCAL ELECTION HELD IN THIS STATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS,

AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Short title. This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be known and may be cited as "The Citizens Only Voting Amendment."

SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 3, § 1, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Only a citizen of the United States meeting the qualifications of an elector under this section may vote in an election in this state.  
(2) A person who does not meet the qualifications of an elector under this section shall not be permitted to vote in any state or local election held in this state.

(a)(b) Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, any person may vote in an election in this state who to vote in an election in this state a person shall be:  
(1) A citizen of the United States;  
(2) A resident of the State of Arkansas;  
(3) At least eighteen (18) years of age; and  
(4) Lawfully registered to vote in the election.

(b)(+)(c)(1) In addition to the qualifications under subsection (a)(b) of this section, the General Assembly shall provide by law that a voter shall:

(A) Present valid photographic identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person; and  
(B) Enclose a copy of valid photographic identification with his or her ballot when voting by absentee ballot.  
(2) The General Assembly shall establish by law the types of photographic

identification that a person may present to comply with subdivision (b)(+)(c)(1) of this section.

(c)(d) The State of Arkansas shall issue photographic identification at no charge to an eligible voter who does not have a form of photographic identification meeting the requirements of the law enacted by the General Assembly under this section.

(d)(+)(A)(c)(1)(A) A voter unable to present valid photographic identification when voting in person shall be permitted to vote a provisional ballot.

(B) An absentee ballot that is not accompanied by a copy of valid photographic identification shall be considered a provisional ballot.

(2) A provisional ballot under subdivision (d)(+)(c)(1) of this section shall be counted only if the voter subsequently certifies the provisional ballot in a manner provided by law.

(e)(+)(f)(1) The General Assembly shall implement the provisions of this amendment by law.

(2) The General Assembly may provide by law for exceptions to the requirement that a voter:

(A) Present valid photographic identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person; and

(B) Enclose a copy of valid photographic identification with his or her ballot when voting by absentee ballot.  
(f)(g) A voter meeting the requirements of this section also shall comply with all additional laws regulating elections necessary for his or her vote to be counted.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.



COLE JESTER  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF ARKANSAS

# Class 2A State Track Meet

**QUITMAN** – The Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers finished third at the state Class 2A track meet in a tight battle for the championship.

The Lady Rattlers accrued 99.5 points, just behind Quitman's 108 and Ozark Catholic's 103.

Dierks High School finished in sixth place with 24 points, tied with Caddo Hills.

Lady Rattlers earning points included: Macy Gills – fourth place 100 meter dash, 13.50; fifth place 200 meter dash, 27.92; first place 400 meter dash, 1:02.14;

Ma'Shaylia Morris – third place 200 meter dash, 27.70; third place 400 meter dash, 1:04.05; fifth place high jump, 4'8"; seventh place long jump, 14'9.75"

Kinleigh Mounts – seventh place 880

meter run, 2:44.30

Adalyn Silva – fifth place 3200 meter run, 13:32.64

Mason Phillips – fifth place 100 meter hurdles, 18.79; sixth place 300 meter hurdles, 53.17; second place pole vault, 9'0" 4x100 meter relay team – fifth place, 54.97

4x200 meter relay team – fourth place, 1:58.67

4x400 meter relay team – fourth place, 4:32.37

4x800 meter relay team – third place, 11:18.07

Josey Jones – fourth place pole vault (tie) 7'0"

Arianna Jones – second place long jump, 16'3.75"; fourth place triple jump, 32'5"

Kinslee Howell – fifth place discus, 88'7"

## MHS BOYS

The Murfreesboro Rattlers had three points at the meet, finishing in twenty-sixth place. Dierks High School earned 31 points, good for tenth place. Fordyce won the meet with 128 points.

Jarrin Burgess finished in sixth place in the triple jump with a distance of 38'8".

## DIERKS BOYS

Dierks Outlaws earning points at the meet included:

Drake Thatcher – fifth place 100 meter dash, 11.67; third place 200 meter dash, 23.69

Jaden Chapman – sixth place 200 meter dash, 24.07

4x100 meter relay team – sixth place,

47.37

4x400 meter relay team – second place, 3:43.79

Tomas Salgado – sixth place pole vault (tie), 8'6"

Braeson Talley – fourth place shot put, 40'10"

## LADY OUTLAWS

Milee Harrison – first place 300 meter hurdles, 49.97

4x100 meter relay team – seventh place, 55.66

4x800 meter relay team – fourth place, 11:30.89

Addison Hill – second place high jump (tie), 4'8"

For those that qualified, the season ending Meet of Champions will be held in Russellville this Wednesday.

# Class 1A State Track Meet

**MINERAL SPRINGS** – The host Mineral Springs Lady Hornets won the 2026 Class A high school track meet last week.

The Lady Hornets accrued 109 points, narrowly leading second place Emerson High School with 105 points.

Other local schools included Belvins High School in seventeenth place with 10 points.

Mineral Springs Lady Hornets earning points included:

Jakayla Walker – second place 100 meter dash, 12.92; third place 200 meter dash, 27.39; second place 100 meter hurdles, 15.72; fourth place 300 meter hurdles, 52.87

Tiana Collins – seventh place 100 meter dash, 13.78; fourth place 400 meter dash, 66.93; seventh place triple jump, 31'9.25"

Journey Pauley – seventh place 400 meter dash, 69.80

Khalyah Harris – sixth place 300 meter hurdles, 54.22; sixth place (tie) high jump, 4'6"; third place long jump, 15'11.75";

third place triple jump, 32'8.25"

4x100 meter relay team (Shamachia Stuard, Nila Sauls, Lakarenan Ross, Tiana Collins) – first place, 53.11

4x200 meter relay team (Nila Sauls, Lakarenan Ross, Cherish Johnson, Journey Pauley) – first place, 1:54.96

4x400 meter relay team (Jorney Pauley, Khalyah Harris, Zion McElroy, Tiana Collins) – first place, 4:43.09

Kaydence Harris – sixth place (tie) high jump, 4'6"; seventh place shot put, 30'5"

Shamachia Stuard – first place triple jump, 34'11.25"; sixth place shot put, 30'5.5"; fifth place discus, 89'8"

## BLEVINS LADY HORNETS

R'moni Jamerson won the high jump event with a height of 5'2".

The Mineral Springs boy's track team finished second at the event, falling just behind Marked Tree High School 91.5 to 82.

Other local schools included Kirby with 33 points in seventh place, Blevins

with 16 points in twelfth place, and Umpire with three points in a tie for thirty-first place.

Mineral Springs Hornets finishing in points position included:

Chris Chambers – second place 100 meter dash, 11.26; third place 200 meter dash, 23.51

Tristen Steward – sixth place 100 meter dash, 11.74; sixth place 200 meter dash, 23.78

Braxton Kester – fourth place 400 meter dash, 55.53

Brayden Collins – fourth place 110 meter hurdles, 18.21; fifth place 300 meter hurdles, 45.31

Carter Steward – second place 300 meter hurdles, 47.62

4x100 meter relay team (Decayveon White, Jamerion Staten, Tristan Taylor, Chris Chambers) – first place, 44.59

4x200 meter relay team (Decayveon White, Courtney Thomas, Tristan Taylor, Chris Chambers) – first place, 1:33.98

4x800 meter relay team (Brandon Al-

len, Brayden Collins, Lkavion Marlow, Braxton Kester) – eighth place, 10:29.86

Jamerion Staten – fourth place (tie) high jump – 5'8"

Tristan Taylor – sixth place long jump, 19'4.25"; fifth place triple jump, 40'4"

Keithen Dixon – sixth place shot put, 39'1"

Tristen Chambers – fourth place discus, 110'5"

## KIRBY TROJANS

Alec O'Neal – first place 800 meter run, 2:08.36; first place 1600 meter run, 4:53.86; first place 3200 meter run, 10:43.02

Kelton York – sixth place 1600 meter run, 5:27.81

## BLEVINS HORNETS

Javier Gomez – second place 1600 meter run, 5:04.94' second place 3200 meter run, 11:16.27

## UMPIRE WILDCATS

Emmanuel Albiter – sixth place 800 meter run, 2:28.72




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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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### Off to Summer Camp!

Chitter and Chatter are going to go to day camp. Forest and I are going to overnight camp for two weeks. Chitter and Chatter only need to bring their lunches each day, but Forest and I must pack more stuff.

Fill in the blanks below to help Forest and Glade make their list of things to bring to camp:

- oo \_\_\_ hbrush
- sh \_\_\_ ts
- fla \_\_\_ ight
- hair \_\_\_\_\_
- t \_\_\_ ls
- so \_\_\_ s
- pill \_\_\_\_\_
- tamp \_\_\_
- ck \_\_\_ t
- h \_\_\_

What? I can do the dog paddle too.

How many fireflies are on this page?

More free puzzles: [www.readingclubfun.com](http://www.readingclubfun.com)

Hi Mom and Dad, I love camp! I have made lots of friends. We are so busy all the time swimming, making crafts and learning new activities. I even made you a puzzle. Can you find and circle all of these activities that I have tried this year? I can't wait to see you! Love, Forest

- Capture the Flag
- Playing Cards
- Horseback Riding
- Scrapbooking
- Model Rockets
- Catching Fireflies
- Spooky Stories
- Roasting Marshmallows
- First Aid Class
- Magic Tricks
- Nature Walk
- Kickball
- Go-Carts
- Photography
- Swimming
- Pottery
- Bicycling
- Mini Golf
- Animal Care
- Baking

Hey! When did you find time to write home?

Hey guys! Pull harder! Forest is as strong as a bear!

Eeess! Look out for me!!!

No kidding!

I love to read comics by flashlight!

Do you see the glow from that tent?

Freebies! Yay!

Science Music Writing

Bible Cooking Dance

Cheerleading Martial Arts Equestrian

Space Sports Nature

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K Q T Y B X S O U T I B L R T U D I P T S  
C B P A A Q U Y N V B A K X O I S B A T  
F H J O Y L B N M V A Y K S I R F O B I  
W F Y J K V X L A W H I I A I G F A O G N  
T W E D V H C Q O F X K A H N P E N A Q K T G  
H O R S E B A C K R I D I N G Y P G E I V M  
E U U C T B T A Q W O A P E C A W I P R N O A  
F B T A A O C E Q O B L Q S A R G L B A G O R  
L P A P C X H E A H U I H L R A Q O S C Q U S  
A B N T P O I D W G V C S A D N T T O L A Q H  
G B S U H I N A O W O K L N S Z R Z X A V N M  
P A S R O I G Q W P O Y T S A M A Z M P A  
N V X E T N F I R S T A I D C L A S S I W Q L  
B F V T O P I A Q V M N Z O A Q P C V N M P L  
Z L O H G U R P Y Z M B G A W O L P N A C V O  
X O M E R V E P R N A T U R E W A L K I Y U L W  
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News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMON

**SCRAPPER SENIOR NIGHT.** Scrapper senior soccer players were honored during Senior Night May 8 at Scrapper Stadium. They include Johnathan Teresa, Johnte Taylor, Brian Garcia, Orfael Rosas, Chan Peng, Adan Vasquez, Yahir Juarez, Landon Morris, Enrique Bearden, Marco Sanchez, Brandon Cuevas, Gareth Perez, Luis Flores, Edwin Pizarro, Christopher Salazar, Booz Vasquez and Ryan Ewing.



News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMON

**SCRAPPERETTE SENIOR NIGHT.** Senior members of the Scrapperette soccer team were recognized Friday afternoon, May 8, at Scrapper Stadium. They include (front) Angela Aguilera; (standing) Cheyenne Smith, Natalie Talley, Angelica Galvan Padilla, Sha'miracle Dotson, Ruvy Martinez, Lindzi Lorenzo, Angelee Mendoza, Miriam Barajas, Katelyn Giddens and Milagros Sanchez.

# Senior Night for NHS soccer



News-Leader photo/LAYLA SIRMON

**SET FOR SECOND HALF.** Seniors Milagros Sanchez and Natalie Talley yell "Go, Scappers" before taking the field for the second half of their match against Magnolia Friday afternoon, May 8, at Scrapper Stadium. Scrapperette and Scrapper seniors were recognized during Senior Night activities.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

**FIRST SCORE.** Gauge Applegate scores the first run in Nashville's 6-5 win over Camden Fairview May 8 in the Class 4A South Regional at Crossett.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

**LIVESTREAM TEAM.** Scrap Media students John Wallis and Bryce Perrin makes sure the equipment is ready for the livestream of last Saturday's baseball game from the Class 4A South Regional at Crossett as play-by-play announcer Johnny Wilson (right) prepares to call the game on Scrap Media and KMTB, 99.5 FM. Bunch Nichols, Tate Gordon and Anita Tompkins took care of the play-by-play and livestream of softball at the regional.

### Class 4A South Regional baseball and softball May 7-9 @ Crossett

Scrapers - Third seed from regional. Will play Joe T. Robinson in the first round of state Thursday, May 14, at 12:30 p.m. at Wilson Park.

Scrapperettes - Third seed from regional. Will play Morrilton in the first round of state Thursday, May 14, 12:30 p.m. at Futrell Field in the Nashville City Park.

State quarterfinals and semifinals will also be in Nashville May 15-16.  
Finals May 21-23 at Majestic Park in Hot Springs



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# Scrappers, Scrapperettes third at 4A South Regional

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Ava Brown returns to the dugout after making the out on Hamburg's second base runner in the eighth inning of Nashville's 5-4 win Saturday, May 9.



Karson Chambers bats against Camden Fairview May 9 in the regional at Crossett. Chambers later drove in Luke Boon for the winning run in Nashville's 6-5 victory.



Peyton Fritts (16) looks for the chance to make a steal Friday, May 9, against Monticello in the regional. The Billies came from behind to win 6-4.



Sofia McCauley celebrates after reaching second base against Hamburg. Her hit started a Scrapperette comeback which led to a 5-4 extra-inning victory.



Hayden Gray awaits an opportunity for Coach Zac Stewart to send him home May 9 in the regional semifinal against Monticello.



Teammates congratulate Landyn Tompkins (21) on a home run in the semifinal against Warren May 8. The Lady Lumberjacks came back to defeat Nashville 8-7.



Carson Kirby bats against Camden Fairview in the regional consolation game Saturday, May 9. Later in the contest with the Scrappers trailing 5-4, Kirby hit a home run to tie the score and set up a walk-off run by Luke Boon.



Parker Tate (24) congratulates Emma Hill after Hill scored against Warren in the regional semifinal Friday, May 8, at Crossett.

Up next for the Scrappers and Scrapperettes Class 4A state tournament in Nashville

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

Nashville Scrappers, Scrapperettes

The Scrapper baseball team and Scrapperette softball team have advanced to the Class 4A state tournament to be played May 14-16 in Nashville. Both teams will enter state as the three seed from the Class 4A South Regional at Crossett. The Scrappers will host state baseball at Wilson Park, while the Scrapperettes will host state softball at Futrell Field in the Nashville City Park.

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Arkansas State Park Photos  
**STATE PARK YIELDS ANOTHER BIG ONE.**  
Pennsylvania native Keshia Smith recently found a 3.09-carat white diamond during a visit to Pike County's Crater of Diamonds State Park. Smith started planning her trip to the diamond site over a year ago, researching where to go and where to dig, even reaching out online to some of the park's frequent visitors for suggestions. She made the road trip with her boyfriend Joey and brother Kirim and arrived at the park on April 21. Smith spent her first day at the park meeting people and getting the lay of the land. On her second day, she made the find of a lifetime. The diamond has been named "The Za'Novia Liberty Diamond."



## Memorial Day recognition event set for Pike County

Pike County Veterans Service Officer Bob Williams reports that a "Memorial Day Recognition Ceremony" will be held at the Pike County War Memorial located on the courthouse square in Murfreesboro, May 25, starting at 10 a.m.

In the case of inclement weather, the event will be held in the Murfreesboro Community building where the Library and Water Office are located.

Williams encourages all veterans, citizens, and visitors to our area to make an effort to assemble as patriotic Americans to remember our war heroes who "Gave Their All" to preserve our Nation's freedoms and securing those same opportunities for future generations.

Pike County has knowingly sacrificed 78 of our own, who were killed in action during American conflicts spanning from WW-I, WW-II, Korea, Vietnam, and through the continuing War on Terrorism.

Williams conveys, "I realize this is the first big holiday as our children start their summer vacation from a long school year but let us take a moment out of one day to teach them about the cost of freedom and set aside about forty-five minutes to reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day. I truly hope the residents and visitors of Pike County can turn out to show our respect for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Many have been forgotten over time, but their names will forever be immortalized, not only in stone planted in the heart of our community, but rekindled upon the hearts of this grateful patriotic city we call home. Their great sacrifice will be honored, as well as others like them, across every state in America and in distant cemeteries on foreign shores. Come join us on this hallowed day, 'Lest We Forget' and dishonor their memory."

## DAR chapter to honor 'America's Fallen Heroes' at Howard County Courthouse

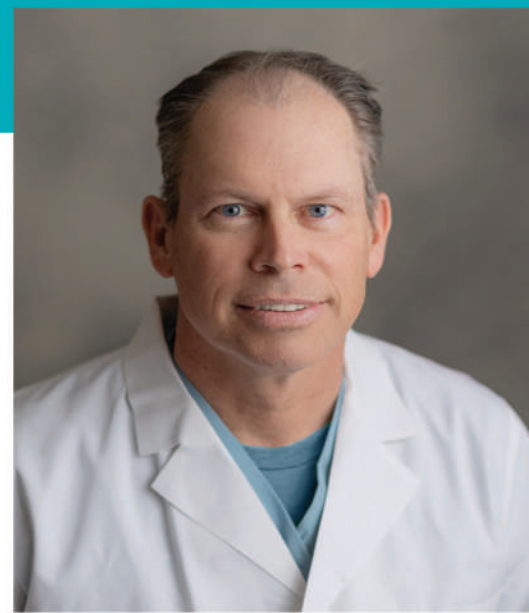
Mine Creek-Paraclifta DAR Chapter will host a Memorial Day ceremony honoring America's Fallen Heroes at 11 a.m. at the Howard County Courthouse on Memorial Day, May 25.

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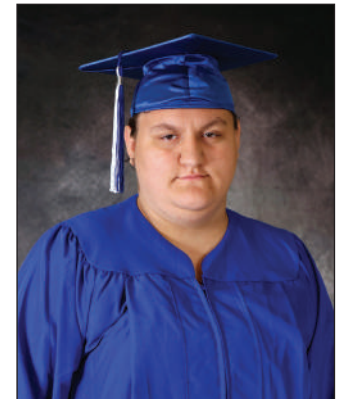
# Dierks High School Class of 2026 Graduation May 19 • 7:00



Gracie Thigpen



Cecilia Hill



Rachel Combs



Sayer Baker



Taylor Adams



Shannon Cawvey



Evelyn Diaz-Vasquez



Peyton Boeckman



Connor Bailey



Rocibel Delgado



Paige Eason



Jaydin Chapman



Jacob Brock



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Bryar Janes



Aspen Pugh



Kenny Martinez



Aaron Pinkerton



Cohen Pond



Tomas Salgado



Ryleigh Simmons



Scarlett Staggs



Linnea Thompson



Russell Ramirez



Alex Roberts



Amelia Sweeden



Mason Smith



Jacob Runyan




Haley Woods



Brayson Talley

Dierks Photos/Cindy Steward@Remember When Photography

**CONGRATS**  
to the 2026 Graduates!



Honoring our graduates on this milestone achievement. We salute your heart work and dedication!

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*Congratulations*  
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It's taken years of hard work and dedication to get where you are today, and you should be proud of your achievement. Today is your day to celebrate, so give yourself a pat on the back. The road ahead will be filled with new and exciting challenges, but we know you can make the grade. We wish you all the best as you forge ahead in pursuit of your hopes and dreams!



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Dierks High School Class of 2026

# Umpire High School Class of 2026

Graduation May 15 • 6:00 • Umpire Gym



Abby Tomblin



Delaney Ford



Emmanuel Albiter



Jadan Hamner



Kelley Mendez



Kendall Turner



Riley Counts



Saedee White



Santos Salinas



Savanna White



Salena Garcia

*Congratulations, Graduates!*

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**Congratulations to the 2026 Dierks Graduates!**

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**HATS OFF!**  
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and the **City of Dierks**

*Congratulations to the area school graduates and to our Graduates*

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Mena High School

Ryder House  
Mena High School

Hayden Wagner  
Acorn High School

Jackson Logan  
Thomason  
Mena High School

Gabe Bell  
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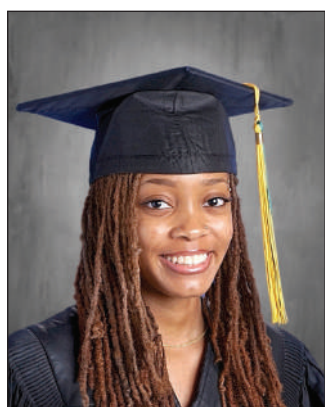
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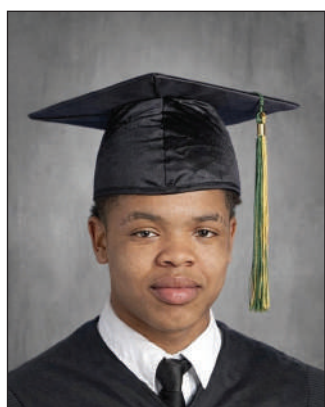
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# Mineral Springs High School Class of 2026

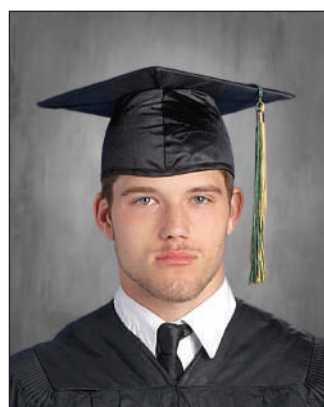
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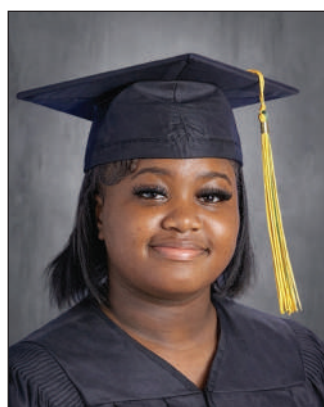
Madison Adams



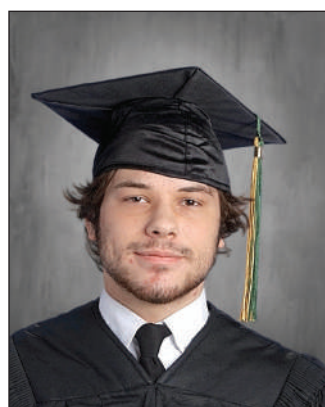
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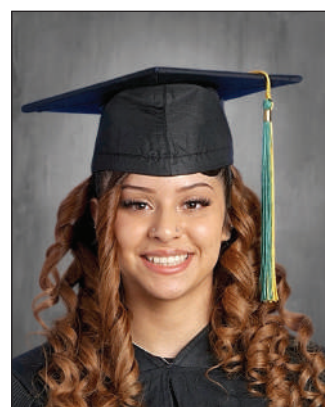
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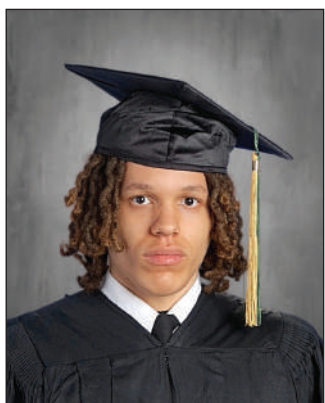
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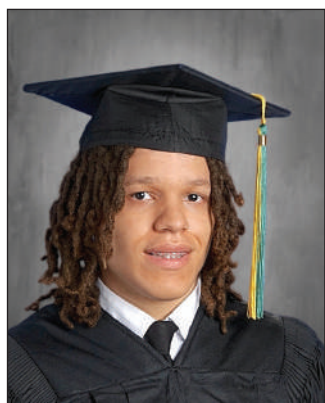
Payton Black



Sarai Canales



Christian Chambers



Tristian Chambers



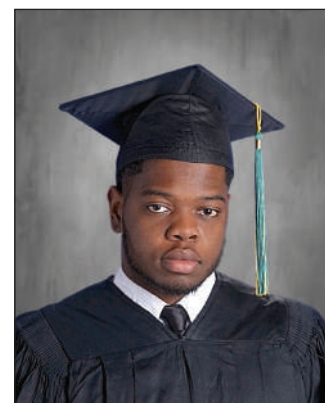
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Brayden Collins



Aiden Dillard



Keithen Dixon



Jameia Erby



David Garcia



Ryan Gilbert



Kamdyn Harris



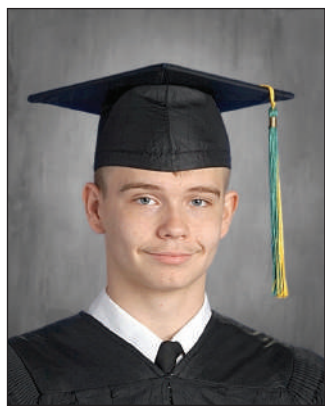
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Jeremiah Hicks



Ty'Cedron Johnson



Wesley Kuykendall



Bre'Asia Lamay



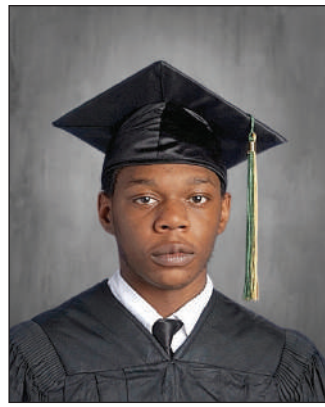
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Christian Matlock



Amarion Maxwell



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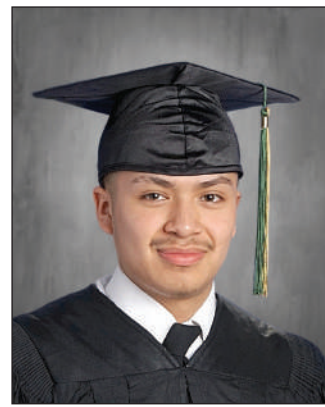
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Kloie Megginson



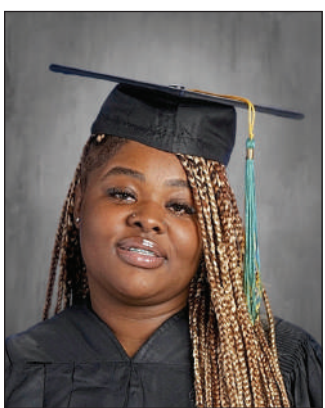
Akarian Olden



Marco Olguin



Treyvon Porter



Kytaviunna Pree



Juliana Salazar



Shamachia Stuard



Camarion Stuart



Decayveon White



Elizabeth Yetter

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**Congratulations to the Mineral Springs Class of 2026!**

# Howard County District Court

May 7, 2026

BF=Bond Forfeited

## Howard County

Andrews, Robert C., 48, Saratoga, guilty of speeding, fined \$285

Brito, Leonardo, 26, Hope, \$210 BF, no child restraint

Burton, Devarrio D., 29, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of speeding, fined \$255

Cheatham, Nyisha N., 24, Mineral Springs, \$460 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license

Clark, Christie, 46, Nashville, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$210; guilty of fictitious vehicle tags/license, fined \$260

Dawson, Frances, 59, Mineral Springs, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Gillon, Robert, 32, Glenwood, \$245 BF, speeding

Hawthorne, Torneshia, 41, Nashville, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,125, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Hernandez, Efrain, 42, De Queen, \$230 BF, improper or prohibited passing

Holden, Brian H., 28, Mineral Springs, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of leaving scene of accident, fined \$360; guilty of leaving scene of accident, fined \$360; guilty of second-degree criminal mischief

Horton, Alexas, 30, Little Rock, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$910 balance

Hostetler, Konnor Vincent, 16, Ozan, \$210 BF, driving left of center

Hupp, Brandon C., 39, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460

Johns, Christian Adams, 27, Bonnerdale, \$50 BF, failure to present insurance

Johnson, Tyrell, 40, Hope, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined

\$460; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360

Leaks, Semaj Lee, 21, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$1,125 balance; guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$195

Moore, Burl J., 48, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines, committed to jail-suspended conditions; \$840 balance

Mosqueda, Bladmir, 27, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$890 balance

Napoleon, Isaac A., 41, Denver, Colo., guilty of non-payment of fines; \$3,255 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of no child restraint, fined \$195; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$285; guilty no driver's license/expired license, fined \$210; guilty of drinking on highway, fined \$235

Schooley, Sydney, 29, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$1,420 balance

Shiver, Korri Lee, 40, De Queen, \$265 BF, speeding

Sigman, Bethany, 33, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, committed to jail; \$432 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Stevens, Brendan N., 23, Murfreesboro, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460

Stewart, Tristan J., 38, Mineral Springs, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Thomas, Jonathan E., 55, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Trusley, Regina Lavelle, 38, De Queen, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Walker, Chantrel L., 26, Mineral Springs, guilty of DWI#2, fined \$1,675, sentenced to seven days in jail,



News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

**NASHVILLE CHAMBER WELCOMES NEW MEMBER.** The Nashville Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week to officially welcome Golden Grace Boutique, located at 111 W. Shepherd, and owned by Crystal Leyva, pictured here cutting the ribbon with chamber members (from left) Tina Carver, Susie Berruquin, Dena Tollett, Leyva, Jim Pinson and Leyva's mother, Susan Jackson.

license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Williams, Curtis, 36, Texarkana, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of running stop sign or light, fined \$210

Wright, Bailey E., 22, Nashville, guilty of speeding, fined \$265

### City of Nashville

Ashby, Kaelyn, 28, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$217 balance

Braden, Sydney Jade, 18, Delight, failure to obey traffic control device, under advisement for three months to dismiss

Brown, Theresa Marie, 52, Ozan, guilty of theft of property, fined \$761.79

Brown, Stephanie, 29, Ozan, guilty of theft of property, fined \$761.79

Burton, Devarrio D., 29, Nashville, guilty of failure to comply, fined \$135

Chandler, David R., 40, McCaskill, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$527 balance

Chavez, Maria Rezindez, 43, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Coulter, Alvin Wayne, 28, Washington, \$210 BF, expired vehicle tags/no tags

Cruz, Zeferina, 60, Murfreesboro, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

English, Hailey Elizabeth, 20, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$365 balance

Fricks, Konica S., 40, Ashdown, guilty of non-payment of fines, committed to jail for 15 days; \$1,470 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245

Hernandez, Alejandro, 27, De Queen, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Hill, Malachi J., 19, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360

Hupp, Brandon C., 39, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Jarnigan, Frederick H., 64, Haworth, Okla., \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Johnson, Johnny R., 65, Washington, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$475 balance

Jones, Peair, 36, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$580 balance

Jones, Shemeka, 30, Nashville, guilty of expired vehicle tags/expired tags, fined \$210

Lee, Cassie L., 43, De Queen, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$210; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Lemons, John C., 61, Nashville, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Napoleon, Isaac A., 41, Denver, Colo., guilty of possession of marijuana, fined \$1,050 and license suspended for six months; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$285

Napper, Diana Jean, 67, Hot Springs, \$210 BF, driving left of center; \$255 BF, speeding

Snell, Devarius Darinell, 23, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360

Trotter, Londell, 62, Nashville, \$160 BF, no proof of liability insurance

### City of Dierks

Archer, Justin J., 46, Dierks, \$260 BF, fictitious tab on license plate; \$260 BF, fictitious vehicle tag/license

Price, Anthony, 57, Prescott, \$445 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license; \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$245 BF, failure to appear

### City of Mineral Springs

Brown, Stephanie, 29, Ozan, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$617 balance

James, Lee, 32, Texarkana, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$210

### Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

Dornsife, Charles E., 59, Austin, Texas, \$285 BF, vehicle on closed road

Drew, Anthony J., 56, Flower Mound, Texas, \$285 BF, vehicle on closed road

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (OR OTHER MEASURE) REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 95th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 3. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2025 Session by Senator J. Dismang and filed as SJR 15.

### ISSUE NO. 3

#### Popular Name

A Constitutional Amendment Concerning Economic Development in the State of Arkansas; and Authorizing the General Assembly to Provide for the Creation of Economic Development Districts Within Cities, Counties, or Cooperative Areas to Promote Economic Development Within the Economic Development District.

#### Ballot Title

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS WITHIN CITIES, COUNTIES, OR COOPERATIVE AREAS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING

THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Loans and grants of public money. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Arkansas Constitution, the General Assembly may provide for the creation of programs and the making of loans and grants of public money for the public purposes of:

(1) Development and diversification of the economy of the State of Arkansas;

(2) The elimination and prevention of unemployment or underemployment in the State of Arkansas;

(3) The development or expansion of transportation or commerce in the State of Arkansas; or

(4) The development or improvement of real estate in the State of Arkansas that contributes to economic development within the State of Arkansas.

(b) The authority under subsection (a) of this section includes without limitation providing for the creation of economic development districts.

SECTION 2. Economic development district projects.

(a) An economic development district may issue bonds for the purpose of financing projects within the economic development district.

(b) The bonds under subsection (a) of this section:

(1) May be secured by and be payable from all or a portion of any funds received by or allocated to the economic development district;

(2) Shall not be considered in calculating debt limits for bonds issued under Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 4; and

(3) Shall not be subject to the provisions of:

(A) Arkansas Constitution,

Article 16, § 1;

(B) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 62; or

(C) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 65.

SECTION 3. Implementation. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the implementation of this amendment.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Political subdivisions not to become stockholders in or lend credit to private corporations — Exceptions.

(a) No county, city, town or other municipal corporation, shall become a stockholder in any company, association, or corporation; or obtain or appropriate money for, or loan its credit to, any corporation, association, institution, or individual.

(b) However, a county, city, town, or other municipal corporation may obtain or appropriate money for a corporation, association, institution, or individual to:

(1) Finance economic development projects; or

(2) Provide economic development services; or

(3) Provide funding or lend credit to an economic development district.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Economic development district" means a designated area within a city, county, or cooperative area established under authority granted by the General Assembly to promote economic development within the designated area.

(2) "Economic development projects" means the land, buildings, furnishings, equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and improvements that are required or suitable for the development, retention, or expansion of:

(A) Manufacturing, production, and industrial facilities;

(B) Research, technology, and development facilities;

(C) Recycling facilities;

(D) Distribution centers;

(E) Call centers;

(F) Warehouse facilities;

(G) Job training facilities;

(H) Regional or national corporate headquarters facilities; and

(I) Infrastructure" means:

(A) Land acquisition;

(B) Site preparation;

(C) Road and highway improvements;

(D) Rail spur, railroad, and airport construction;

(E) Water service;

(F) Wastewater treatment;

(G) Employee training which may include equipment for such purpose; and

(H) Environmental mitigation or reclamation.

(d) The General Assembly, by a three-fourths vote of each house, may amend the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section so long as the amendments are germane to this section and consistent with its policy and purposes.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Article 16, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Property taxed according to value — Procedures for valuation — Tax exemptions.

(a) All real and tangible personal property subject to taxation shall be taxed according to its value, that value to be ascertained in such manner as the General Assembly shall direct, making the same equal and uniform throughout the State. No one species of property for which a tax may be collected shall be taxed higher than another species of property of equal value, except as provided and authorized in Section 15 of this Article, and except as authorized in Section 14 of this Article. The General Assembly, upon the approval thereof by a vote of not less than three-fourths (¾ths) of the members elected to each house, may establish the methods and procedures for valuation of property for

taxation purposes, but may not alter the method of valuation set forth in Section 15 of this Article.

(b)(1) The following property shall be exempt from taxation: public property used exclusively for public purposes; churches used as such; cemeteries used exclusively as such; school buildings and apparatus; libraries and grounds used exclusively for school purposes; and buildings and grounds and materials used exclusively for public charity.

(2) If property exempt from taxation under subdivision (b) (1) of this section is included in an economic development district, the tax status of the property shall not change.

(c) Property located within an economic development district created by the General Assembly shall be exempt from taxation except for taxes, assessments, or other charges levied by the economic development district of which the property is a part.

(d) Nothing in this Section shall affect or repeal the provision of Amendment 57 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas pertaining to intangible personal property.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 62, § 6, is amended to read as follows: § 6. Conduct of elections.

(a) The General Assembly may enact laws governing the conduct of elections authorized by this Amendment. Absent the enactment of such laws, such elections shall be held, called and conducted in accordance with the laws governing elections generally. The results of such election shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or municipality (as the case may be) and any contest of such election or the tabulation of the votes therein shall be brought within thirty (30) days after such publication or shall be forever barred.

(b)(1) Any bonds or other obligations of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision facilitating the development and diversification of the economy of the state that are issued for the purpose of making loans or grants in connection with a program authorized by the General Assembly under this amendment and that are payable from

ad valorem taxes shall be approved by a vote of the majority of the qualified electors of the county, municipality, or political subdivision voting on the issue.

(2) A program created or a loan or grant made by an economic development district that is secured by a pledge of ad valorem taxes or financed by the issuance of any bonds or other obligations payable from ad valorem taxes of the economic development district does not constitute or create a debt for the purpose of any provision of this Constitution.

SECTION 7. Repealer — Construction.

(a) Any provision of this Constitution, including without limitation amendments to this Constitution, that conflicts with or is in any way inconsistent with this amendment is repealed or deemed modified to give precedence to this amendment.

(b) This amendment supersedes all previous constitutional provisions, amendments, laws, or judicial interpretations that conflict with this amendment's terms.

(c) If this amendment conflicts with any existing constitutional provision, amendment, law, or judicial interpretation, this amendment shall prevail and be given full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Severability.

The provisions of this amendment are severable, and if any provision of this amendment should be held invalid, the remainder shall stand.

SECTION 9. Effective date.

This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be effective on and after January 1, 2027.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HERETO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.



COLE JESTER  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF ARKANSAS



**SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE**  
The National Letter Carrier's Food Drive locally collected close to 4,500 pounds of non-perishable items during its annual food drive. Here, carrier T' Trimble and his family - Ruth, Kalbe, Emily, Olivia and Miya - pose with the haul Saturday afternoon.  
News-Leader photo/  
COURTESY OF POST OFFICE



# Hope man charged again after missing Pike County trial date

A Hope man who was due to stand trial last week in Pike County for internet stalking of a child and possession of child sexual abuse material is now facing another charge after he failed to show up for his jury trial. Ronnie Rusher, 63, pleaded not guilty to the new charge Monday and now has an Aug. 3 pretrial date set for both of his cases. Rusher was originally charged in September 2025 with allegedly falling for the Pike County Sheriff's Department undercover social media account which portrays a 14-year-old female. Contact between the decoy and Rusher began in May 2025 and continued sporadically until August. He was arrested on Aug. 24, 2025 in Murfreesboro after arriving to meet the decoy. Rusher pleaded not guilty to the sex crime charges and his trial was set for April

30 at 8:30 a.m. He failed to show up at 8:30 as instructed for the scheduled jury trial and when Judge Tom Cooper took the bench at 9:00 Rusher was not present. Rusher apparently showed up 20 minutes later after jurors had been excused and Judge Cooper had left the building, and was arrested in the parking lot for felony failure to appear. **Charges Pending** Felony charges of residential burglary and theft of property are expected to be filed this week against a Prescott man involving an alleged incident in Antoine. Roy Jamescolt Terrell, 26, was recently arrested and is accused of unlawfully entering a Pike County residence where he had been staying and stole multiple firearms. Several of the firearms were stashed in a nearby shed and were recovered

along with other evidence from the alleged crime. Terrell remains in county custody this week. Felony drug charges are also pending this week in Pike County against David Claren Bentley, 61, of Nashville. Bentley was arrested on May 3 following a traffic stop for an expired license plate. It was discovered Bentley has a search waiver on file and was on parole for possession of a controlled substance. A passenger, Wesley Cummings, also had an outstanding warrant out of Murfreesboro and both men were taken into custody without incident. Cummings has not been charged in the case. A search the vehicle recovered approximately three grams of methamphetamine.

## Summer Feeding Program offering free meals to kids

This summer, children can enjoy free lunches through the Summer Feeding Program, sponsored by Harvest Regional Food Bank and open to all kids ages 1-18 years. No applications are necessary to drop in and all children and teens are welcome. Approximately one in five children in Arkansas are food insecure, meaning they have limited or uncertain access to safe and nutritious food. Children who are hungry or food insecure are more likely to be in poor health and less likely to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally.

- Howard County Meals** will be provided at the following sites:
- Glory Bee Ministries (Mineral Springs COC), 318 Bridgeman Drive, Mineral Springs, AR 71851
  - Grab-N-Go - Parents and Guardians may Pick up Meals for their children without children present. 3 days of meals can be picked up on Mondays and 4 days of meals on Thursdays per child.
  - Feeding Lunch - Mondays & Thursdays 11am - 1pm
  - Starting & Ending: May 28th - August 13th
- Little River County Meals** will be provided at the following sites:
- Community Freewill Baptist Church, 791 S Martin Luther King Dr., Ashdown, AR 71822
  - Grab-N-Go - Parents and Guardians may Pick up Meals for their children without children present. 3 days of

- meals can be picked up on Tuesdays and 4 days of meals on Fridays per child.
- Feeding Lunch - Tuesdays & Fridays 12pm - 1pm
- Starting & Ending: June 2nd - July 30th
- **Nevada County Meals** will be provided at the site and times as follows:
  - Prescott/Nevada County Library, 121 West Main St, Prescott, AR 71857
  - Grab-N-Go - Parents and Guardians may Pick up Meals for their children without children present. 3 days of meals can be picked up on Tuesdays and 4 days of meals on Fridays per child.
  - Feeding Lunch - Tuesday - Friday 11am - 2pm
  - Starting & Ending: May 20th - August 3rd
  - **Pike County Meals** will be provided at the site and times as follows:
    - Blessed Beginnings (Murfreesboro FUMC), 403 2nd. Ave, Murfreesboro, AR 71958
    - Grab-N-Go - Parents and Guardians may Pick up Meals for their children without children present. 3 days of meals can be picked up on Mondays and 4 days of meals on Thursdays per child.
    - Feeding Lunch - Mondays & Thursdays 11am - 1pm
    - Starting & Ending: May 28th - August 13th
- For more information call Harvest Regional Food Bank at (870) 774-1398.

# Pike County's second 'wet' quest now underway, petitions ready

The quest to get alcohol sales on the ballot for the second time is well underway. According to the numbers provided by Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards, the group has to obtain a minimum of 2,387 valid petitions from registered Pike County Voters 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. Anyone that is willing to help with petition efforts -- regardless of amount -- is asked to call (870) 557-1860. For those that would

like to sign a petition, can visit Harvill Insurance at 325 West Main Street, or the Gypsy Underground Flea Market located at 111 West 13th Street, both in Murfreesboro, where petitions are available. The group plans a event in the near future and is looking to establish petition locations across the county.

**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

**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.**

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**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (OR OTHER MEASURE) REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**  
The 95th General Assembly refers the following question to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 4. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this question. This question is Act 578 of the Regular 2025 Session by Senator Hester.  
**ISSUE NO. 4 Ballot Title**  
Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities Financing Act of 2025.  
**Ballot Question**  
Shall the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission be authorized to issue general obligation bonds under the

authority of the Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities Financing Act of 2025, for the financing and refinancing of the development of water, waste disposal, water pollution control, abatement and prevention, drainage, irrigation, flood control, and wetlands and aquatic resources projects to serve the citizens of the State of Arkansas, in total principal amount not to exceed five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000), with no more than one hundred sixty-five million dollars (\$165,000,000) in total principal amount of such bonds to be issued to finance and refinance the development of irrigation facilities, in series from time to time in principal amounts not to exceed, without prior approval of the General Assembly, sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) in any two-year period beginning on July 1 of each odd-numbered year, which

bonds shall be secured by a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State of Arkansas?  
**FOR Issuance of State of Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities general obligation bonds.**  
**AGAINST Issuance of State of Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities general obligation bonds.**  
IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.  
  
COLE JESTER  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF ARKANSAS

# Heart&Home

## Meal Prepping on a Budget

### A Practical Guide to Saving, Time, Money & Eating Well

**By Abby Gray**  
Howard County EA  
Family Consumer Science

Meal prepping has become one of the most effective strategies for balancing a busy schedule with healthy eating and it doesn't have to be expensive. By planning, shopping strategically, and preparing meals in advance, you can reduce food costs, minimize waste, and make nutritious eating far more convenient. Drawing from expert-backed guidance, here's a complete look at how to meal prep on a budget.

**Why Meal Prepping Saves Money**

At its core, meal prepping is intentional planning. Instead of making last-minute food decisions which often lead to take-out or impulse purchases, you prepare meals ahead of time using ingredients you've already budgeted for. Research-backed guidance highlights several key benefits- meal prepping helps reduce food waste and unnecessary spending by ensuring you only buy what you need. Planning meals and shopping with a list can limit impulse purchases and stretch your grocery budget further. Cooking at home regularly can save both time and money while improving diet quality. In short, a little

preparation upfront prevents costly decisions later.

**Step 1: Plan before you spend** - Budget-friendly meal prep starts with a clear path. Experts often refer to the "plan, purchase, prepare" framework as the foundation for success. Start by setting up a weekly food budget, listing meals you want to make, and checking your pantry, fridge, and freezer to avoid duplicates. Planning meals ahead of time not only saves money but also reduces stress and decision fatigue during busy weekdays. A helpful approach is to choose meals that use overlapping ingredients, for example, cooking chicken once and using it in wraps, salads, and stir-fries throughout the week.

**Step 2: Shop smart and stick to basics** - once your plan is ready, turn it into a focused grocery list and stick to it. Key cost-saving strategies include buying whole, unprocessed ingredients instead of pre-cut or package foods, choosing store brands, bulk, and frozen vegetables, and checking weekly sales and building meals around discounted items. Affordable staples to prioritize whole grains (rice, oats, pasta), beans and lentils, seasonal or frozen produce, eggs and low-cost proteins. Plant-based pro-

teins are often cheaper and can stretch meals further while still providing strong nutrition.

**Step 3: Prepare Efficiently** - meal prep doesn't mean cooking everything at once- it means preparing enough to make the week easier. Effective strategies include batch cooking grains, proteins, and vegetables, doubling recipes to create leftovers for future meals, and pre-chopping ingredients to save time during the week. You can also cook once and reuse ingredients in different meals, prep components (like cooked rice or roasted vegetables) instead of full dishes, use clear containers and label meals to stay organized. Even prepping just 2-3 days of meals at a time can make a noticeable difference.

**Step 4: Build Balanced, Budget-Friendly Meals** - Eating well on a budget doesn't mean sacrificing nutrition. A balanced meal should include: a protein source, fiber-rich carbohydrate (like whole grains), fruits or vegetables, and healthy fats. Simple, affordable meal ideas: rice bowls with beans, vegetables, and protein, stir-fries using frozen vegetables and grains, soups or stews that stretch ingredients across multiple servings. Planning meals

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**JULY 10TH - DAIRY GOATS & HOGS**      **JULY 11TH - MARKET GOATS & LAMBS**

Location: Howard Co. Fairgrounds, Nashville, AR 71852  
 Questions: Contact Lisa Trombley, 870-925-0568

this way ensures you're getting both value and nutrition in every bite.

**Step 5: Reduce Waste and Maximize every ingredient** - Food waste is one of the biggest hidden costs in grocery spending. Meal prepping helps prevent it by ensuring ingredients are used efficiently. To minimize waste, try to repurpose leftovers into new meals (roasted chicken into salads or wraps), freeze extra portions for later use, store food properly, and label it with dates. Rotating older items to the front of your fridge and planning meals around perishable ingredients can further reduce waste.

Meal prepping on a budget isn't about perfection, it's about consistency. By planning meals, shopping intentionally, and prepping

food in advance, you create a system that saves money, reduces stress, and supports healthier eating habits. Start small, keep it simple, and build a routine that fits your lifestyle. Over time, those small weekly habits can lead to significant savings and a much easier approach to eating well.

**Recipe: Grilled Chicken with California Blend**  
**Ingredients:**  
 Marinade of choice  
 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts  
 1 bag of frozen California

Blend vegetables

**Directions:**  
 Place chicken breast in a glass pan or large plastic bag. Prepare marinade of choice and pour over chicken breasts. Let marinate 30 minutes to 1 hours. Prepare vegetables according to package directions. Discard marinade and grill chicken 7-8 minutes on each side. Inset thermometer to thickest part of chicken breast and continue cooking until it registers 165 degree F.

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 nashvillefumc.org  
**Pastor: Pam Estes**  
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 Worship 10:50 a.m.  
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**HOLLY CREEK Missionary Baptist Church**  
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 Sun. Evening 5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday WOW 6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
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# Net farm income forecast to drop

By **Mary Hightower**  
University of Arkansas  
Division of Agriculture

Weighed down by low commodity prices, heavy fuel and fertilizer outlays and the costs of war, disease and weather, Arkansas' net farm income is expected to fall for the fourth straight year, with farmers enduring on government support.

The Rural & Farm Finance Policy Analysis Center's spring report is forecasting Arkansas' net farm income to be \$3.38 billion in 2026, relatively stable compared to 2025's \$3.32 billion.

Arkansas' crop and livestock receipts — the value of production — were projected to fall to \$11.8 billion, down \$626 million or 5 percent from 2025 and \$2.2 billion, or 16 percent, from 2022. Crop receipts are projected to decline for the third straight year from a high of \$5.53 billion in 2023 to the current 2026 projection of \$4.17 billion mostly driven by depressed commodity prices.

"Overall, the 2026 farm income outlook reflects a shift away from broad-based market-driven gains toward increased reliance on policy support," the report said.

"It's very concerning," said Hunter Biram, extension economist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, one of the authors.

#### Wars, disease and weak demand

"Sustained production with no real drivers in demand continues to keep prices low," Biram said.

"From a historical perspective, crop receipts minus expenses have been negative seven of the last 10 years, with the greatest losses being in 2024 and 2025 at around \$1.5 billion each year," Biram said.

"The average negative net farm income for Arkansas over this span is \$1 billion per year," he said. "The positive crop incomes in the other three years were \$120 million, \$19 million, and \$9 million, respectively, and were driven by elevated prices from strong demand post-COVID."

"Since 2022, crop prices have fallen 30 percent, while

production costs have remained elevated — about 20 percent above pre-Russian invasion of Ukraine levels," he said.

Current total production expenses are projected to increase by \$80 million, driven largely by a \$212 million increase in expenses for fertilizer and fuel attributed to the conflict in the Middle East. Arkansas crop margins are, at best, tight with most farmers facing negative margins.

"Many farmers are once again in a year where choosing a crop that has the greatest likelihood of lowest loss is the best-case scenario," Biram said.

"The only increase that is positive that we're seeing in 2026 is going to be for government assistance — an increase of \$1.12 billion to \$1.75 billion total," Biram said. "That \$1.75 billion is the only thing keeping that farm income afloat. It's the best way to put it in 2026."

The \$1.12 billion represents a 179 percent increase over the previous year.

#### Livestock

In previous reports [see Arkansas net farm income projected to decline by 8 percent in 2025 and Arkansas net farm income projected to decrease for second straight year], tight cattle supplies and higher meat prices helped buoy net farm income in Arkansas. In this edition, however, livestock agriculture receipts were expected to decline \$424 million, a drop of 5 percent, to \$7.64 billion in 2026. The losses were "driven by a 48 percent decline in egg receipts," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said the livestock numbers should be taken with a grain of salt.

"Some of the decline in Arkansas farm income is attributed to lower egg receipts," he said.

"We expect an upward revision to the forecast for the fall release as it does not currently reflect conditions in Arkansas and is more a reflection of conditions faced by the U.S. egg industry and amid ongoing HPAI impacts."

Egg receipts were expected to decrease by \$485 million in 2026. Among other

livestock sectors:

Broiler receipts were expected to rise 1 percent to \$5.51 billion in 2026.

Cattle and calves were projected to rise 2 percent to \$975 million.

Turkey receipts were expected to increase 4 percent to \$425 million.

In 2027, broilers are projected to increase another 1 percent in 2027; cattle and calves are expected to decline 7 percent and turkey receipts are expected to decline by 5 percent.

#### Crops

Crop commodities were also expected to fall 5 percent, down \$202 million. Only soybeans were expecting any positive news in 2026, with receipts forecast to rise 24 percent to \$1.72 billion.

Corn, rice and cotton receipts are all projected to decline in 2026:

Corn, down 6 percent to \$706 million

Rice, down 27 percent to \$920 million

Cotton, down 21 percent to \$139 million

However, the outlook for 2027 cash receipts was a bit brighter for three of the crops:

Soybeans, down 1 percent, or \$147 million

Corn, up 7 percent, or \$51 million

Rice, up 1 percent, or \$6 million

Cotton, up 4 percent or \$21 million

Find the report online, as well as additional commentary in Morning Coffee and Ag Markets and its podcast.

The Farm Income Outlook for Arkansas is co-published by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and RaFF at the University of Missouri. RaFF collaborates with several states to develop farm income projections with local expertise, offering additional coverage of key Midwestern and Southern regions.

The lead author is Alejandro Plastina, director of the Rural and Farm Finance Policy Analysis Center, joined by Biram, Mitchell, Extension Economist Ryan Loy of the Division of Agriculture, and RaFF Senior Research Associate Oranuch Wongpiyabovorn.



Jennifer Cunningham

## UA Hope-Texarkana honors Jennifer Cunningham with Spirit of Excellence in Service award

The University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana (UAHT) has named Jennifer Cunningham as the recipient of the Spirit of Excellence in Service (Outstanding Staff) Award, recognizing her outstanding dedication, leadership, and commitment to the campus community.

Cunningham, who has served at UAHT for nearly 8 years, was selected for the honor based on her consistent demonstration of service, positivity, and support for both students and colleagues. According to her nomination, she "exemplifies service in its purest form," not for recognition, but through a genuine commitment to others.

"Jennifer Cunningham is a woman whose personality is a light for all to see," the nomination states. "She always has a smile and a

pun for you," creating an environment that is both welcoming and uplifting.

Her impact on campus extends beyond her daily responsibilities. Cunningham is known for her strong work ethic and willingness to go above and beyond, whether that means working long hours, supporting colleagues, or ensuring events run smoothly. "Despite her position, she is never above moving tables and chairs," the nominator wrote. "She steps up to ensure that rooms are prepared for visitors or events of any kind."

Colleagues also highlighted her resilience and positive attitude, even in challenging circumstances. "She has overcome those moments and continued to bring positivity and joy to those around her," the nomination reads.

Cunningham's dedication to students and loyalty to her coworkers were also noted as defining qualities. Her efforts consistently reflect a desire to strengthen UAHT and enhance the experience of everyone on campus.

"It's clear that her goal is to elevate UAHT in any and every way she can," the nominator wrote. "We have some of the best staff in the world, but it is my sincerest belief that Jennifer has earned it."

The Spirit of Excellence in Service Award recognizes UAHT staff members who go above and beyond in their roles, demonstrating exceptional service and commitment to the university's mission. Cunningham's recognition reflects the meaningful impact she has made across the institution.

## Rusty Relics show Saturday

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, 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.

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## NEWS-LEADER CLASSIFIEDS

### BUSINESS SERVICES

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

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

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

The City of Tollette, Arkansas, is seeking Annual Statements of Qualifications from qualified firms to provide professional grant administration services, including grant writing, application preparation, and project administration. Statements will be kept on file for 2026 and used to select grant administration services as projects develop for grant applications and grant administration contingent upon funding award. Statements must be submitted to Mayor Brenda Porter at [cityoftollette@whiti.net](mailto:cityoftollette@whiti.net) no later than Wednesday, May 20, 2026 by 2:00 p.m. The City reserves the right to reject any or all submissions and waive formalities deemed to be in the best interest of the City.

(This publication was paid for by the City of Tollette. The amount paid for this publication is \$58.05.) (CT: 47)

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**Allana O'Neal, 870-557-7162**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pike County will be accepting bids to rebuild the Glenwood Pike County Fairgrounds Pavilion which is located at 510 N. 1st, Glenwood, Arkansas. All debris removal will be provided by the Pike County Road Department. The pavilion is approximately a 40'x50' (2,287 sq. ft.)

Requirements: The structure to be built will need to be either a wood structure with a metal roof and metal gabled ends or an all-metal structure with metal roof and metal gabled ends. We would need to have an estimate for both types of structures. Pricing needs to include lighting and receptacles. Bids will need to be turned into the Pike County Judge's office no later than Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

Bid packets will be available at the Pike County Judge's Office.

Bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on May 21, 2026, at the Pike County Judge's Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Pike County Judge's office at 870-285-2414.

(This publication was paid for by the Pike County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$81)

(PCJ: 46, 47)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pike County will be accepting bids to rebuild the Glenwood Pike County covered rodeo arena bleacher roof which is located at 510 N. 1st, Glenwood, Arkansas. All debris removal will be provided by the Pike County Road Department. The bleacher area is approximately 3,600 sq. ft.

Requirements: The structure will need to be repaired as was. Pricing needs to include electrical and lighting. Bids will need to be turned into the Pike County Judges office no later than Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

Bid packets will be available at the Pike County Judge's office.

Bids will be opened at 10 a.m. on May 21, 2026, at the Pike County Judge's office.

If you have any questions, please contact Pike County Judge's office at 870-285-2414.

(This publication was paid for by the Pike County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$64.80)

(PCJ: 46, 47)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-2

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2025-16 THE 2026 HOWARD COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE.

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: The 2026 Howard County Budget Ordinance No. 2025-16 should be Amended as follows:

Howard County Road, Parts and Repairs (2000-0200-2023) should increase by \$24,345.99; County Road, Capital Outlay, Machinery and Equipment (Other Than Vehicles) (2000-0200-4004) should increase by 93,577.01. Courthouse Maintenance, Parts and Repairs (1000-0108-2023) should increase by \$10,921.57. The increases come from The Association of Arkansas Counties, Risk Management Fund/Claims Acct. for lightning damage to county equipment.

SECTION 2: This ordinance is to be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Brent Pinkerton, Howard, County Judge

ATTEST:  
 Keri Teague, Howard County Clerk  
 February 17, 2026

(This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$71.10) (HCJ: 47)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOSEPH GERARD DONAT COMPAGNA 31 PR-26-18

#### NOTICE OF PROBATE-INTESTATE

Last known address of decedent: 1642 Highway 278 W, Wickes, Polk County, Arkansas  
 Date of death: February 10, 2024

Catherine Ann Talley was appointed the Administratrix of the Estate of Joseph Gerard Donat Compagna, by order dated April 27, 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 6th day of May, 2026.

Catherine Ann Talley, Administratrix, by  
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 (AB: 46, 47)

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pike County will be accepting bids to rebuild the Glenwood Pike County Poultry Barn which is located at 510 N. 1st, Glenwood, Arkansas. All debris removal will be provided by the Pike County Road Department. The poultry barn is approximately 32'x90' (2,464 sq. ft.)

Requirements: The structure to be built will need to be either a wood structure with a metal roof and metal gable end or an all-metal structure with metal roof and metal gable end. We need to have an estimate for both types of structures. Pricing needs to include electricity for lights and receptacles. Bids will need to be turned into the Pike County Judge's office no later than Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

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(PCJ: 46, 47)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARISA ELLEN LABUA, DECEASED  
 DOCKET NO.: 31PR-24-79  
 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 810 North 8th Street Nashville, AR 71852  
 DATE OF DEATH: August 29, 2024.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AS SPECIAL PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

The undersigned was appointed Special Personal Representative of the Estate of Marisa Ellen LaBua, deceased, on November 7, 2024. 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 on May 6, 2026.

Jack LaBua, Special Personal Representative of the Estate of Marisa Ellen LaBua, Deceased  
 c/o Thomas G. Buchanan  
 Law Office of Thomas G. Buchanan  
 217 West 2nd St., Suite 115  
 Little Rock, AR 72201  
 (501) 296-9820

(PNA: 46, 47)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2025-16 THE 2026 HOWARD COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE.

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: The 2026 Howard County Budget Ordinance No. 2025-16 should be Amended as follows:

Howard County Road, General Supplies (2000-0200-2001) should increase by \$55.40. The increase comes from a refund on the credit balance for Capital One.

SECTION 2: This ordinance is to be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Brent Pinkerton, Howard, County Judge

ATTEST:  
 Keri Teague, Howard County Clerk  
 January 20, 2026

(This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$54.45) (HCJ: 47)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-4 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2025-16 THE 2026 HOWARD COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE.

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: The 2026 Howard County Budget Ordinance No. 2025-16 should be Amended as follows:

Howard County Elections, Travel (1000-0109-3030) should increase by \$64.48 due to a reimbursement check for compensation for County Board of Election Commissioners Training (Train the Trainer) for Gary White.

SECTION 2: This ordinance is to be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Brent Pinkerton, Howard, County Judge

ATTEST:  
 Keri Teague, Howard County Clerk  
 March 16, 2026

(This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$57.15) (HCJ: 47)

# Filing period for Pike County's municipal positions now open

Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards said this week that candidates interested in running for municipal offices began circulating petitions for signatures on Thursday, May 7. The header of the petition must be completed with the candidate's information and position they are running for prior to gathering signatures. Incomplete petitions will be voided and recirculation required. Petitions are available at the Clerk's office.

Positions for election during the 2026 General Election on November 3 include (with the current office holder):

### TOWN OF ANTOINE

Mayor - David B Hendrix  
Recorder/Treasurer - Christi Ewart  
Alderman Position 1 - Carrie Tidwell  
Alderman Position 2 - Lonny VanCamp  
Alderman Position 3 - Heath VanCamp  
Alderman Position 4 - Vance Teel  
Alderman Position 5 - Theresa House

### TOWN OF DAISY

Mayor - Lisa Cogburn  
Recorder/Treasurer - Melissa Jones  
Alderman Position 1 - Linda Hughes  
Alderman Position 2 - Rebecca Frazier  
Alderman Position 3 - Scotty Frazier  
Alderman Position 4 - Nicholas Stant  
Alderman Position 5 - Helen Frazier

### TOWN OF DELIGHT

Mayor - Lee Gatliff  
Recorder/Treasurer - Dana Hightower  
Alderman Position 1 - Rhonda Abbott  
Alderman Position 2 - Ty Sherrod  
Alderman Position 3 - Brandi "Rowton" Martin

Alderman Position 4 - Ronnie Cox  
Alderman Position 5 - Keith Woods

### CITY OF GLENWOOD

Mayor - Billy Plyler

Alderman North Ward Position 2 - Johnny Cox  
Alderman South Ward Position 2 - Chase Pope

### CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Mayor - Jim O'Neal  
Alderman North Ward Position 1 - Mark Barnes  
Alderman North Ward Position 2 - Kirk J Stone  
Alderman South Ward Position 1 - Lewis Gills  
Alderman South Ward Position 2 - Jane Fugitt  
Alderman West Ward Position 1 - Betty J O'neal  
Alderman West Ward Position 2 - Cody Bachman

Running for Public Office Handbooks are available at the clerk's office and contain rules and regulations as well as samples of the needed petitions or you may obtain online at <https://sbec.arkansas.gov/.../2025-Running-for-Public...>

Candidates are required to collect 10 qualifying signatures to be eligible to file for office.

For questions or more information call the clerk's office at (870) 285-2743.

### Election Announcement

Edwards also noted that May 1 was the deadline for independent candidates to file petitions and signature collection affidavits for federal, state, or county offices.

As no local county petitions were received, independent candidate for sheriff, Obie Laurent, is not qualified to be on the ballot in November and Republican candidate Travis Hill will be unopposed.

# Murfreesboro chamber finalizes plans for Juneteenth

At the May 5 Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Mayor Jim O'Neal said a proposal to obtain the former Tyson hatchery building was moving up the chain.

The city requested that Tyson donate the building and five acres of land for their use, and had received a "favorable response" but was still short of formal acceptance.

A large parcel of land -- some 70 acres -- would not be included.

The Chamber and the Juneteenth planning committee moved toward finalizing plans for the event.

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.

Someone to do face painting will be sought. Hot dogs, watermelon, chips and drinks will be served for lunch.

"We get to buy local this year," Chamber president Ricky Branch said, referencing Chimney Rock grocery store.

A live disc jockey will be present with room for a dance, which Mayor Jim O'Neal said was a good idea.

"By having it all at the park, there will be restrooms available and no need for a time schedule," O'Neal said.

Almonzo Benson will speak at the event.

On Sunday, June 14, an interdenominational sunrise service will be held at the park, starting at 7 a.m., which will be set to conclude before other church services begin.

"It will be a nice way to conclude the event," O'Neal said.

The group will sell t-shirts if there is sufficient interest.



News-Leader photo/COURTESY OF HCFM

**FRIDAY AT THE MARKET.** The Howard County Farmers' Market continued its strong start to the season last week with a total of 12 vendors participating and several new faces joining the market. Shoppers enjoyed a growing variety of local products, including locally grown candied pecans from Pearson Farms, baked goods from Shelbie's Goodys, and the return of Flo's Fauna & Follies. Visitors to the market can continue to expect a growing mix of fresh produce, eggs, local honey, baked goods, handmade crafts, original artwork, and other locally made items. The market runs every Friday from 7am - Noon at 110 S Washington Street in Nashville. Find us on Facebook to get the latest info who will be selling at the market this week. Pictured here is Cherie Goff (left), a new vendor for the 2026 market season. She had tallow lotions, homemade scrubs and tinted lip balms available that made perfect Mother's Day gifts.

## Peach Blossom Festival Pageant Winners

The following are the winners of the Peach Blossom Festival Pageant:

### Baby Miss

Maggie Moss, Queen; Juliann Marie Rogers, 2nd; Zara Grace Baughn; 3rd; Tuls Davis, 4th, Opal Lucille Tucker, 5th

### Tiny Miss

Dawson Waldrop, Queen; Finlee Lambeth, 2nd; Baylor Laine Mote, 3rd; Dailaine Hill, 4th; Hattie Kaye Harrison, 5th; Emeline Lariane Tucker, 6th

### Little Miss

Mallory Cody and Rowyn Resendiz, Queens; Delilah Rose Miller, 2nd; Keylee Hallmark, 3rd; Emma Holer, 4th; Liza Jane Tucker, 5th; Delannie Waldrop, 6th

### Young Miss

Maggie Grace Dyer, Queen

### Teen Miss

Allanis Brooke Chandler, Queen

### Miss/Mrs

Sourikhan Nguyen, Queen

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### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (OR OTHER MEASURE) REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 95th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 2. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2025 Session by Senator J. Payton and filed as SJR 11.

#### ISSUE NO. 2

##### Popular Name

A Constitutional Amendment to Amend Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 5, to Protect the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

##### Ballot Title

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS FOR THEIR COMMON DEFENSE, FOR LAWFUL HUNTING AND RECREATIONAL USE, AND FOR ANY OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSE; PRO-

VIDING THAT THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS INCLUDES WITHOUT LIMITATION THE POSSESSION AND USE OF AMMUNITION, FIREARM ACCESSORIES, AND FIREARM COMPONENTS; AND PROVIDING THAT THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS IS A NATURAL, FUNDAMENTAL, AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHT THAT SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. INTENT OF AMENDMENT. It is the intent of this amendment to the Arkansas Constitution to protect the right to keep and bear arms guaranteed under the Arkansas Constitution.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Right to keep and bear arms.

(a) The citizens of this State shall have the right to keep and bear arms; for; (1) their Their common defense; (2) Lawful hunting and recreational use; and (3) Any other lawful purpose. (b) The right to keep and bear arms under subsection (a) of this section includes without limitation the possession and use of:

(1) Ammunition; (2) Firearm accessories; and (3) Firearm components.

(c) The right to keep and bear arms under subsection (a) of this section is a natural, fundamental, and individual right that shall not be infringed.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.



COLE JESTER  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF ARKANSAS



National Hospital Week  
May 10 - 16

Howard Memorial Hospital is celebrating National Hospital Week - we are proud of all our dedicated professionals that care for our community.

Howard Memorial hospital