

Leader Board

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OPINION | 4A

Love your neighbor and get your vaccination.

Heritage symposium July 25 at Washington

Historic Washington State Park will host the 20th Annual Red River Heritage Symposium Saturday, July 25, from 1-5 p.m.

The theme is "Threads Along the Red River: 250 Years at One of America's Crossroads."

Topics and speakers will include the following: "Hunter and Dunbar Expedition and Exploration in southwest Arkansas" by Pam Beasley of Historic Washington State Park.

"Documenting Trammel's Trace" by local historian and author Gary Pinkerton of Houston, Texas.

"Methodist Influence and Circuit Riders" by local historian Keenan Williams of Hope.

"Civil War Battle of Prairie D'Ane Archeology" by Dr. Carl Drexler of the Arkansas Archeological Survey.

As part of the symposium, an all-day Friday and Saturday workshop for teachers and researchers will take place July 24 and 25, beginning at 9 a.m. Lunch is included both days.

Teachers can earn a total of 12 credit hours by attending both days. The Saturday morning workshop will include a bus tour to sites in southwest Arkansas and northeast Texas related to the route of Trammel's Trace. The tour is sponsored by the Arkansas State Archives.

Research workshop presenters include staff from Historic Washington State Park, Arkansas State Archives, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives. Sessions will incorporate Washington, Arkansas, and 19th-century-related topics into curriculum standards for the classroom.

Topics covered will include: how to document veterans of the American Revolution, free African-American communities in antebellum southwest Arkansas, Arkansas "America 250" resources, African-American highlights of southwest Arkansas, Understanding and deciphering 19th century handwriting, and law and order in the courtroom of 19th century southwest Arkansas.

The cost includes:
Friday Research Workshop \$25
Saturday Morning Bus Tour \$15
Saturday Symposium \$20
All Events \$50



Tri-county roundtable to focus on housing

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

Affordable housing dominated much of the discussion at the May 28 meeting of the Developing Howard County board of directors.

Economic Development Director Vanessa Weeks said planning is underway for a tri-county housing roundtable to be held at UA-Cossatot in Lockesburg. Details will be announced.

The meeting will include bankers, developers, utility providers, construction representatives and others, Weeks said. Cossatot will also be involved.

Dana Poindexter of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission said the roundtable "will be an opportunity for industries to be involved. We will identify challenges and let stakeholders understand what's going on in the market. Housing and water are the two biggest topics I hear about."

Rory Gulick of AEDC said

housing is "a big concern for industries," and many towns don't have it. "Housing gets lots of consideration at the industry level."

There are "some creative ways communities are using for housing growth," he said.

The roundtable will cover those and other topics.

In other discussion, Weeks said Howard County is in the top two on a prospect's list of sites. "We'll either land it or we won't. I should have an update by next week."

Another prospect is coming for a site visit in June, according to Weeks. "It's a different site from the [former] Husqvarna property. It's very promising."

The State of the Southwest meeting held at Nashville in April "was a fantastic event," Weeks said. "I'm glad we were able to host. People are still talking about it."

Poindexter said people "weren't there were talking about it later. A lot came out" of the meeting.

'Val, sal' to remain in place in place at Nashville High

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

Valedictorian and salutatorian designations will continue to be part of the graduation experience at Nashville High School.

In a special meeting Monday, the Nashville School Board voted to keep the current system of recognizing students with the top grade point averages in the school's honor graduate classes.

The action came after the Arkansas Department of Education issued guidance earlier in the year which "strongly recommends transitioning away from only valedictorian and salutatorian rankings and instead recognizing a broader group of high-achieving students" through the Latin honors of *summa cum laude*, *magna cum*

See Val • Page 5A



AT GIRLS STATE. Counselors Dede Robinson (center) of Nashville, Analeise Fultz (left) and Corri Langley were on hand for an eventful week at Arkansas Girls State.

'A wonderful opportunity but changes needed' at AGS, counselor from Nashville says

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

Following a tumultuous time before and during Arkansas Girls State at Harding University, 74 of the 78 counselors released a statement Sunday, May 31, expressing their concerns about the way delegates and counselors were treated and fears about the future of the program.

Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and brings together hundreds of young women in the summer before their senior year of high school. The students learn about government, participate in elections, visit the state Capitol and participate in other programs related to civic education.

From beginning to end, this summer's program was different, to say the least.

The counselors' statement tells what happened and includes

problems stemming from "a culture of fear and shame fostered by the American Legion Auxiliary and the Arkansas Girls State Committee."

The complete statement may be found on page 5A of today's *News-Leader*.

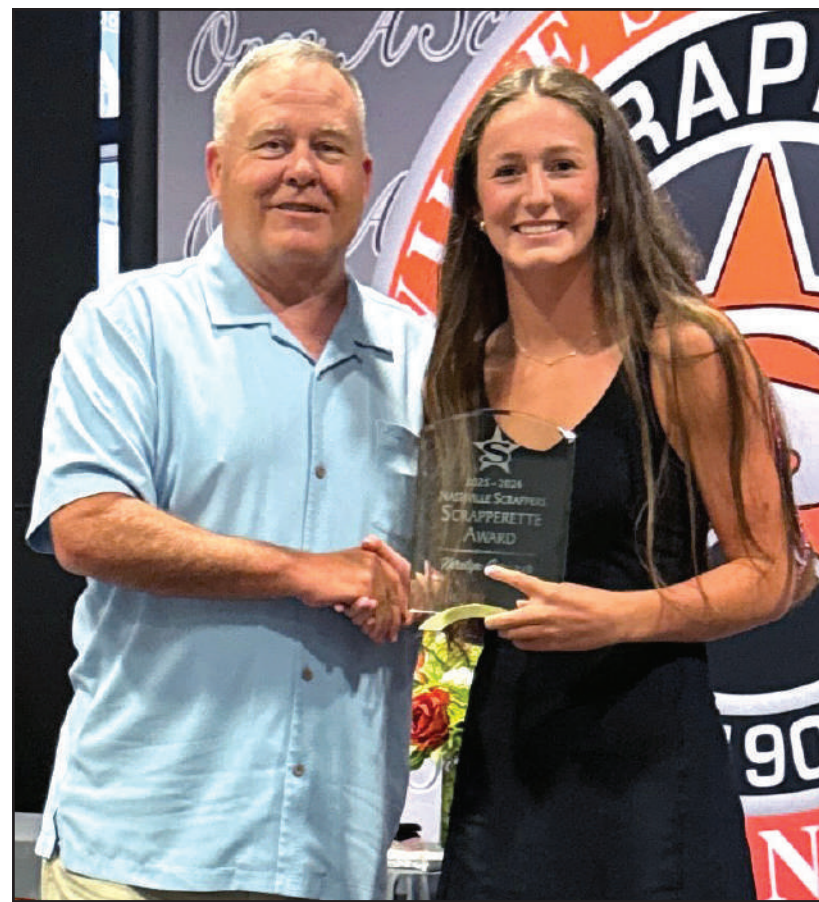
Problems began even before the delegates reported to Searcy. Deadlines to apply to Girls State allegedly were changed to spring break without notifying many of the schools.

As a result, 150 girls were rejected for the program.

The rejection prompted the Arkansas Legislature to host a special one-day event at the Capitol for those who were turned away.

Among the 74 counselors who signed the May 31 statement was Dede Robinson, a 2026 honor graduate of Nashville High

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News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Superintendent Doug Graham presents the Scrapperette Award to Karstyn Scrivner Tuesday, May 26, at the NHS sports awards program. More pictures page 8A.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Karson Chambers (right) accepts the Scrapper Award from Superintendent Doug Graham Thursday, May 28.

Athletes honored with host of awards

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

Karstyn Scrivner received the Scrapperette Award, and Karson Chambers received the Scrapper Award during athletic recognition programs last week at Nashville High School.

Scrivner played basketball and ran track for the Scrapperettes, earning numerous accolades along the way. She scored more than 2,000 career points in basketball and excelled in track as well.

Scrivner signed to play basketball at Harding University.

Chambers played football and basketball for the Scrappers, receiving a number of honors in both sports. He signed to play baseball at Southern Arkansas University.

Superintendent Doug Graham presented Scrivner's award during the first honors program May 26. Chambers received his award from Graham May 28.

Coaches presented a host of honors to their athletes during both events. They also introduced each of their players and reviewed highlights from their seasons.

Scraper golf - Coach Aaron Worthen recognized the following golfers: Manning Goff All Conference 2023, 24; district champions 2023; state tournament qualifier 2023, 24, 25; outstanding male golfer 2024, 25; Zeus Hutchinson district champions 2023; state tournament qualifier 2023, 24; Luke Wallis newcomer of the year, state tournament qualifier.

Scrapperette golf - Worthen presented awards to Parker Tate all-conference 2022, 23, 24, 25; district champions 2022, 23, 24, 25; district Medalist 2022, 23, 24, 25; all-state 2022, 24, 25; outstanding female golfer 2024, 25; 2025 ASGA state overall tournament seventh; 2025 Arkansas All-Preps golf team; Rayleigh Harmon all-conference 2023, 24, 25; district champion 2023, 24, 25; district runner-up Medalist 2024; Cassie Stephenson all-conference 2024; district champions 2024, 25; outstanding leadership award; Kinley Martin, all-conference, district champions, most improved; Molly Marion all-conference, district

champions; district runner-up Medalist, newcomer of the year. Scrapper tennis - Coach Maddie McRae presented the following: newcomer, Payton Fritts; singles player of the year Taylor Bush; doubles team of the year, Orfael Roseas and Edwin Pizarro; MVP Orfael Rosas; Scrapper Heart and Hustle, Luis Bustamante and Joshua Howard. Scrapperette tennis - Awards presented by McRae included Newcomer Irene Bustos; singles player of the year Layla Simon; doubles team of the year Rylee Backus and Allie Sartin; MVP Rylee Backus; Scrapper Heart and Hustle Allie Sartin. Scrapper track - Coach Kirby Adcock presented the following: senior awards Brayden Erby, Landon Morris, KJ Coulter and Cortez Cooper; All-Conference Myles Hawthorne, Jailyn Staggers, Landon Morris, Lucas Muncy, Leo Hernandez, Karter White, Skyler Ramsire, Zavion Vaughn, Kishon Jefferson, Jacoby Hopson and Weller Chesshir; All-State Jailyn Staggers; outstanding runner Landon Morris; outstanding thrower Jailyn Staggers; outstanding jumper Skyler Ramsire; Joe Lee Goodrum Award Landon Morris. Scrapperette track - Awards presented by Coach Magen Scrivner included all-district Jaydn Johnson, Kimora Carter, Emma Chambers, Serenity Haney, Ella Westfall, Addison Gammage, Maddie Lovelis; outstanding sprinter Ava Basiliere; distance runner, Emma Chambers; thrower Brooklyn Cox; Harley Webb, jumper; Betty Ann Floyd Award Karstyn Scrivner. Scrapperette cross country - Coach Mikayla Clift presented the following: most improved Ruvy Martinez; top runner Paola Hernandez, Scrapper Star Daniella Hernandez; all-conference Paola Hernandez. Scrapper cross country - Awards presented by Clift included most improved Landon Morris; top runner Lucas Muncy; Scrapper Star Luke Dowdy; all-conference Lucas Muncy, Leonel Hernandez, Luis Flores. Cheer - Coach Erin Askew

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Obituaries



Lt. Col. William Harris Kolb

Lieutenant Colonel William Harris (Bill) Kolb retired from the US Army and from Dierks High School. Band Director, age 88, passed from this life on May 28, 2026. Col. Kolb served his country for more than 31 years in the Arkansas Army National Guard and the United States Army. While in the Army, he was stationed in Germany twice for 3 years each time, in Japan for 2 and a half years, and in Vietnam. A few of his assignments were Command of a MASH Hospital, senior medical advisor for the northern sector of South Vietnam, and command of a Medical Battalion on 3 different occasions. After retiring from the Army, he started the band program at Dierks High School and led it for 18 years. He graduated from Arkansas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in Music Education, from Webster University with a master's degree in Health Facilities Management, and from the United States Army Command and General Staff College Officer Course. He was married to his beautiful and wonderful wife, Christa, for 57 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Christa, and his dad, Richard B. Kolb, and his mom, Viva Curtis Kolb; three brothers, Richard, Joseph, and Dennis.

He is survived by three children, Carol Herder of Pittsburg, Pa., Diana Day and Ron of Hot Springs, Ark., and Mark Kolb and Cindy of Mary Esther, Fla., six grandchildren, Amanda Phillips, Meggan Phillips, Michael Herder, Elizabeth Herder, Daniel Kolb, and Matthew Kolb, and one great-grandchild, Pierce Gilbert; one brother, James, and three sisters, Maria, Dora, and Katy; and good friends, Jimmy and Lana Gilbert.

In keeping with Bill's wishes, there will be no funeral.

A celebration of life for family and friends will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at the Greens Chapel Cemetery, with Mark Kolb officiating.

Cremation arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral home in De Queen.

You may leave a condolence online at www.wilkersonfuneralhomes.com.

NHS class plans to have 65th reunion in October

The Nashville High School class of 1961 is planning a reunion.

The event is planned for Saturday, Oct. 3 at Mine Creek Events -- the former Nashville Drug building on Main Street.

More details will be available at a later date.

Helen Bissell House

Helen Bissell House, 85, of Dierks died Monday, May 25, 2026.

She was born in Howard County, the daughter of the late John T. Bissell and Odean Jacques Bissell.

She was a member of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Dierks.

She was preceded in death by her husband, W. Glen House; and her brother, Charles L. Bissell.

The family received friends from 6-8 p.m. Friday, May 29, 2026, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Funeral services were at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 30, 2026, in the Latimer Funeral Chapel, with Bro. Joe Isham officiating. Burial followed in Bissell Chapel Cemetery near Newhope.

Betty Jean Alexander

Betty Jean Alexander, age 91 of Prescott, Ark., formerly of Athens, passed away on Saturday, May 30, 2026, in Prescott. She was born on Dec. 24, 1934, to the late Cornelius Ralls and Lelia McConnell Ralls.

Betty loved working in her yard and gathering eggs. Above all, she enjoyed spending time with her family.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two siblings, Dewey David Ralls and Alta Ralls Flemens Dowdle; a grandson, Glen David Crawford; and a daughter-in-law, Mary Jo Deer Alexander.

Those left to cherish her memory include her five children, Sherry Acre, Terry Turner, Judy Young (Don), Janet Nichols (Charles Wilder) and Marty Alexander; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, one great-grandchild; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2026, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

A graveside service will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at Athens Cemetery in Athens, with Donny Reid officiating. Services are under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.

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



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

MEMORIAL DAY. Local veterans and members of the sponsoring Daughters of the American Revolution, Mine Creek-Paraclifta Chapter, gathered in front of the Howard County Courthouse Monday morning, May 25, for a Memorial Day observance.

FINANCIAL FOCUS by Josh Tice, Edward Jones Investments

10 steps needed before and after wedding day

By Josh Tice
Edward Jones Investments

Getting married is a major decision that comes with a financial to-do list that's arguably more important than choosing a venue or a cake. Talking openly about money can help set you and your partner up for a stronger future.

What financial conversations should I have with my fiancé?

Head into your marriage with honest conversations about money, including these four topics:

Discuss how your families handled finances when you were young, whether you're a spender or saver and what debt you're willing to take on.

Share how much you each earn, spend and save. Discuss assets and debts, including mortgages, student or auto loans and credit card balances; your partner's debt can become joint debt after marriage.

Align on a budget as a couple that reflects the life you want to build -- where you'll live; what you'll spend on housing, travel and hobbies; and how often you'll review your finances together.

Talk through your goals. Make separate lists of short-, medium- and long-term financial dreams and compare them. You'll likely find some common ground, and where you don't, look for ways to compromise. A financial advisor can help.

Should I ask for a prenup?

Couples with significantly different assets or debts, those expecting large inheritances or those blend-

ing families are more likely to want to consider a prenuptial agreement. A prenup outlines how assets, debts, future income, inheritance and even spousal support will be handled during the marriage and if it ends, but it cannot address child custody.

Should my new spouse and I blend our finances?

Regarding couples blending finances, there's no one right answer. Some couples combine everything, others keep accounts separate and many land somewhere in between. Agree on who pays which bills, how major decisions get made and what spending threshold triggers a check-in.

What financial tasks should we complete after getting married?

Once you're married, these six tasks deserve attention.

Take advantage of the special enrollment period, which typically lasts 30 days after getting married, to update employer benefits such as health insurance. Revisit retirement plan contributions if your combined income has grown.

Review insurance coverage. Combining homeowners or renters, auto and umbrella policies can often reduce costs. Make sure you have enough life insurance.

Update beneficiaries on insurance policies, retirement plans, investment ac-

counts, bank accounts and real estate.

If you change your name, order multiple copies of your marriage certificate. You'll need them to update your Social Security card, financial accounts, and employer and medical records.

Update your W-4 withholding to reflect your new

marital status and ask a tax professional whether filing jointly or separately makes more sense.

Work with an attorney to create or update your will, medical directive, and financial and health care powers of attorney. Your estate plan should reflect your new life together.



TALKING ABOUT FARMERS MARKET. Melanie Schwartz, manager of the Howard County Farmers Market in Nashville, talked about the unique enterprise in a recent visit with the Rotary Club. The market averages more than a dozen vendors every Friday from 7 a.m. until noon. Vendors bring garden fresh vegetables, prepared foods, and a wide variety of kraft items. A food truck is also a frequent participant. Schwartz talked about some of her ideas for the market, including some building improvements such as fans and lighting. The Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at noon in Room 101 at UA-Cossatot.

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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



Present at the Liberty Day program sponsored by the Nashville Lions Club at Nashville Elementary School were veteran Dr. Glenn Lance, Lions Club member Lou Jamison, veteran Danny Graves and retired U.S. Army Master Sgt. Charles Reese. The event was held in 2005.

141 years ago: June 1885
Nashville Specials: Fruit cans 90 cents a dozen at T.W. Doyle and Co.; For a nice dish of purest ice cream go to White and Winn's new parlor; Boots, shoes, clothing and hats at Black and Bro. at prices that will defy competition.; Figured lawns in the latest styles five cents a yard at Black and Bro.

The citizens of Saratoga have given notice that they will prohibit the sale of liquor within seven miles of the city.

120 years ago: June 1906
Jodie Piggey, a boy aged about 12 years, who lives on the farm of Jim Pope in the suburbs of Nashville, was bitten by a dog belonging to Galvin Craig, which was thought to be suffering

with hydrophobia. The boy was bitten on the leg and a madstone belonging to Rev. J. B. Hill was applied to the wound.

The Nashville News has been authorized to announce the following candidates for sheriff and collector for Howard County which are S.R. Briggs of Nashville, C.C. Custer of Center Point and Perry Williams of Umpire.

75 years ago: June 1951
Miss Janet Ball, lovely 14-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Agee Ball and one of the youngest contestants ever to win a Nashville beauty contest, was given the Miss Nashville beauty title at the pageant Tuesday night.

Miss Ball was selected from 39 entrants, and over

two other finalists, Miss Mary Elizabeth Nowell, who placed second and Miss Margaret L. Ponder, third place winner.

45 years ago, June 1981
Two men died in a fiery collision of three tractor-trailer rigs late Monday morning at the Little Missouri River Bridge on Highway 27 south of Murfreesboro.

The victims were John Floyd Cox, 27, of Murfreesboro, an employee of Weyerhaeuser, Murfreesboro plant; and Franklin D. White, Sr. 46 of Ozan, an independent logger. Both men were burned beyond recognition, delaying positive identification of the victims for a lengthy period of time.

Hot check charges not pursued

The state declined to pursue two hot check felony charges against a Bryant woman after the court was told that the checks had been paid in full.

On the bench Wednesday, May 27, the regular day for criminal court in Howard County was Judge Tom Cooper.

The hot check charges were against Joginipelli Shraavanthi, 44, no race listed, of Bryant.

One guilty plea
Nicole M. Thomas, 33,

white female, Mineral Springs, pleaded guilty to possession of controlled substance with purpose of delivery, a class C felony. She is to return Aug. 5 for formal sentencing which is expected to be five years of probation following 60 days in a regional punishment facility.

One defendant entered a not guilty plea. Londell D. Trotter, 37, black male, Nashville, is charged with aggravated assault, a class D felony.

Pretrial motions will be heard Aug. 12.

A failure to appear warrant was ordered for William E. Chambers, 63, white male, Nashville, who is charged with delivery of controlled substance with penalty enhanced due to proximity of the alleged offense to a Nashville church. According to court documents Chambers was incarcerated in Hempstead County. The judge ordered Chambers to be picked up upon release there and held with no bond.

Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period May 21-27, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses
(Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office)
May 22. Kenneth Dale Boykin, 42, Murfreesboro, and Crystal Diane Franks, 39, Murfreesboro.

May 22, Mark Thomas McCammack, 22, Nashville, and Sarah Lynn Rawlinson, 21, Nashville.

May 27. Dalton James Nichols, 63, Nashville, and Lou An Vance, 58, Nashville.

Civil Court
CV26-93, May 22. LVNO Funding LLC vs. Julio Guzman. Debt.

CV26-94, May 26. MCB Management Services vs. Steven Langgin. Debt.

CV26-95, May 22. LVNV Funding LLS vs. Juan Johnson. Debt.

CV26-96, May 26. Jack Labue vs. Nashville Nursing OPCO, LLC. Medical malpractice.

Domestic Relations Court
DR26-49, May 26. Karla Sanchez Perez vs. Carlos Rojas Cordoba. Custody.

Criminal Court
(NOTE: POCS = possession of controlled substance; PODP = possession of drug paraphernalia; DOCS = delivery of controlled substance. Defendants are innocent until proven otherwise.)
No new Criminal Cases filed since CR26-37, May 19.

Land/Property Transactions
Quitclaim Deed

May 26. Johyn Hill and wife Janice Hill; to Aubrey Leon Fatherree and wife Robin Fatherree; Lot 1 and part of Lot 2, Block 5, Holly Addition, town of Dierks. \$7,500.

Beneficiary Deed
May 22. Ronnie Clark and wife Kathy Clark; to Hunter Golden and Autumn Golden, joint tenants; Lot 3, Block 8, Pine View Addition,

Howard County.
May 26. James Johnson, et al, the Family Settlement Agreement; to Davie Burchette; property in S15 T10S R27W, aka 474 Jordan Rd., Nashville.

May 26. Clifton Ward and Brenda Ward, husband and wife; to Clifton Ward and Brenda Ward, co-trustees of the Ward Family Revocable Trust; 9 tracts, Lots 9-10-11-12 and part of Lot 15, Oak Hill Estates, Howard County, and properties in S1/S6/S7/S33 T7S/T8S R28W/R29W.

May 26. Randall Scott Bohn and wife Valerie Ellen Bohn; to Pamela Louise Bohm; property in S9 T9S R27W, aka 743 Old Center Point Road, Nashville.

Distributee Deed
May 22. Davie Burchette, distributee of the estate of Mossie Shephard, deceased; to Davie Burchette, et al, tenants in common; property in S15 T10S R27W, aka 474 Jordan Road, Nashville.

Warranty Deed
May 22. Bryan D. Billings, trustee of the Bryan D. Billings Revocable Trust; to Joshua Banister and wife

Jessica Banister; 3.61 ac. in S9 T7S R29W. \$115,000.
May 22. Dalton Billings and Amber Billings, husband and wife; to Bryan Billings; 166.31 ac. S15 T8S R28W. \$250,000.

May 22. (Special) Nashville MHP Estates, LLC; to Nashville Estates Mobile Home Park; 2 tracts, aggregate 6.679 ac. in S20/S25 T9S/T10S R27W. \$650,000.

May 22. Kristi D. Thornton, trustee of The Kristi D. Thornton Family Trust; to Melvin D. Atchley and wife Aime R. Atchley; property in S22 T9S R27W, aka Lot 3 Pathway Subdivision. \$315,000.

May 22. Rayden Vines; to Ronnie Clark and wife Kathy Clark; Lot 3, Block 8, Pine View Addition, Howard County. \$16,000.

May 26. Billy D. Gray, surviving spouse of Edith S. Gray; to Crystal Michelle Gray; Lot 1 and part of Lot 2, Block 1, Greenwood Addition, city of Nashville.

May 27. Sonya L. Smith, surviving spouse of Tracy R. Smith, deceased; to Keith Alan Smith; property in S23 T9S R28W.

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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. 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: § 1. Qualifications of electors. (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)(e)(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)(e)(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 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.



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Point of view

‘La Summer’ Some dire predictions about our weather

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and scientists may be warning us of a rough summer of 2026. There was an article in ‘LiveScience’ online presence that said the annual ‘La Nina’ or ‘El Nino’ Pacific Ocean current developed really fast and strong this year. The current determines our own weather here east of the Pacific.

I can’t remember which current 2026 was, or what either one does to our weather.

Not a lot of us can do about it. It’s either going to be real hot and real dry, or real hot and real wet.

Rainfall in May was almost exactly double normal. I’ll let you make up your own mind about temps.

*Mine Creek
Revelations*



By
Louie Graves



MORE TO DO. Our town’s Freddie Horne has been elected to the board of directors of the Historic Washington Foundation, and will serve as chairman of the grant-writing committee.

‘Old Washington’ -- as I like to call it -- obviously took note of what Freddie has accomplished with the Howard County Historical Society and the two museums; also Nashville City Parks; also Nashville City Council; also retired educator.

A good citizen despite his Gurdon Go-Devil roots.

Freddie and I go back to the days before he signed a contract to teach in Nashville. We were members of an organization --- the Jaycees --- dedicated to self-improvement and civic service. The self-improvement part obviously caught on with Freddie. Not so much with me.

Sorry that Nashville no longer has a Jaycee chapter.



HOW MUCH DO YOU love pro basketball? If you want to get a seat for the first home game when San Antonio hosts New York tickets BEGIN at \$1,905. Fourth game will be played at SA and tickets begin at \$7,571.

The article says that tickets to the games at Madison Square Garden in NYC are mucho mucho higher.

I don’t watch NBA games. I’ve taken a knee for just about all professional sports.

But I don’t think ordinary people can afford to go to these games, no matter how much they love the Spurs or the Knickerbockers.



IN TODAY’S NEWSPAPER is the obituary of a splendid lady, Helen House. She and her late husband, Glen, lived just south of Dierks on the Center Point Highway.

For many years Helen was the legal secretary for the legendary ‘Jetty’ Steel.

Here’s something only you and I now know. Helen bought a car from Ball Chevrolet. It was a Chevy Corvair, the small sporty buggy with an aluminum motor in the rear.

But she didn’t like the car. I never knew why. So, she bought another one. The new one was from Bobby Dillard at the Buick dealership on South Main. She traded in the Corvair.

At the same time, I was getting out of the Navy. Came home with a handful of US Savings Bonds that my father had encouraged me to sign up for while on active duty.

I checked around and the only gently used car I could find within my means was Helen’s Corvair.

According to Mr. Dillard it was a real steal.

No A/C but it was an automatic and had a swell AM radio. That car got me through four years of college before I stoopidly traded it off for something cooler. That one didn’t have air conditioning, either.

Helen’s Corvair was still running fine when I waved it goodbye.



CRIME PAYS. ‘Scuse me for repeating some of this. It is burned painfully into my memory.

I know what I saw on that dark January 6, and I cannot get over how some people can say they saw something else.

At the Memorial Day gathering on the courthouse lawn here I briefly stood by a veteran who told me that some of the people in the capitol invasion were merely tourists who wanted to get a good look at the inside of the people’s building.

First, Trump pardoned the insurrectionists; now he wants to divide \$1.776 billion of our tax dollars as reparations amongst those poor innocent patriots.

Unbelievable!

I see occasional articles saying some Republicans in Congress are bucking up, but our Arkansas delegation goes along with anything the boss says or does.

The latest outrage is his proposed \$250 bill with his picture.

He can never be accused of not having an ego.

Trump Bibles. Trump credit cards. Trump bitcoin. Trump golden tennis shoes. Trump Ballroom. Trump golf courses. Trump University. The Trump Center for the Performing Arts. No, wait, that last name has been returned to its original memorial to an assassinated President.



HE SAID: “Everybody counts or nobody counts.” fictional Hieronymus ‘Harry’ Bosch, LAPD Detective, Hollywood Division. I do love Michael Connelly’s crime novels.



SHE SAID: “Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul --- and sings the tunes without the words --- and never stops at all.” Emily Dickinson, American poet.



SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Nashville News-Leader

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

You may contact us at
Nashville News-Leader
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It’s

SPRING

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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

SWA Paws marks first anniversary of helping animals in surrounding area

Dear Editor,
Southwest Arkansas Paws (SWAPaws) would like to take this opportunity to let the community know that we celebrated our first year anniversary this month.

The only reason that we have been able to achieve this accomplishment is because of the generosity of our community. We have been absolutely astounded at the contributions and support we have received this past year.

We would like to thank Gail Hearnberger for her generosity and help in holding our four fund-raisers this past year and all of the many people who donated time, prizes and money. Karter Castleberry generously donated

two building spaces for us to keep foster puppies and enable their adoption.

We so appreciate the Howard County Fair Board for letting us use their building for our spay and neuter clinics. Now we have been fortunate enough to have a building in Mineral Springs donated to our organization by Brian and Clay Carlton.

We hope in time to hold our spay and neuter clinics there. We are beyond grateful.

In this first year:

*We have received our non-profit status.

*We have conducted 5 spay and neuter clinics and sterilized around 200 animals.

*We have sent over 115 dogs to rescues.

*We have supported countless adoptions from animal control.

*We have sponsored the spay/neuter of every adult animal adopted from animal control.

*We have lowered the euthanasia rate from the 80 percentile range to the 30 percentile range.

SWA Paws still has a lot of work to do and is always looking for those who are interested in joining us and helping our cause. Please contact us through Facebook Messenger or email us at southwestarkansaspaws@gmail.com if you are interested.

Sincerely,
SWA Paws

Legislators provide day-long session for students excluded from Girls State

By Sen. Jimmy Hickey Jr.

On May 26, the Arkansas legislature looked a little younger. And a lot more female.

Earlier this year, legislators became aware that up to 150 young women from Arkansas high schools were blocked from participation in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, due to a deadline for schools that fell on spring break.

Many schools missed this initial deadline, though the application deadline for the students was still weeks away. The Auxiliary refused to offer any extensions, breaking from their normal protocol of extending the deadline every year.

In response, lawmakers, led by Senator Breanne Davis and Representative DeAnn Vaught, launched the Arkansas Civic Leadership Institute (ACLI), a hands-on opportunity for these rising high school seniors to engage in the legislative process and hear directly from state leaders.

The Institute took place on Tuesday, May 26, while the regular Boys and Girls State sessions occurred later in the week, which will be covered in future columns.

ACLI participants spent the morning hearing from state lead-

ers, including Secretary of State Cole Jester, Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Rhonda K. Wood, and staff members from the Governor’s and Attorney General’s offices.

Participants then worked in committee meetings to prepare bills. In the Senate, the new senators spent the afternoon debating and voting on bills in a mock legislative session.

Some of the bills they examined included prohibiting some processed food purchases through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), increasing Saturday hours during early voting periods, and expunging misdemeanors from juvenile criminal records, as well as a bill that would allow private school students to compete in athletics at a public school if their school does not offer it on a varsity level.

Senators Alan Clark, Breanne Davis, Tyler Dees, Kim Hammer, Jamie Scott, Dan Sullivan, and Clarke Tucker were all on hand to offer guidance during the process.

ACLI participants ended the day in a question-and-answer session with the senators and a closing ceremony in the Capitol rotunda. The senators emphasized

respect between people, regardless of their political parties, and learning to disagree while still engaging and listening to those with a different perspective.

“Senator Hammer and I, for example, sometimes fight like cats and dogs over particular bills, but at the end of the day, we are friends, and I have tremendous respect for this man,” Senator Tucker said. “While we have different opinions, we all want what is best for Arkansas, and we can work together to move our state forward.”

Senator Jamie Scott, the youngest Black female ever elected to the state Senate, and Senator Breanne Davis, who is the first female President Pro Tempore designee in Arkansas history, both spoke to ACLI participants about the importance of community service, however that looks in their lives.

It is always inspiring to see our youth participating in civic programs. It was a privilege to meet and work with these young women.

The Arkansas Civic Leadership Institute was a success, and our future is bright knowing these young women are ready to lead and serve.

Students see government up close

By State Rep. Dolly Henley

This week, the Arkansas State Capitol belonged to the next generation.

Students from across our state gathered in Little Rock for Arkansas Boys State, Arkansas Girls State, and the Arkansas Civic Leadership Institute. For a few days, committee rooms, hallways, and the House floor were filled with young Arkansans learning firsthand how government works and, more importantly, how they can be a part of it.

They debated legislation, asked thoughtful questions, participated in mock sessions, and stepped behind the same microphones used by elected officials during the legislative session. Watching students from communities large and small confidently stand to

speak, disagree respectfully, and work together was a reminder that Arkansas has an incredibly bright future.

Programs like these matter because they make government feel real and accessible. Civics is no longer just a chapter in a textbook when students are sitting in the House Chamber debating ideas themselves. Many current members of the Arkansas House and Senate once sat in those same seats as Boys State or Girls State participants.

For some legislators, those programs helped spark an interest in public service that eventually led them to serve their communities at the Capitol.

That is part of what makes these programs so meaningful. You never know which student

walking through the Capitol today may someday return as a teacher, mayor, business leader, judge, or legislator.

The Arkansas Civic Leadership Institute carried a particularly meaningful mission this year. Created by members of the Arkansas House and Senate, the program ensured students who were unable to attend Girls State because of administrative issues still had an opportunity to experience leadership development and civic engagement at the Capitol. Their enthusiasm and participation made it clear just how valuable these opportunities are.

This week, the Capitol belonged to the next generation — and after watching these students lead, debate, and serve, it’s clear Arkansas is in good hands.

“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”

Thomas Jefferson, 1787
Free press, free people

Letters policy

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

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

E-mail: jrs@nashvilleleader.com

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

AGS

Continued from page 1A

School and an alumna of the 2025 Girls State Session.

Robinson said Girls State and the ALA program “is a wonderful opportunity for women. Everything that is in the release are things that we believe are not supporting the mission of Girls State.”

She said there isn’t “one other place that women can feel as important, heard and loved, so when we felt like that wasn’t the case this year, we wanted to make a change for the future Girls State delegates. We were taught at Girls State how to make our voices heard and to hold people accountable. Of course, we are going to call out the ones who try to sabotage the ideals that Girls State rests upon.”

Robinson said she was “so happy with [the Legislature’s] willingness to let those capable ladies still come to the Capitol, but the actions I physically watched some of the ALA committee take were the main focus of the press release.”

Actions cited in the release included body-shaming and threats of dismissal from the program.

Another involved an ear-

ly-morning search of delegates’ dorm rooms because of allegations of vaping, allegations which proved to be unfounded.

State Committee chair Melissa Mangini led the search and was allegedly involved in other incidents during the week.

“None of us got any sleep that night” following the search, Robinson said.

Other issues have been documented in the Arkansas *Democrat-Gazette*, *Arkansas Times* and other media outlets.

Despite the problems, Robinson said she is “still interested in the continuation of Girls State and the ALA, just without namely these ALA board members.”

She said most of the delegates would agree that there were positives from the week.

Counselors “tried very hard to keep this under wraps until after Girls State was over. We wanted to protect the experience and keep it mostly positive,” Robinson said.

“I did have a great time with my city, Brown City. I met some of the sweetest and greatest women I’ve ever met. So even if I knew how the week would have gone before packing my bags, I would have still gone back,” Robinson said.

altering everything we’ve done.”

In recommending option two, Riggs said it’s “about doing what’s right for the kids.”

Board members approved option two on a 4-0 vote.

The board also approved an early graduation policy which will allow students who successfully complete all state and local requirements to graduate early. They must notify the school by Jan. 15 and graduate with that year’s class.

Grade forgiveness was also approved, along with state recommendations to take effect in 2030.

In other business at Monday’s meeting, the board accepted the following resignations:

Kelli Webb, elementary counselor

Veronica Tomblin, ALE teacher

Karen Richards, elementary nurse

Sherry Erby, custodian

Samantha Pham, primary custodian

Employment of staff included the following:

Emily Kesterson, elementary nurse

Abbie Lamb, elementary teacher

Ty Gordon, teacher and coach

Tara Green, ALE paraprofessional

Cassandra Hamilton, paraprofessional

Girls State counselors issue statement

(Editor’s note: The following statement was issued by 74 of 78 counselors at Arkansas Girls State May 31 following the 2026 session.)

THE VAST MAJORITY OF COUNSELORS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ARKANSAS GIRLS STATE 2026 SESSION CALL FOR REFORM IN THE PROGRAM AND ITS LEADERSHIP FOLLOWING THE MASS RESIGNATION OF GIRLS STATE STAFF

Seventy-four out of the seventy-eight counselors of the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State 2026 Session are releasing a statement following the mass resignation of the entire core staff of the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State.

“We are alarmed by the current leadership of the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Committee.

We commend the core staff for their courage in resigning from this program following this week’s events. These women are the heart and soul of this organization, and we stand with them.

We affirm the testimony of all counselors and delegates alike who witnessed a Girls State that did not follow the program’s original intent: to empower young women in Arkansas to lead.

Our primary concerns include ...

1. Many articulate a culture of fear and shame fostered by the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Committee and their unprecedented presence throughout the week, with multiple instances of body-shaming and threats of dismissal from the program based on actions that were not explicit violations of the delegate and counselor handbooks received before the commencement of the 2026 session.

This meant that many inappropriate behaviors listed below by the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Committee members went unreported out of fear of dismissal, retaliation, and further shaming. One of the primary purposes of Girls State is to teach young women to use their voices, but the culture promoted in this year’s session promoted by the committee was one of silence. The vast majority of the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Counselors of the 2026 Session find this to be a grievous diversion from the principles of Girls State, and we refuse to allow it to go unnoticed. We will not be silenced.

In the wise words of former American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Governor of the 2009 session and an esteemed speaker for the 2026 session, LaRhonda Glover, “We will not shrink.”

2. The many individual testimonies of alleged mistreatment and disrespect of counselors and delegates by members of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Committee, including a baseless search of a delegate’s room at 1 a.m. by American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Committee chair Melissa Mangini fol-

lowing supposed allegations of the delegate owning a vape. This traumatic experience negatively impacted all delegates involved, and Mangini’s search yielded no results. Additionally, many counselors and delegates reported disparaging comments by the members of the American Legion Auxiliary in attendance at the session, with no resolution to their claims despite reporting them to the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Committee. Two notable examples of this behavior include an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Committee member allegedly asking a counselor if a delegate “was pregnant” because of her appearance and another American Legion Auxiliary member allegedly swearing at and threatening a counselor with violence during the session. Although we do not have proof of every disparaging comment made by these women, we choose to believe the counselors and delegates who experienced this inhumane treatment firsthand.

3. The sudden onset of a lack of diversity amongst selection-based roles/awards within the program. During this session of Girls State, the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Committee took strides to eliminate the role of the former Girls State staff in the selection vote of the Girls Nation senators, leaving zero staff members with a vote, with all of the selection power falling to the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Committee members. Notably, one counselor alleges the disregard and disconsideration of all recommendations made by Girls State Junior Counselors per an admission allegedly made by American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Committee Chair Melissa Mangini. Upon this change, the Senator positions — while undoubtedly filled by qualified, deserving, and worthy girls who are at no fault — notably displayed a lack of diversity that is not typically seen amongst these positions in previous sessions of American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State. Furthermore, the many recipients of scholarships awarded primarily by the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Committee also displayed a similar lack of diversity. Changes to the Girls State program were made that also happened to highlight and exemplify specific girls that fit into the same demographic as the aforementioned award recipients, while simultaneously limiting the spotlight from those that did not, namely the delegate-elected Governors of Arkansas Girls State.

4. A dress code that many have interpreted as misogynistic and oppressive was put into place for this year’s session by the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Committee that included knee-length

requirements for dresses and skirts, no shorts, no tight pants unless the top’s length ended at the mid-thigh, no rips/tears/frayed jeans, and shirts that must cover shoulders and do not show any cleavage. Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Committee engaged in the frequent shaming of delegates and counselors who were unable to dress according to the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Committee’s standards due to the unclear regulations that were not communicated in their entirety before arriving on Harding’s campus for this year’s program. This dress code also exposed all those subjected to it to the dangerous effects of extreme heat while wearing clothing that covered most of their bodies in temperatures as high as 90 degrees. Even as delegates experiencing adverse effects from the heat were instructed by the nursing staff to remove their outerwear, they were afraid to do so in case it would violate the dress code. Even parents were required to follow the dress code in order to enter registration, despite no prior warning being published before arrival on Harding’s campus. We were told that the purpose of the dress code was “modesty and professionalism,” but elected officials attending as guest speakers were able to maintain professionalism while wearing items of clothing that clearly broke the dress code. Additionally, members of the American Legion Auxiliary were allowed to break the very dress code they put in place with no repercussions. We find the dress code put into place by the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Committee during the 2026 session to be degrading, hypocritical, and dangerous.

For many of us, Girls State has been a life-changing experience. We have donated our time to this program for multiple years and continue coming back because, like the core staff, we remain dedicated to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State. We do not want to see an end to the program that has had such a large impact on our lives, but we must see change to consider continuing to serve with American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State or encouraging others to do the same. We call for a returned emphasis on diversity and inclusion within Girls State so that every Girls State girl feels celebrated and supported. We call for reform of the program’s dress code and standards of behavior that empower young women instead of shaming them. We call for an American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Committee that will partner with us in reuniting the program under these demands and take accountability publicly for their

failures to do so throughout the 2026 session. A verse of our Girls State song reads,

“From our leaders, we will learn for some day will come our turn to fulfill their utmost plan: A lasting peace for every man.”

It has come our turn, and we will not settle for a Girls State that does not adhere to our mission of empowering every young woman to lead.

(The majority of counselors of the 2026 American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State Session are speaking from our own personal experience. We are no longer affiliated with the American Legion Auxiliary. We are in no way affiliated with the American Legion, the previous core staff of American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State, Harding University, or any other related organization.)

Consent to Release From the Majority of Counselors of the 2026 American Legion Auxiliary Girls State 2026 Session:

- Carmen Campbell
- Lexington Hynes
- Julia McKee
- Shandi Lee
- Avery Snead
- Kynley Ruddell
- Ruby Kate Sample
- Olivia Wood
- Airel Batemon
- Calleigh Rogers
- Avery Edwards
- Harlie Rommel
- Corri Langley
- Kambria Nicholas
- Lucy Carter
- Abigail Walker
- Natalie Anderson
- Machaela Larry.
- Omasirichi J Igwe
- Elle James Hodges
- Bailey Curry
- Kori Brown
- Makayla Wilson
- Jewelya Abbott
- Zoe Pomeroy
- Maya Hamilton
- Lauren Mann
- Ava Gillespie
- Ava Wisener
- Arden Santos
- Ivyana Harris
- Emily Barnett
- Brooklynn O’Neal
- Sareth Tovar
- Marcela Castillo
- Daisy Page
- Janiyah S. Spellman
- Elyse Young
- Harley Rowland
- Dede Robinson
- Laila Adams
- Emily Jimes
- Ryli Birch
- Zora Key
- Jaci Rainey
- Macklaine Easton
- Ashley Acosta
- Isabella Rogers

26 additional counselors of the 2026 session have affirmed this statement but have chosen to remain anonymous.

Follow the News-Leader every week.

Val

Continued from page 1A

laude and cum laude.

NHS Principal Ashley Riggs said some area schools do not have valedictorian and salutatorian rankings, with Arkadelphia and De Queen among them. Bentonville doesn’t have a ranking system and seats graduates alphabetically.

Many Arkansas schools use a straight GPA of 3.5 or higher. Some use GPA and ACT scores, Riggs said.

“I understand why a lot of schools are making changes,” Riggs said. “If we decide to keep valedictorian and salutatorian, we have a fair policy that works. I do not want to get away from pushing our kids to take AP and concurrent classes.”

Riggs presented three options to the board.

The first had no valedictorian and salutatorian.

Option two was to keep valedictorian and salutatorian designations and still have required courses and criteria for deciding how honor graduates are seated.

The third option was to seat students alphabetically by last names in their “laude” categories.

“Valedictorian and salutatorian are something kids work for,” Riggs told the board. “I feel good about not

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

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

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SPC school board approves year-end employee bonus pay

By PJ Tracy

Murfreesboro Diamond
The South Pike County School board approved a year-end bonus for employees at the May 19 school board meeting.

sports ended well, adding that the regional tournaments at Murfreesboro for both baseball and softball were well received.

"All enjoyed the facilities -- some even saying it was the best complex they have attended. It was great fun and thank you to all who volunteered," she said.

The school will week bids for drainage on the football field prior to next school year, with the probable collapse of some of the existing drainage system.

The district will also be replacing the carpeted areas of the offices and libraries for the first time in at least 20 years after the bid was won by Glenwood Flooring for \$42,219. The carpeting will be done in tiles, so it can be replaced should it become stained.

The MHS gymnasium, which has developed as many as 20 "dead spots" will be fixed by Gym Masters, who told the district they could fill with foam that would solve the issues for 5-7 years, as well as adding new designs to the court for \$30,799. That is significantly cheaper than the \$148,630 quote for a new floor. Wilcher said the project should be completed before the new school year. The board approved the measure.

Wilcher said all state testing was completed and that results would come in later this summer.

In his principal's report, James Riley of Murfreesboro Elementary School said that the school would participate in the Arkansas Game and Fish (AGFC) K-6 Conservation Leadership Program.

"It will bring in things that go along with our existing curriculum, and also discuss things like AGFC careers and mentor speakers."

The program will be headed up by instructor Melissa Cornish, who is moving to elementary science in the 2026-2027 school year.

Riley said the school had also garnered a educational bicycle grant that will help teach kids to ride bikes safely.

He said trips to Funtrackers (grades 5-6) and G-Jump (grades 3-4) were well received, with the manager of the latter telling Riley that he had "the most respectful kids."

Riley thanked the teachers for their efforts through the state testing and said there was growth amongst all the students.

Following an executive session, the board accepted the resignations of instructor Jane Caldwell, para-pro Candice Hughes.

The board then voted to hire Hughes and Christy Terrell as instructors for the 2026-2027 school year.

The board also hired Abigail McMillian as the elementary counselor, Regina Walker as the elementary art teacher and Drake Staggs as the assistant football and assistant baseball coach. Staggs, a Mineral Springs alum, has recently been employed by the Hughes Springs, Texas school district.

Whitney Lingo and Dana Jones were hired to work in the cafeteria.

The next school board meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, June 16, with Wilcher noting that was possibly at the time her daughter will be due with twins.



Marriage Announced for June 6

Willy and Crystal Greenwood of Newhope are pleased to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Autumn Greenwood, to Jacob Todd, son of Chris and Michelle Todd of Rogers. The wedding will take place on June 6, 2026, in Nashville. The bride is a graduate of Dierks High School and earned her degree from Henderson State University. She is employed as a teacher at Centerpoint Elementary School. The groom is a graduate of Rogers High School and also earned his degree from Henderson State University. He is currently completing his flight training as he works toward becoming a professional pilot. Following their wedding, the couple plans to honeymoon on a Caribbean cruise before making their home in Arkadelphia while Jacob completes his training. They look forward to eventually returning home and settling closer to family.

The school will lease 12th generation iPads for the students with a \$385,000 lease for next school year.

In her superintendent's report, Wilcher said spring

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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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When School's Out, Safety's In!

When school is out, you will have to take care of yourself a little more. Make sure that **safety** is in your day as well as **fun, fun, fun!** During vacation there is more free time to enjoy, and there are lots of things you can do outside every day. Thinking about safety is smart. For example, protective equipment is a "no-brainer" when skateboarding and practicing tricks. I **always** wear a helmet and I don't mind wearing the knee and elbow pads either.

Read the clues to fill in the safety puzzle:

- Stay in the shallow end of a _____ until you learn to swim.
- Pack picnic food away in the _____ after you are done eating (help prevent food poisoning).
- Head indoors at the first sign of lightning or thunder when a _____ is coming.
- At the _____, climb on equipment using two hands. On the slide, wait for the person in front of you to finish sliding before taking your turn.
- Before you have friends over to play outside, ask them if they have any _____ to bee stings, plants or any foods.
- Offer your _____ water often and don't leave them in the car.
- Wear your _____ when bicycling - plus pads when riding a scooter or rollerblading.
- Drink plenty of _____ when out in the heat to avoid heat stroke.
- Never leave a burning _____ unattended.
- Before hiking, learn what poisonous _____ such as poison ivy look like.
- At the beach, pay attention to the tides and stay in the view of your _____.
- Where _____ are being used, keep at a safe distance.
- When outside, stay with _____ and don't talk to strangers.
- To prevent a _____ put on sunscreen before going outside.
- If you have to stay home alone, have a sheet of phone _____ handy and know where your parents are (address).

Safety Everywhere!

Keep safety in mind while having fun. Match three safety tips to each picture:

- Learn how to float and swim.
- Make sure a campfire is out before leaving it.
- Get off seesaws, swings carefully.
- Obey all the traffic rules.
- Never play with matches or lighters.
- Wear a safety helmet.
- Share and take turns on equipment.
- Don't swim out over your head.
- Don't show off - you might fall off.
- Always go swimming with a friend.
- Fire! Leave quickly and call the fire department.
- Reflectors and lights are needed so others can see you.

A. Playground
B. Water Safety
C. Fire Safety
D. Skateboards, Inline Skates and Bicycles

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Nashville athletes recognized

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Scrapperette golf



Scrapperette basketball



Scrapper golf



Scrapper track



Scrapperette track



Scrapperette tennis



Scrapperette softball



Scrapper tennis



Scrapper baseball



Scrapper cross country



Scrapper soccer



Scrapper basketball



Cheerleaders



Scrapperette soccer

Nashville High School sports awards
May 26 and May 28
NHS cafeteria

OCC

Continued from page 1A

presented the following: seniors Parker Tate, captain, NCA All-American 2023, 24, 25; 4A state runner-up 2023 Rising Scrapper Star 2025; AAA All-State cheerleader 2025-26, FCA All-Star cheerleader 2026; Scrapper Game Day Cheerleader 2025-26; Madi Brinkman, captain, 4A state runner-up 2023; TEAM First Award 2025; FCA All-Star cheerleader 2025; Scrapper Game Day cheerleader 2025-26; Jayla Hendrix, captain, NCA All-American 2023, 24 and 25; 4A state runner-up 2023; NCA leadership award 2025; Rising Scrapper Star Award 2025; Scrapper Game Day cheerleader 2025-26; Josie Clark Scrapper Spirit Award 2026; Scrapper Game Day cheerleader 2025-26; Kynlee Shackelford Scrapper Game Day cheerleader 2025-26; Abbie Hill Scrapper Game Day cheerleader 2025-26; Scrapper Spirit Award Josie Clark, Hayley Soto; Rising Scrapper Star Eden Sartin; Team First Julia Tedford; SCRAP (Strength, courage, resilience, achieve and persevere) Lauren Ferguson; Scrapper Game Day cheerleader Landree Green, Brie Stone, Kelli Myers, Natalie Alexander, Kailyn Scott, Caylen Ellis, Kinley Martin, Audri Bearden, Lauren Ferguson, Julia Tedford, Eden Sartin, Hayley Soto.

Scrapperette basketball - Coach Paul Dean presented the following awards: Karstyn Scrivner All-State, ARBCA Top 5, All-Conference, FCA All-Star Showdown, AAA All-Star, All Democrat-Gazette team; Emma Chambers All State Tournament team, all-conference, FCA All-Star Showdown, 1,000-point ball; Ava Basiliere all-conference, all-state; Angel Watson, Sofia McCauley, Kiyanna Stewart and Lyriss Bennett all-con-

ference.

Scrapper baseball - Awards presented by Coach Zach Stewart include the following: Karson Chambers, Jayden Goodson, Gauge Applegate, Luke Boon, Zeus Hutchinson, Carson Kirby all-conference; Karson Chambers pitcher of the year; Peyton Fritts most improved; Gauge Applegate newcomer of the year; Luke Boon offensive player of the year; Zeus Hutchinson defensive player of the year; John Wallis Garrett Lance Teammate award; Gauge Applegate All State tournament; Carson Kirby MVP; Karson Chambers All State.

Scrapperette softball - The following awards were presented by Coach Boomer Brown: Landyn Tompkins 4A all-state, 4A all tournament team, first team District 7-4A, team MVP, offensive MVP; Kinley Martin 4A all-state, first team District 7-4A; Elli Wallis honorable mention 4A all-state, first team District 7-4A; Rayleigh Harmon first team District 7-4A; Baylee Smith first team District 7-4A; Sofia McCauley first team District 7-4A; Parker Tate second team District 7-4A; Ava Brown second team District 7-4A; McKynlee Scott HM District 7-4A; seniors Landyn Tompkins, Elli Wallis, Rayleigh Harmon, Baylee Smith, Bailey Kessler, Abbie Hill, Parker Tate, Sofia McCauley the Elite Eight; Elli Wallis Caitlin Spradlin Teammate award; Audrey Hostetler Caitlin Spradlin Teammate award; Bailey Kessler most improved four year award.

Scrapper basketball - Awards presented by Coach Aaron Worthen include Cortez Cooper outstanding leadership award, assist/turnover ratio award 3:1; Jaily Staggars most rebounds, all-conference; Bo Bell most 3s made, best 3-point percentage at 38 percent; all-conference, all-state; Johnte Taylor all-conference 2024-25, 2025-26, all state,

all state tournament team, school record for single season free throw percentage 83 percent, most charges drawn 26; Demetrus Shelley all-conference 2023-24; 2024-25, 2025-26; all state 2024-25, 2025-26, all state tournament 2025; 1,057 points scored, second in school history.

Scrapper soccer - The Scrapppers were the runners-up in Class 4A, the top finish in school history. Coach Ahren Turner presented the following awards: MVP Enrique Bearden; offensive player of the year Luis Flores; defensive player of the year Orfael Rosas; Scrapper Mentality award Booz Vazquez; newcomer of the year Landon Morris; most improved player Isaias Vazquez; 12th man Adan Vazquez; manager of the year Johnte Taylor; 4A South all-conference Isaias Vazquez, Bayron Murillo, Armando Perez, Axel Wade, Marco Sanchez, HM Santiago Moreno, HM Landon Morris; HM all state, HM all state tourney, 4A South all-conference Booz Vazquez; all star alternate, all state, all state tourney, all-conference, assist leader Luis Flores; first all star, all-state, all state tourney, all-conference, scoring leader Enrique Bearden.

Scrapperette soccer - Coach Clarissa Brizo's awards were presented by Turner, including offensive player of the year Lindzi Lorenzo; defensive player of the year Amy Hernandez; top scorer of the year Natalie Talley; most improved player Candelaria Hernandez; newcomer award Amy Hernandez; all-conference Angela Aguilera, Katelyn Giddens, Natalie talley, Cheyenne Smith, Milagros Sanchez; all-state Natalie Talley; honorable mention Angelee Mendoza, Ruvi Martinez, Helen Barragan; Scrapperette Energy award Sha'miracle Dotson.



Coach Boomer Brown and four recent graduates represented Nashville High School in the FCA All-Star Showdown May 26 at Pleasant Grove High School. The group includes Brown, softball players Rayleigh Harmon, Elli Wallis, Landyn Tompkins and baseball player Karson Chambers.



Karstyn Scrivner (third from left) and Emma Chambers (fourth from left) of Nashville competed in the FCA All-Star Showdown basketball game May 28 at Pleasant Grove. Scrivner was named the game's Most Valuable Player. The group includes Scrapperette senior Ava Basiliere, Scrapperette alumna Caroline Dean, Scrivner, Chambers and Scrapperette alumna Kennedy Scrivner.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Coach Kirby Adcock (right) gives instructions during spring practice last week at Scrapper Stadium. The Scrapppers will participate in team camp Thursday, June 4, at Ouachita Baptist University. They will play Joe T. Robinson at 10 a.m., Monticello at 10:30, Mena and Crossett at 11, and Jacksonville at 11:30.

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SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Karstyn Scrivner, Karson Chambers, Nashville

Karstyn and Karson, both 2026 graduates, received top honors last week at Nashville's sports awards programs. Karstyn, who played basketball and ran track, was the recipient of the Scrapperette Award. Karson, a football and baseball player, received the Scrapper Award. Both have signed college letters, including Karstyn at Harding and Karson at Southern Arkansas.



This weekly feature sponsored by **McDonald's of Nashville**
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86 days remaining in the Countdown to the Scrapppers' season opener Friday, Aug. 28, at 7:30 p.m. against Bismarck at Scrapper Stadium

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FIND NEW ROADS

Now Being Served in Delight...

The Wombat Arkansas Beef Council's 2026 Best Burger

By John Balch
News-Leader staff

DELIGHT - The Wombat, a burger created by a Nashville High School graduate and served out of a food trailer in Delight, beat out more than 3,200 entries from across the state to be selected as the Arkansas Beef Council's 2026 Best Burger.

The honor was bestowed upon the Wombat during a ceremony last Thursday and was attended by ABC officers including Chairman Caleb Plyler, and Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward - and about half the town of Delight.

The Wombat was created by Brookelyen Cox, a 2018 graduate of NHS, and is cooked up at Eoff's Food Trailer, parked outside Eoff's Market & Deli in downtown Delight.

Cox is the "bonus daughter" of Danny and Laura Mae Eoff, who's kids, Drake and Avery, as well as nephew, Liam, all help man the market and food truck operations.

Brookelyen and Danny were busy sweating it out and slinging burgers for a heavy lunch rush just prior to the 12:00 presentation, which included 15 Wombat orders for the arriving ABC and state dignitaries

This is the third year for the ABC's Best Burger Contest and this year received 3,249 nominations, the highest participation in the contest's history.

The Wombat received the most nominations statewide and, appropriately enough, the burger was honored on National Hamburger Day.

Why the Wombat?

Danny explained that the moniker was given to him by a friend as a CB handle when he was around 16 years old. The name just stuck, he said.

"He named it and I created it," Brookelyen proudly said with a huge smile on a her sweaty face.

"Not only were you the prestigious winners, but we also set some records in the number of votes," ABC Chairman Plyler told the Eoffs and the crowd gathered inside the market. "So, make sure you tell the people of this community, and everyone that drives through that voted for you, that this small-town made a big impression with your burger."

The Eoffs opened their market and deli in March 2024, reviving the former McKnight's Grocery, which operated in Delight for close to 38 years. The food trailer only opened last year.

The Wombat

- Double 100% Beef Patties
- White & Yellow American Cheese
- Crispy Bacon
- Sautéed Onions
- Banana Peppers
- Special Wombat Sauce (Mayo-Based)



BIG HONOR IN DELIGHT.

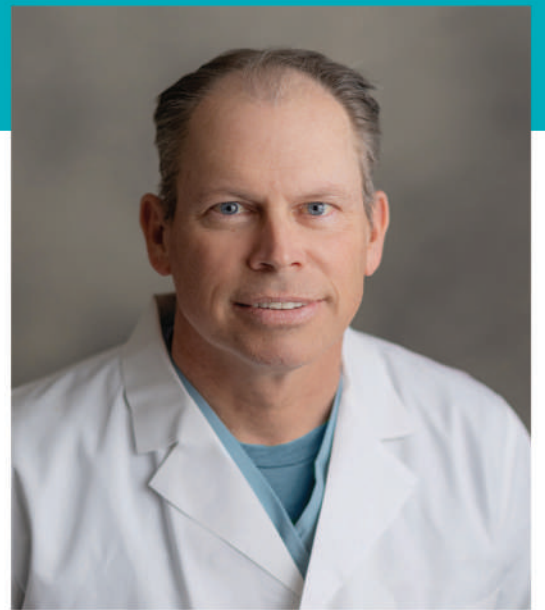
Brookelyen Cox, Laura Mae and Danny Eoff (at left) accept the Arkansas Beef Council's Best Burger honors during a ceremony held May 28 at Eoff's Market & Deli. Cox (above) created the Wombat burger, which is made and served from the Eoff's food trailer parked outside the store.
News-Leader Photos/JOHN BALCH

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Heart&Home

Beat The Heat: Essential Summer Safety Tips

By Abby Gray
Howard County
Extension Agent
Family & Consumer
Science

As temperatures rise and families spend more time outdoors, summer brings opportunities for fun but also increased risks from extreme heat, sun exposure, and seasonal hazards. Health and safety experts are encouraging everyone to take simple precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones during the hottest months of the year.

One easy way to remember summer safety is the acronym SHADE, a reminder to stay mindful of common seasonal dangers.

Experts recommend paying close attention to sun exposure, hydration, environmental conditions, water safety, and outdoor hazards.

Stay Hydrated and Cool

One of the most important ways to prevent heat-related illness is staying hydrated. Experts recommend drinking water steadily throughout the day rather than waiting until thirst sets in.

Sports drinks or electrolyte beverages may also help replace minerals lost through sweating during prolonged outdoor activity.

When possible, seek shade or air-conditioned spaces, especially during the hottest part of the day, typi-

cally between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Wearing lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing can also help regulate body temperature. Cool showers, cold compresses, and limiting strenuous activity during peak heat hours can make a significant difference.

Know the Warning Signs of Heat Illness

Heat-related illnesses can escalate quickly. Early symptoms of heat exhaustion may include dizziness, headache, nausea, muscle cramps, excessive sweating, and weakness.

If someone becomes confused, stops sweating, develops hot, dry skin, or loses consciousness, these may be signs of heat stroke—a life-threatening emergency requiring immediate medical attention. Moving the person to a cool area and calling 911 is critical.

Practice Water and Outdoor Safety

Summer often means swimming, boating, and other water activities.

Experts emphasize never leaving children unattended near water and ensuring life jackets are worn when appropriate.

In addition, be mindful of insect bites, sunburn, and prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.

Sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses offer important protection from harmful UV

rays. **Look Out for Others**
Older adults, young children, outdoor workers, and individuals with certain health conditions are especially vulnerable to heat-related illness. Checking in on neighbors, friends, and family members during extreme heat can help prevent serious health emergencies.

And one of the most important reminders:

Never leave children or pets in a parked vehicle, even for a few minutes, as temperatures inside can rise to dangerous levels rapidly.

With a little preparation and awareness, everyone can enjoy a safe and healthy summer season. By staying hydrated, seeking shade, recognizing warning signs, and watching out for one another, communities can help beat the heat all summer long.

This week's recipe is one that will refresh you during the hot summer days.

Watermelon Cooler

Ingredients:
3 cups watermelon (cubed, seeds removed)
½ cups orange juice

Directions:

Place watermelon and juice in blender. Put lid on tightly.

Blend until smooth.

Enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers within 3 hours.

Recipe is adapted from Purdue Extension FoodLink.

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Antoine VFD benefit dinner, live auction set for June 6

Area residents are asked to support one of their local volunteer fire departments on Saturday, June 6.

The Antoine Volunteer Fire Department will host a benefit dinner and live auction at the Antoine Community Center. The center is located at 8 Depot Street in Antoine. The meal will start at 4 p.m. with the auction set to follow, with the event will also feature a blood drive from 2-8 p.m.

A meal will consist of pulled pork, a side and a drink for \$10 a plate, with proceeds from the event going toward equipment for the fire department.

Anyone who would like to donate an item for the auction can contact Fire Chief John Kelley at (918)721-6961 or Krystal Kelley at (870)796-2038.

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

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Esther, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

EVIL HAMAN
ALTHOUGH IT IS THE KING'S LAW, THAT ALL MEN BOW DOWN TO HAMAN, FAVORITE OF THE KING, MORDECAI, THE JEW, WILL NOT DO SO BECAUSE JEWS BOW ONLY TO GOD—NOW, HAMAN IS ANGRY...

...AND SPENDS AN ENTIRE NIGHT PLANNING REVENGE ON MORDECAI AND ALL THE JEWS IN THE PERSIAN KINGDOM!

THEY SHALL ALL DIE! BUT MORDECAI WILL BE THE FIRST!

...AND AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, HE SPEAKS TO KING AHAASUERUS...

O GREAT KING, THY SERVANT LIVETH ONLY FOR THINE OWN GOOD...

AND NOW IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT THE JEWS IN THY KINGDOM DO NOT OBEY THY LAWS!

THEY KEEP ONLY THEIR OWN LAWS, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE SUBJECTS OF YOUR RULE—THEREFORE IT IS NOT TO THE KING'S PROFIT TO ALLOW THEM TO LIVE! IF IT PLEASE THE KING, LET IT BE WRITTEN THAT THEY ALL BE DESTROYED AND I, MYSELF, WILL PAY TEN THOUSAND SILVER TALENTS TO THE SOLDIERS WHOSE DUTY IT SHALL BE TO CARRY OUT THESE ORDERS!

I WILL GIVE THEE THE SILVER AND THE SOLDIERS TO CARRY OUT THIS PLAN IN ANY WAY THAT THOU SHOULDST SEE FIT, HAMAN!

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Howard County District Court

May 28, 2026

BF=Bond Forfeited

Howard County

Armenta, Angel Luna, 38, De Queen, \$265 BF, speeding
Arroyo Torres, Dario, 24, Gilliam, La., \$235 BF, possession of open container of alcohol in motor vehicle

Esquivé Punete, Francisco, 35, Nash, Texas, \$265 BF, speeding

Garcia, Frederico C., 44, Nashville, \$460 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license; \$50 BF, failure to present insurance

Gianotti, Jazmine Leonor, 27, Bella Vista, \$160 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Hamilton, William A., 54, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$990 balance

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

Hernandez, Emmanuel, 18, Nashville, \$265 BF, speeding

Marable, Michael N., 50, Broken Bow, Okla., \$255 BF, speeding

Marshall, Hugh, 65, Nashville, guilty of third-degree battery, fined \$675

May, Samuel Akeen, 42, Little Rock, \$255 BF, speeding

Medina Duran, Valentino, 36, Mineral Springs, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,125, credited with time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Robinson, Matthew W., 44, Little Rock, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of non-payment of fines, committed to jail-sus-

pending conditions; \$1,955 balance

Spray, Timothy Dwayne, 49, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, committed to jail; \$8,239 balance

Stewart, Draylon, 39, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$1090 balance

Stinson, Juanita M., 67, Nashville, guilty of obstructing windshield, fined \$210

City of Nashville

Fatherree, Jason N., 48, Nashville, guilty of speeding, fined \$245

Finley, Ashley Monique, 36, Mineral Springs, guilty of no driver's license/expired license, fined \$210

Fleming, Lukas K., 26, Adams, Tenn., \$265 BF, speeding

Flores, Luis Antonio, 35, Nashville, \$440 BF, contributing to the delinquency of a minor; \$235 BF, drinking on the highway

Hawthorne, Andrew Jr., 64, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Hernandez, Faustino, 33, Blevins, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

Jackson, Vincent Tyrone, 29, Greenville, Miss., \$255 BF, speeding

Lietzman, Tasha Nichole, 39, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360

Owens, Jayla K., 24, Texarkana, Texas, \$260 BF, failure to appear

Rather, Dylan R., 28, Delight, guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$210; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360

Robinson, Jaquil De-

shaun, 30, Ashdown, \$460 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license

Ruiz, Samuel Heyssel, 26, Nashville, \$440 BF, contributing to the delinquency of a minor; \$235 BF, drinking on the highway

Stewart, Teralee, 18, De Queen, \$245 BF, speeding

Williams, Anthony F., 54, Murfreesboro, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$965 balance

Young, Christian T., 34, Murfreesboro, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

City of Dierks

Deer, Shennel Irene, 31, Dierks, \$210 BF, no child restraint; \$45 BF, no seat belt

Evans, Toney S. Jr., 38, De Queen, \$765.22 BF, theft of services; \$285 BF, failure to appear

Gurley, Dillion C., 26, Dierks, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Lorenzo, F. Cruz, 47, De Queen, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license

McBride, Erika D., 29, Dierks, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Morales, Olivia, 39, De Queen, \$210 BF, no driver's license/expired license; \$210 BF, no child restraint

Murdoch, Robert, 50, Greenville, Texas, \$140 BF, violation of city ordinance - engine brakes

Sharp, Alex M., 31, Umpire, \$285 BF, criminal trespass; \$425 BF, second-degree criminal mischief

Starwalt, Ethan Garrett, 22, Dierks, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Game & Fish

Dillard, Mason B., 21, Hatfield, \$210 BF, expired boat registration



Leader photo/COURTESY OF PCSD

NEWLY CERTIFIED. The Pike County Sheriff's Department has announced that Deputy Brent Staggs and his K-9 partner, Omar, recently completed K-9 school and are now certified to start serving the citizens of Pike County.

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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. 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) Sports complexes designed to host local, state, regional, and national competitions, including without limitation

baseball, softball, and other sports tournaments; and
(J) An economic development district as authorized by the General Assembly and designated as part of an economic development plan;
(3) "Economic development services" means:
(A) Planning, marketing, and strategic advice and counsel regarding job recruitment, job development, job retention, and job expansion;
(B) Supervision and operation of industrial parks or other such properties; and
(C) Negotiation of contracts for the sale or lease of industrial parks or other such properties; and
(4) "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 (3/4ths) 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 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 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

COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS



Quilts and More



Summertime continues to roll as growing season shifts into high gear

By **Melanie Schwartz**
HCF Market Director

The Howard County Farmers Market continues to welcome more summer produce as the growing season shifts into high gear.

This week marks the return of Alberta's Garden with fresh yellow squash, and shoppers can look forward to some of the first locally grown blackberries of the season. Vendors are also expected to bring cucumbers, onions, radishes, eggs, lamb, local honey, baked goods, handmade crafts, and other locally produced items.

Recent hot weather has helped summer crops take off, while some spring favorites like lettuce mix and bokchoy are making

their last appearance this week.

Shopping at a farmers market means getting to experience what's truly in season and grown close to home.

Visitors can also enjoy Aunt B's Coffee while they shop and visit with vendors.

The market is open every Friday from 7 a.m. to noon at 110 S. Washington Street in Nashville. Follow the Howard County Farmers Market on Facebook for weekly vendor updates and the latest market news.

Pictured above is Louise Hicks of Quilts and More. Louise makes baby items, bowl cozies, pot holders and market bags from her home in Mineral Springs.

Louise is also a Howard County Master Gardener.

Division of Agriculture awarded grant funding for beef education, promotion

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

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Beef Council has awarded \$29,500 in grant funding to University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture researchers and educators for five projects, including the Beef Quality Assurance Program, a youth quiz bowl and more.

The Arkansas Beef Council approved \$132,000 in funding for 13 proposed projects, including five from the Division of Agriculture. The application window for the funding was open from April 1-30 of this year.

Janeal Yancey, extension animal science instructor for the Division of Agriculture, will serve as primary investigator for three of the five approved projects.

Michael Looper, head of the animal science department for the Division of Agriculture and the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, said the projects will support the Division of Agriculture's continued outreach and education efforts across Arkansas.

"The Arkansas Beef Council's support allows us to expand hands-on education and outreach that connects producers, students and consumers with the science and practices that sustain a high-quality beef industry in Arkansas," Looper said. "We thank the Council and the Arkansas beef producers."

The five approved projects include:

Beef Quality Assurance Program

Primary investigator: Kirsten Midkiff, extension animal health and wellbeing specialist for the Division of Agriculture

Funding Amount: \$8,000

Summary: "This project will provide Beef Quality Assurance training to Arkansas producers to support consistent, high-quality beef production through responsible cattle management. It will strengthen producer knowledge on animal handling, herd health and environmental stewardship as the industry adopts significant new standards."

Beef Short Course

Primary investigator: Janeal Yancey, extension animal science instructor for the Division of Agriculture

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Summary: "This project will educate participants on the full journey of beef from harvest to consumer, with a focus on beef cuts and the processes that ensure high-quality products. It will help develop informed beef advocates who can build consumer confidence and counter misinformation about the beef industry."

Educating Youth on Beef Promotion Using a Quiz Bowl

Primary investigator: Allison Harman, 4-H youth livestock instructor for the Division of Agriculture

Funding Amount: \$4,000

Summary: "This project

will engage Arkansas high school students in the Beef Quiz Bowl to build their knowledge of the beef industry through competitive learning. It will help youth strengthen communication skills, gain confidence and share accurate beef-industry information."

Meat Education

Primary investigator: Janeal Yancey

Funding Amount: \$2,500

Summary: "This project will provide clear, science-based resources to help consumers and young people navigate conflicting information about the beef industry. It will build trust by offering accessible, reliable education on how beef is raised, its safety, and its role in the food system."

Undergraduate Meat Science Quiz Bowl Team

Primary investigator: Janeal Yancey

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Summary: "This project will support student participation in the American Meat Science Association Undergraduate Quiz Bowl and the 2027 Reciprocal Meats Conference, providing exposure to scientific meetings, industry networking and hands-on meat industry tours."

The Arkansas Beef Council's activities are funded by "a \$1-per-head assessment on all cattle sold in the state, with 50 cents remitted to the federal Cattlemen's Beef Board and the remainder retained by the state," according to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

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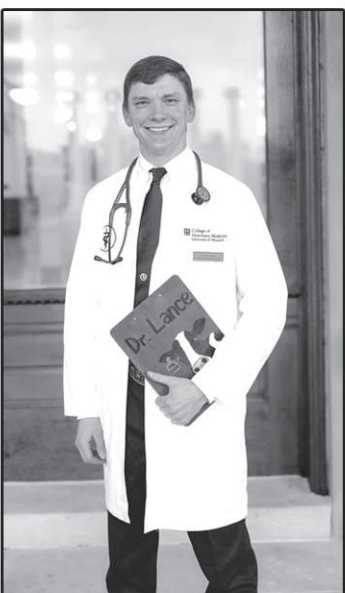
1010 S. Pope Street, Nashville, Arkansas (off of Hope Hwy).

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.

WELCOME DR. GARRETT LANCE!

Dr. Garrett Lance is a native of Nashville and graduated from Nashville High School in 2018. He attended Southern Arkansas University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business in 2022. In 2026, he earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Lance enjoys all aspects of veterinary medicine, with special interests in large animal medicine, reproduction, and small animal surgery. Outside of the clinic, he enjoys helping raise commercial cattle on his family's farms in Nashville and Mena, and he will almost always have a dog or two riding around town in the truck. He is excited and grateful for the opportunity to give back to his local community and further animal health in southwest Arkansas.



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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.



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SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

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Pike Co. couple pleads 'no contest' to reduced endangerment charges

A Murfreesboro couple originally facing felony allegations of child abuse and neglect entered a plea deal on May 29 and plead "no contest" to misdemeanor charges of endangering the welfare of a minor.

Mary Louise Phillips, 50, and Timothy Mason Phillips, 55, went before Judge Tom Cooper on Friday and were both fined \$500 to be paid within 30 days and received a suspended sentence of one year. The couple were represented by attorney James Lucas Graham of Malvern with the case being prosecuted by Dustin Bissell

and Jana Bradford.

The Phillips were arrested on Jan. 1 and were later each charged with felony endangering the welfare of a minor involving an incident on Dec. 4, 2025 when an 8-year-old female under their care was reported missing from their Third Avenue home in Murfreesboro.

The child was described as being 3'2" and weighing 38 pounds and reportedly wearing no clothes.

The incident touched off a massive search that concluded with the child being found just steps from her home by Mr. Phillips.

Local named to Historic Washington Foundation Board of Directors

Freddie Horne of Nashville has been elected to the Historic Washington Foundation Board of Directors. He will chair the Grant Writing Committee for the organization.

Horne is currently the president of the Howard County Historical Society, a Nashville City Alderman, Emeritus Nashville City Parks Commissioner and former principal and teacher

for the Nashville School District.

The Historic Washington Foundation (formerly Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation) is the state's oldest preservation organization, founded in 1958.

The foundation now maintains eight significant properties within the boundaries of Historic Washington State Park.

Pike County HAM radio offering storm spotter class

The Pike County HAM Radio Club will host a SKY-WARN storm spotter class on Saturday, June 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Kirby School Cafeteria.

Attendance is open to the public, regardless of club affiliation or license status. At-

tendees will need an Internet capable device.

The club will have a short meeting afterward.

For more information, contact Mark Reed at 903-701-5954 or mark.reed.ii@gmail.com.



News-Leader photo/TRACY DENNY BAILEY

LONG-DISTANCE CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP. Custom Insulation, based out of Hot Springs and serving the Southwest Arkansas region, recently joined the Nashville Chamber of Commerce and was welcomed by a ribbon-cutting at the chamber office. Tony Thomas (with the scissors) is the owner/president and Austin Thomas next to him handles sales. The two men were welcomed by chamber members (from left) Susie Berruquin, Tina Carver, Kristin Stavely, Tim Pinkerton, Maira Couch, Dena Tollett, Jim Pinson and Melanie Schwartz.

Local students earn A-Tech academic honors

RUSSELLVILLE --- Arkansas Tech University has announced its President's List and Dean's List for undergraduate students on its Russellville campus for the spring 2026 semester.

A student must record a 3.5 grade point average or higher and complete at least 12 hours of college-level coursework to be named to the Dean's List.

Students who achieve a 4.0 grade point average and complete at least 12 hours of college-level coursework also earn the President's List distinction.

Students who completed spring 2026 with a 4.0 grade point average and earned a place on the President's List are noted as such below.

Area students who earned President's List or Dean's List honors:

NASHVILLE --- Taylor Leanne Darling (4.0), Sophie Glyn Kuykendall (4.0), Jessie Aliana Lyle (4.0), Ellen Payne Spigner;

NEWHOPE --- Tyra Sloan Fox.

Free student meals program running until June 30 at Mineral Springs

A free summer breakfast and lunch program is open through June 30 for students 18 and under in the Mineral Springs School District. Meals will be served in the school cafeteria at no charge to eligible students. Breakfast is from 7-8 a.m., and lunch is 11-12.

Stavely and Associates



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FOR SALE

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

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SEALED BIDS FOR RICH MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE VEHICLES

Beginning **June 1, 2026**, Rich Mountain Electric Cooperative will accept sealed bids for cooperative vehicles in our Mena Office. Anyone interested may bring in a bid in a sealed envelope, marked **BID ENCLOSED**, or mail it to P.O. Box 897, Mena, AR 71953. Please include a good contact phone number with the bid. All vehicles may be inspected by appointment at our poleyard location in Mena on Fairgrounds Road from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Contact Brian at RMEC at 479-394-4140 for an inspection appointment. **Rich Mountain Electric will accept bids until the close of business on July 3, 2026.** Winning bidders will be notified by phone once the bidding period has closed and arrangements will be made at that time for pick up. All payments must be made and vehicles/equipment must be removed by **July 10, 2026 or the bid is VOID.**

Payment methods include a personal or company check with a bank letter of guarantee.

Listed below are the vehicles/equipment available for bid:

Year	Make	Model	Engine	Mileage	Transmission	Fuel	VIN Number	Unit #
2011	Ford	1/2 Ton F15 4x4 Pickup	V8 5.0 L	144,803	Automatic	Gas	1FTMF1EF4BFC39876	2011-29
2006	Ford	3/4 Ton 4x4 Pickup	V8 5.4L	168,217	Automatic	Gas	1FTNF215X6ED84312	2006-39
2000	GMC	2 Ton Digger Truck	3126 CAT	94,603	6 Speed Manual	Diesel	1GDM7H1C5YJ527974	2000-04
2008	GMC	1-1/2 Ton C500 4x4 Basket Truck	Duramax	151,985	Automatic	Diesel	1GDE5C3928F409026	2008-10
2001	Ford	1-1/4 Ton F450 4x4 Basket Truck	7.3L	145,481	Automatic	Diesel	1FDXF47FX1EB11198	2001-21

Nashville News-Leader Classifieds

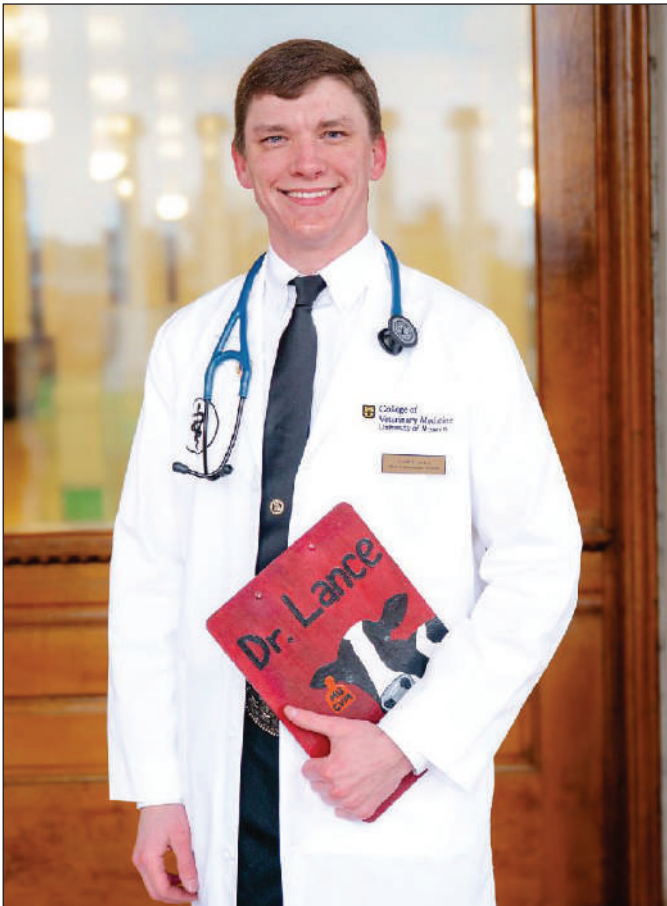
SMITH MINI STORAGE
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BUSINESS SERVICES

MINI STORAGE IN MURFREESBORO. 870-845-6304. (gs:4-ft)

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 202 W. Howard St. on Wednesdays Only from 8 to 9 p.m. Melissa - 870-200-5437, Warren 870-557-0446

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THERE'S ANOTHER DR. LANCE IN TOWN. Dr. Garrett Lance, a native of Nashville and graduated from Nashville High School in 2018, has been hired on at Nashville Animal Hospital & Livestock Consulting. He attended Southern Arkansas University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business in 2022. In 2026, he earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Lance enjoys all aspects of veterinary medicine, with special interests in large animal medicine, reproduction, and small animal surgery. Outside of the clinic, he enjoys helping raise commercial cattle on his family's farms in Nashville and Mena, and he will almost always have a dog or two riding around town in the truck. He is excited and grateful for the opportunity to give back to his local community and further animal health in southwest Arkansas. The new doctor is the son of Dr. Glenn (DDS) and Cynthia Lance of Nashville.

State park to host free concert series

Historic Washington State Park will host a free summer concert series titled "Celebrating America" on the 1874 Courthouse lawn, featuring three performances in conjunction with the nation's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. on three dates throughout the summer, showcasing Americana music spanning from the 19th century to present day. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

The series kicks off June 20 with the Frontier Brigade Band from the Dallas-Fort Worth area, which special-

izes in music from the American Brass Band Movement of 1840-1880. More information is available at www.frontierbrigadeband.com.

On July 3, the Stewart Family from Many, Louisiana will perform American and bluegrass music as part of a full weekend of American 250 celebrations at the park.

The series concludes Aug. 15 with the McWilliams Family Band, a Southwest Arkansas group that performs Americana folk and bluegrass music. The family also operates the Gap Mercantile Store in Caddo Gap. More information can be found at www.facebook.com/gapmercantile.

Schaal community to celebrate Juneteenth early this year; event this Saturday

The community of Schaal's fourth annual Juneteenth Celebration will be held a little earlier than normal this year with the event set for Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Schaal Pavilion at 676

Bright Star Road.

This year's theme will be L.O.V.E. - Ladies of Vision & Encouragement.

The day will include educational speakers and booths focusing on

self-care along with vendors offering food and a variety of items. There will also be fun and crafts for the kids.

For more information, contact Larecca Hopkins at 870-5572391.



We can't wait to see you there!



Friday, June 5th

Starting @ 11am

SNOW CONES served at 1pm

Join us for FREE Hamburgers & Hot Dogs.

PLUS FREE SNOW CONES!

(One per person. While supplies last.)



Sign up to **WIN DOOR PRIZES & grab some Diamond Bank Swag.**

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Howard County's Sales and Use Tax Distribution for April 2026

RECEIPTS	HOWARD CO.
Deposit	\$624,308.90
State service charge	18,729.27
Interest earned	1,393.07
Vending decals	0.28
Amount distributed	\$606,972.98



HOWARD COUNTY DISTRIBUTION

Dierks City Treasurer #1	\$15,813.62
Dierks City Treasurer #2	3,953.41
Mineral Springs City Treasurer #1	18,731.20
Mineral Springs City Treasurer #2	4,642.80
Nashville City Treasurer #1	71,696.49
Nashville City Treasurer #2	17,924.12
Tollette City Treasurer #1	3,193.80
Tollette City Treasurer #2	798.45
Howard County (Jail)	55,179.36
Cossatot Community College UofA	55,179.36
Howard County Road	77,897.64
Howard County Landfill	33,384.70
Howard County General fund	20,820.58
Howard Memorial Hospital	11,128.24
Economic Development	11,128.23
Total Distributed	\$606,972.98

SOURCE: Howard County Deputy Treasurer Taylor Stone

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SUMMER 2026 FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION
LIVE WITH ONLINE BIDDING
SATURDAY JUNE 13 AT 9AM

HIGHLIGHTS

- Boats
- Commercial Shelving
- Vehicles
- Semi-Truck



Taking Consignments Until June 10 at Dark

FACTORY DIRECT NEW EQUIPMENT AUCTION
ONLINE ONLY BIDDING STARTS TO END
MONDAY JUNE 15 AT 7PM

- New Equipment
- Equipment Attachments
- Shipping Container
- Metal Garage Shed Doors



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