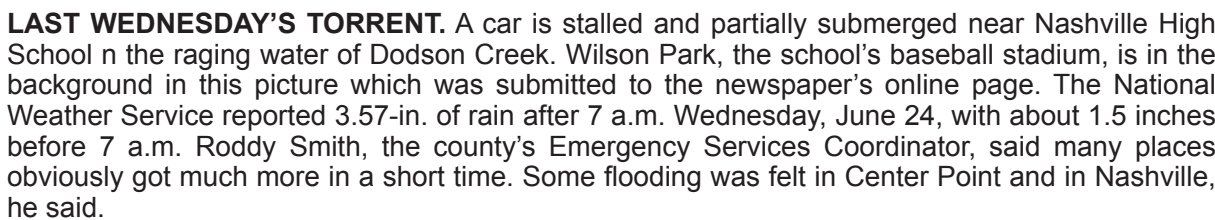


Leader Board

Patriotic events set July 3-5 at Washington

Special
Subscription
offer, page 5A.
But hurry. Offer
expires July 10.

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Stand Up for America Saturday at city park

The Stand Up event will in-

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'Arkansas Photo of the Year' among News-Leader honors in state press competition

See **Awards** • Page 5A

Candidates square off in 'Day of Debates'

DEBATE. Roby Brock (right) moderates the debate between gubernatorial candidates Cole Jester (left) and Sen. Fred Love June 26 at the Arkansas Press Association convention in Eureka Springs. Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders was invited to participate but declined the invitation.

See Debates • Page 5A



AFTER HOURS CLINIC. Chris Stuart, Chief Nursing Officer at Howard Memorial Hospital, talked to the Nashville Rotary Club, last Wednesday, about the recently-opened after-hours clinic on the hospital campus. The clinic is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 6-10 p.m., and is for persons who are unable to get in to see their regular physician with earaches, sore throats, etc. Lab and x-ray services are available next door in the hospital proper. The clinic is served medically by a nurse practitioner and a nurse, and is supervised by a physician. The clinic is located in an adjacent services building near the hospital entrance. *(Submitted photo)*

Area students earn Dean’s List, President’s List honors at Arkansas Tech University

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.

Mass times will change in July for St. Martin Catholic Church

Weekend Mass times will change at St. Martin Catholic Church in Nashville beginning Saturday, July 4.

The congregation is getting a new priest, Fr. Martin Siebold, whose residence will be in Hope where he also has responsibility for Our Lady of Good Hope.

Saturday Mass here will be in Spanish at 6:30 p.m.

On Sunday, there will be a bi-lingual Mass at 8 a.m. Other changes will be announced. The church is located on West Leslie St. In Nashville.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Turn savings into paychecks for retirement

By Josh Tice
Edward Jones Investments

Margaret had saved diligently for decades. Every paycheck, a portion went toward her retirement account. Then, the day finally came: she retired. Suddenly, the hardest part wasn’t the saving. It was learning to spend.

If that sounds familiar, you’re not alone. Many retirees find the shift from building savings to living off them emotionally difficult, even when they’ve planned carefully. Here are five smart strategies that can help you feel more confident about what’s ahead.

Give yourself permission to spend conservatively. Your retirement plan likely assumes a certain annual spending amount, with increases each year to account for inflation. All else being equal, the lower those initial withdrawals, the longer your money will last. A financial advisor can help you set up portfolio withdrawals personalized to your goals and situation. Feel free to give yourself permission to spend those amounts, knowing there’s intention behind them.

For many retirees, the challenge isn’t math — it’s mindset. After years of being rewarded for saving, spending can feel like doing something wrong. It can help to reframe withdrawals as a paycheck you’ve already earned. For example, using your monthly distribution to cover travel, hobbies or time with family isn’t indulgent; it’s the purpose of the plan you built. Connecting spending to your values can make it feel more natural and sustainable.

Do be sure to to review your spending regularly and don’t forget to set aside

funds for annual expenses like taxes and insurance.

Keep some cash on hand. A general rule of thumb for retirees is to keep about 12 months’ worth of withdrawals in a separate account for spending and another three to five years’ worth in short-term, fixed-income investments. This cushion can allow your stock investments time to recover from a market downturn, reducing the need to sell investments when markets are down.

That said, holding too much cash carries its own risk, as your portfolio may not grow fast enough to keep pace with inflation. So, while some cash is good, you’ll also want to remain invested in assets with more growth potential to help your portfolio last through retirement.

Review regularly. Retirement can last 25 years or more, and even the best-laid plans need updating along the way. Review your financial strategy at least once a year or after any major life change.

Stay flexible. Even small adjustments to your spending can have a big impact on how long your money lasts.

Retirees who hold off on spending increases in years when their portfolio declines are often able to stretch their savings further than those who increase withdrawals each year for inflation regardless of market performance.

Making the switch from saving to spending takes both careful planning and a genuine shift in mindset. A financial advisor can help you build out an effective approach to switch from saving to spending, and work with you so you can fully enjoy the retirement you worked so hard to reach.

11 enter pleas during busy day of Criminal Court in Howard County;

On the bench for the regular day of criminal court, last Wednesday, Judge Bryan Chesshir heard pleas from 11 defendants. Those that pleaded guilty were sentenced and those that pleaded not guilty had dates set for pretrial motions and trials.

Trial and pretrial dates

-- Marissa Delarosa, 30, white female, Nashville, is charged with theft of property. Motions will be heard Aug. 12.

-- Davote Gilliam, 18, black male, Nashville, is charged with accomplice to commercial burglary. Motions will be heard Aug. 12.

-- Justin Blake Stone, 33, white male, Delight, is charged with theft of property. Pretrial motions were set Aug. 15.

-- Justin Dakota Lollis, 31, white male, Emmet, is charged with drug possession and tampering with physical evidence. Pretrial motions were set for Oct. 7.

-- Robin Adair Atterberry, 50, black male, Delight, is charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. Motions will be heard Aug. 5.

Six are sentenced

-- Kyle Whisenhunt, 63, white male, Nashville, pleaded guilty to two separate cases -- a 2025 case for drug possession, and a 2026 case for drug possession and with tampering with physical evidence. He was sentenced to a total of eight years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) with a further eight years suspended imposition of sentence.

-- Tressie Scott Green, 42, white female, Nashville, was charged with drug possession. She was sentenced to five years of probation.

-- Elizabeth Qualls, 31, white female, Broken Bow, Okla., was charged with drug possession. She was sentenced to five years of probation.

-- Ivy Weaver, 41, white female, Nashville, was charged in two separate cases -- both possession of drug paraphernalia in 2024 and 2026. She was sentenced to a year in the ADC with a further five years suspended imposition of sentence.

-- Alexis Garcia, 25, Hispanic male, Nashville, was charged with rape. The charge was amended to sexual assault. He was sentenced to six years in the ADC and must register as a sex offender.

-- Eric White, 56, black male, Nashville, pleaded guilty to cases from 2026 and 2020. another case from 2019 was dismissed. His total sentence was a year in the ADC with a further five years suspended imposition of sentence.

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

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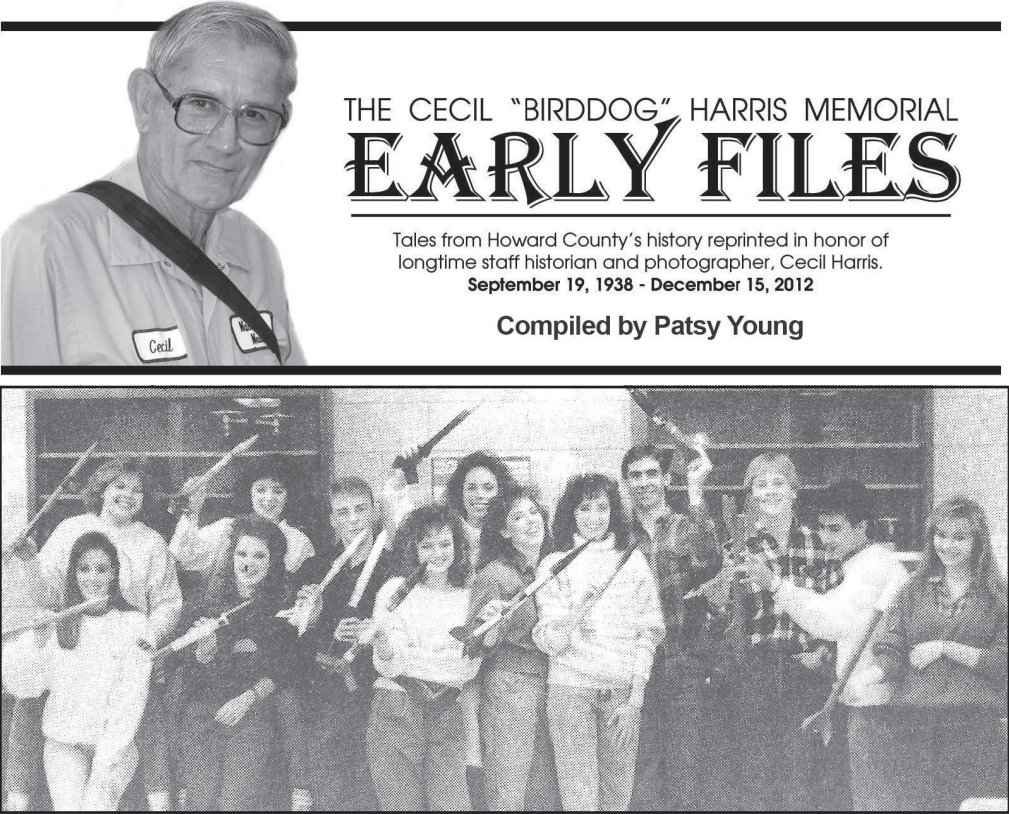
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Students in Nona Talley's physics class at Nashville High School display the model rockets they made in 1988.

134 years ago: June 1892
Mrs. J. T. Coulter was bitten by a spider Monday and came very near dying from the effects of the poison. She is much better now.

Mrs. S. R. Briggs was bitten by a big black spider Monday and has been right sick from the poison. Dr. Corn was called in Monday afternoon and thinks she has passed the critical point and is in a fair way to recovery.

Two of our citizens had a little fistie encounter on Main Street Thursday afternoon. The damage was very light.

76 years ago: July 1950
A 1950 Studebaker in the Ford garage here Friday was carrying 10 buckshot in its backseat stuffing. Besides this there were 25 holes and dents on the trunk door.
You'd have thought it was a desperado's car. But this is the story: Seven local boys

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

developed a summertime complaint Thursday night—the strong desire for swiped watermelon. So they started toward Mineral Springs and a watermelon patch.

They located a patch, but before they got away with more than one melon the owner heard them and came running with a shot gun. With six boys inside and the last one hanging in a side window, the farmer blasted.

The ending wasn't tragic, however however, it was tragicomic. The one watermelon was green.

63 years ago: June 1963
A cooling rain swept across the peach belt flanking Nashville on Wednesday.

It was a most unusual rain for several reasons. There was no official weather forecast of rain for this area, and it came just about the way a rainmaker said

it would, only the full two inches expected hasn't been recorded yet.

Officially, the weather bureau at Little Rock said "no comment." Generally, peachmen and friends who kicked into the \$1,500 rain-making fee were tickled pink.

The rainmaker, Major Homer Berry of Little Rock, shoots silver iodides into the sky in an effort to bring down the rain.

44 years ago: July 1982
For more than a century, camp meetings have been held at the Ebenezer Campground two miles north of Center Point. The 1982 meeting is scheduled August 6 through August 12.

The camp site remains much as it was more than a century ago. The most notable changes include electric lights and running water.

Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period June 18-24, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses
(*Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk's office*)
June 22. Hobart Armstrong, 50, Dierks, and Ashley Dawn Sweeden, 47, Dierks.

June 23. Stuart James Miller, 23, Columbus, and Tara Nicole Hostetler, 19, Nashville.

Civil Court
CV26-107, June 18. Barclays Bank Delaware vs. Jamie Akard. Debt.

CV26-108, June 19. Capital One vs. Christine Whitworth. Debt.

CV26-109, June 22. Citibank N.A. vs. Melissa Hein. Debt.

CV26-110, June 22. Citibank N.A. vs. Kelvis Wright. Debt.

CV26-111, June 22. Capital One vs. Nicole Smith-Gamble. Debt.

CV26-112, June 22. Citibank N.A. vs. Jean Galt. Debt.

CV26-113, June 22. Capital One vs. Chris Goodson. Debt.

CV26-114, June 23. Capital One vs. Diana Starwalt. Debt.

CV26-115, June 23. Capital One vs. Shelby Ortiz. Debt.

Domestic Relations Court
DR26-58, June 22. Dawana Jones vs. Jalon Jones. Order of protection.

DR26-59, June 22. Jarrett Heath Harwell vs. Taylor Harwell. 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.)

CR26-42, June 19. State of Arkansas vs. Justin Blake Stone, 33, white male, Delight; theft of property, class D felony.

CR26-43, June 19. State of Arkansas vs. Justin Dakota Lollis, 31, white male, Emmet, Ark.; POCS, class D; PODP, misdemeanor; tampering with physical evidence, misdemeanor.

CR26-44, June 19. State of Arkansas vs. Robin Adair Atterberry, 50, black male, Delight; PODP, class D; driving on invalid license, misdemeanor.

Land/Property Transactions
Quitclaim Deed

June 18. Fabien Del Carmen and wife Adelaida Del Carmen; to Maria G. Del Carmen and Emanuel Mendoza, joint tenants; part of Lots 7-8, all of Lot 6, Block 8, SWREDC Addition, Town of Nashville. \$15,000.

June 18. Ashley Smith; to Pedro Barrientos; All of Lots 17-18, part of Lots 16 & 19, Block 3, R.L. Hayes Addition, City of Nashville.

June 23. Glenna Dunaway, spouse of Larry Dunaway; to Caleb Conrad and Sunny Conrad; Lots 38-39-40, Block 2, R.L. Hayes Addition, Town of Nashville.

Executor's Deed
June 22. Cally Reed and Bobby Huddleston, Administrators of the Estate of Danea K. Robinson, deceased; to Jacky Robinson; property in S20 T10S R27W.

Distributee Deed
June 22. Brenda Porter, Distributee of the Estate of Dornell Trotter, deceased; to Brenda Porter; 2 ac. in S25 T11S R27W, aka 1201 Silver Rd., Columbus.

Administrator Deed
June 22. Cally Reed and Bobby Huddleston, executors of the estate of Danea K. Robinson, deceased; to Jacky Robinson and Sammy

Robinson; property in S20/S21 T10S R27W.

Beneficiary Deed
June 22. Michael and Karen Gardner, trustees of the Michael and Karen Gardner Revocable Trust; to Cody Michael Gardner and Suzanne Quinnette Kesterson; 9 tracts in S15 T5S R28W.

June 23. Gerald and Martha Edge; to Katherine Elizabeth Winer; 2 ac. in S12 T6S R29W.

Warranty Deed
June 22. Clint Stanley Kesterson; to Dustin Kesterson and wife Abby Kesterson; property in S15 T6S R29W with exception. \$15,000.

June 22. The Southwest Arkansas Counseling and Mental Health Center, Inc., by its board of directors; to Howard Memorial Hospital; Lot 8, Block 4, HMH Second Subdivision, Town of Nashville. \$65,000.

June 22. Lakiesha Ross, et al; to Corinth First Missionary Baptist Church; 1.34 ac. in S9 T11S R27W.

June 22. Robbie J. Dossey, widow of Jim D. Dossey, deceased; to Jesse Dossey; property in S26 T7S R29W with exceptions.

June 22. Michael H. Gardner and wife Karen Gardner; to Michael and Karen Gardner Revocable Trust; 4 tracts in S15 T5S R28W.

June 22. Karen Q. Gardner; to Michael and Karen Gardner Revocable Trust; property in S15 T5S R28W.

June 23. Laurie Jackson and husband Chris Jackson, and Kathy Wayne; to Kerry Miller and Kourtney Miller; 2 tracts, 1/6 ac., Lot 1, Block 14, Town of Saratoga; and 20 ac. in S33 T11S R27W.

June 23. Caleb Conrad and Sunny Conrad, husband and wife; to Alexis Jeovanny Banegas Arias, et al, Joint Tenants; Lots 38-39-40, Block 2. R.L. Hayes Addition, Town of Nashville. \$96,630.

UA-C, UAM to launch program

Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas and the University of Arkansas at Monticello are set to announce a partnership that will expand access to affordable higher education in Arkansas.

On July 8, the two institutions will unveil a program allowing UA-C students to earn a bachelor's degree in southwest Arkansas at one of the state's lowest tuition rates. The strategic partnership between UA Cossatot and UAM will integrate business programs, enabling UA Cossatot students to pursue a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

The degree is awaiting approval from the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Higher

Learning Commission.

The partnership aims to leverage the strengths of both institutions and

combine resources to support student success and improve college completion rates within the region.

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See you Saturday, July 4th at
Stand Up America & the Neal McCoy concert.

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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)(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)(1)(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)(1)(A)(c)(1)(A)~~ A voter unable to present valid photographic identification when voting in person shall be permitted to vote a provisional ballot. (B) An absentee ballot that is not accompanied by a copy of valid photographic identification shall be considered a provisional ballot. (2) A provisional ballot under subdivision ~~(d)(1)(c)(1)~~ of this section shall be counted only if the voter subsequently certifies the provisional ballot in a manner provided by law. ~~(e)(1)(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.


COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

Point of view

Unfortunately

Bad news for dumpster divers: there are witnesses

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I want apologize for repeating part of a column from 2010 this week instead of giving you something original and clever. I have a good excuse -- In the huge rainfall of last week, some water got into my house and some carpet got wet. I'm dealing with that right now, so I hope you'll understand.

So here is the repeated gem:
A DUMPSTER TALE

IF BEAUTY is in the eye of the beholder some people might look at a trash dumpster but instead see a treasure chest.

Beverly Starr and Sue White are in the latter category. They are already working on the Operation Christmas Child project for 2010, and they've been gathering little things for the Christmas boxes and for their group's annual gigantic garage sale that helps to fund the project (Beverly told the crowd at the chamber of commerce awards banquet that OCC's local goal for 2010 is 5,500 boxes to send to underprivileged children).

They've established a relationship with several local stores which notify them when they have some surplus stuff they're willing to give to the OCC program, either for the gift boxes or for the garage sale.

Recently a Nashville store called and said they had some leftover Christmas wrapping paper. Beverly and Sue rushed to get it. It's great stuff for the garage sale. There was some other stuff, too but unfortunately it had already been tossed into the store's trash dumpster.

-- FORTUNATELY there was enough stuff in the dumpster to make it worth their effort to salvage it.

-- UNFORTUNATELY they would have to 'fish' it out.

-- FORTUNATELY it wasn't raining or sleeting.

-- UNFORTUNATELY half of Howard County was driving by.

-- FORTUNATELY there seemed to be lotsa Christmas thingys and neat stuff that would bring in some money at the garage sale. Or fill a needy child's Christmas shoebox.

-- UNFORTUNATELY there were hundreds of patrons and employees at the nearby pizza place who were trying to act as if they weren't watching these two dignified ladies dumpster diving.

-- FORTUNATELY the store manager loaned the women some giant tweezers to grab stuff from the bottom of the dumpster, and he even brought them some big boxes of candy canes.

-- UNFORTUNATELY the candy canes got spilled all over the parking lot.

-- FORTUNATELY the candy canes were individually-wrapped and didn't get dirty more or less.

-- UNFORTUNATELY the other half of Howard County drove past while Beverly and Sue were bent over picking up hundreds of candy canes.

These two wonderful women came forward with their version of this story because -- unfortunately -- this is the second time they've been caught in the act of dumpster diving, all in the name of Operation Christmas Child. And they knew word would get around. Someone might blab to grandkids.

The first time they were caught by a certain plump newspaper guy who happened to be next door picking up a pizza.

One of the women -- we mercifully won't say which -- had just remarked that wouldn't it be terrible if the newspaper guy came by while they dumpster diving.

FORTUNATELY, ladies, the columnist understands that you were digging in a treasure chest, not a trash dumpster.

UNFORTUNATELY that might not be the way he tells the story.

● ---- ● --- ●

ANIMAL CRACKERS. (This is not from the old column) I remember promising I wouldn't bore either of you with another story about my Bluebirds, but I frequently break promises.

Saturday afternoon I noticed that the entrance hole of the bluebird box was blocked with a thick wad of straw and twigs. I commented that I hadn't seen Mom or Pop Bluebird in several days. I sent visiting granddaughter to clear the hole, but the stuff just kept coming out.

There were at least four nests stacked on top of each other.

I started pulling them out until I came to one that still had some itty bitty blue eggs. Final count, five nests built on top of each other and the rest of the space inside the box was crammed full of nest material.

Now the nests are all gone and I'm anxious to see if the bluebirds come back to start a new family. There's room in the penthouse now.

● ---- ● --- ●

MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: "We live in a time where intelligent people are silenced so that stupid people won't be offended."

● ---- ● --- ●

WORD GAMES. They're the Outright-Lying twins: New and Improved.

● ---- ● --- ●

HE SAID: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States

● ---- ● --- ●

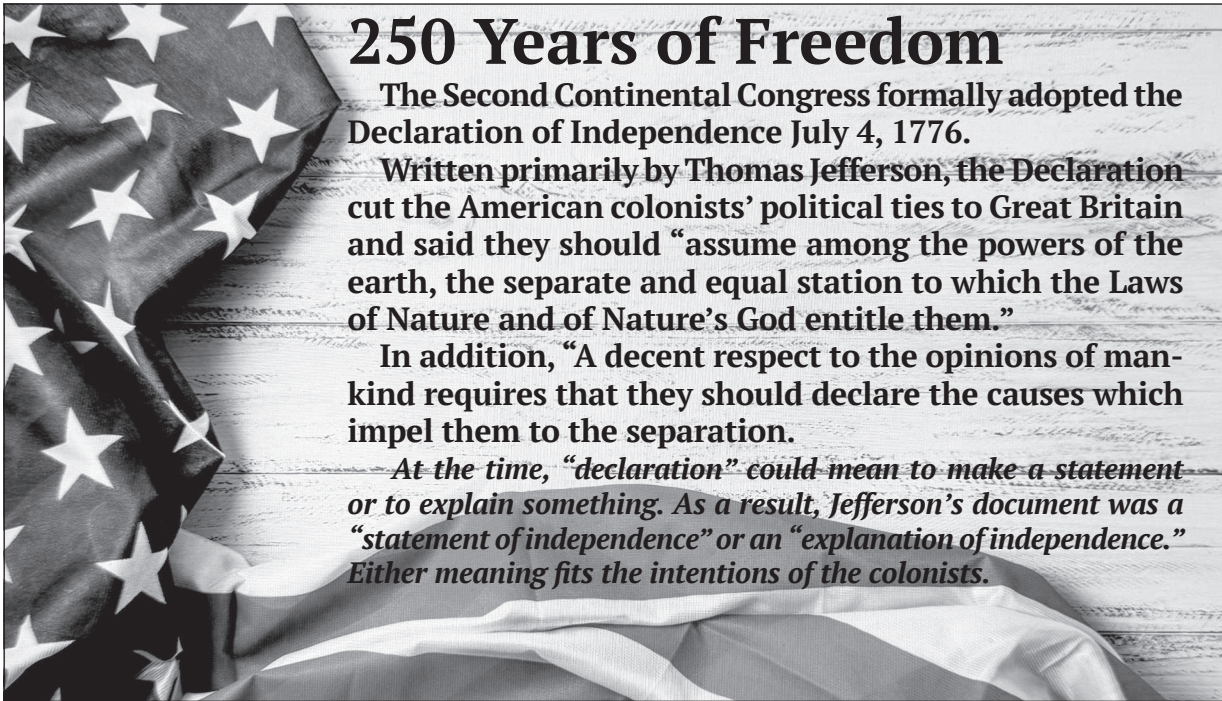
SHE SAID: "I've seen firsthand that being president doesn't change who you are. It reveals who you are." Michelle Obama, First Lady

● ---- ● --- ●

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Mine Creek
Revelations

By
Louie Graves



250 Years of Freedom

The Second Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776.

Written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration cut the American colonists' political ties to Great Britain and said they should "assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them."

In addition, "A decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

At the time, "declaration" could mean to make a statement or to explain something. As a result, Jefferson's document was a "statement of independence" or an "explanation of independence." Either meaning fits the intentions of the colonists.

The Declaration of Independence

Note: The following text is a transcription of the Stone Engraving of the parchment Declaration of Independence (the document on display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum.) The spelling and punctuation reflect the original.

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here,

by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

CASA leaders meet with legislators

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey

The Arkansas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) hosted CASA Day at the Capitol during the recent fiscal session.

The event opened with remarks from Senator Jonathan Dismang and Representative Jeremy Wooldridge. Following the program, CASA program leaders from across the state met with legislators to share their vision and highlight the critical role CASA plays in advocating for children in foster care.

Senator Dismang also hosted CASA representatives on the floor of the Senate chamber. He sponsored bill SR 13, to recognize Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month and to commend CASA programs.

In Arkansas, there are approximately 58,000 investigations of child abuse and maltreatment each year, resulting in more than 5,000 children in foster care in 2025. CASA programs served approximately 2,780 of those children with the support of a trained volunteer advocate.

CASA advocates are often one of the only consistent adults in a child's life during a time of crisis. Volunteers dedicate 6 to 10 hours each month getting to know the child, engaging with foster and

biological families, and gathering critical information to ensure judges can make the most informed decisions possible for each child's future.

A child may go through different foster families during the process.

Celeste Davis, advocacy director, said "...they change foster families, so think about that -- they change towns, so they are changing churches, they are changing schools, they are changing teachers, coaches, neighborhoods. But the CASA volunteer follows them everywhere. That one person will always be there, advocating for them."

CASA is part of a national network of programs that recruit, train, and support volunteers who advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect.

Their work helps move children toward safe, stable, and permanent homes.

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life with a variety of professional, educational, and ethnic backgrounds.

Some of them are retired educators or social workers, and some volunteer while working full-time or going to school.

Regardless of their backgrounds

or training, all of them simply want to help the most vulnerable members of their community. Because the children served by CASA volunteers are diverse in background and need, CASA strives to recruit volunteers diverse in skill and background.

CASA volunteers are thoroughly trained and well-supported by professional staff to help them through each case.

CASA Day at the Capitol provided an opportunity for lawmakers and community leaders to better understand the foster care system and the urgent need for continued support of advocacy programs that serve vulnerable children across Arkansas.

CASA programs currently serve every county in Arkansas through a network of 22 local programs, ensuring that children across the state have access to trained, dedicated advocates.

To be a CASA volunteer, a person must be 21 years of age or older, pass a background check which includes a central registry child maltreatment check, go through pre-service training, and have an open heart and mind for children and families.

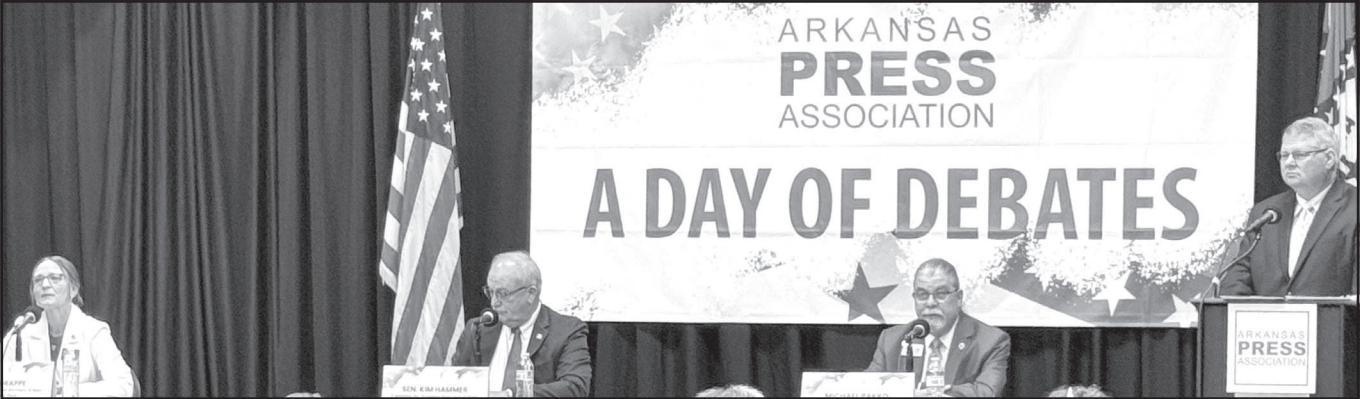
For more information about CASA, visit <https://arcourts.gov/administration/arjdc/casa>.

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News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Andrew Bagley (right) was the moderator at the Secretary of State candidates’ debate June 26 at the Arkansas Press Association convention in Eureka Springs. Participants include Kelly Grappe, Sen. Kim Hammer and Michael Pakko. Their debate will be covered in next week’s issue of the News-Leader.

Debates

Continued from page 1A

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders declined an invitation to participate.

Roby Brock of Newsroom Ventures was the moderator.

Questions were submitted by journalists at the convention.

Today’s story will focus on the gubernatorial debate.

Love, a 16-year legislator, asked three questions in his opening statement.

The first was “Do you believe we can afford another four years under Sarah Huckabee Sanders?” The rhetorical answer was “no.”

Next, “Do you believe Colt Shelby has the experience to run state government?” Another “no.”

Last, “Do you believe Fred Love has the experience?” This time, the answer was “yes.”

Love said he is running “because I love this state. I love the people. I love serving you all.”

The Sanders administration “has failed us. We’re first in food insecurity, 44th in quality of life, 48th in health, 50th in death by preventable diseases. That’s an ‘F.’”

In Shelby’s opening statement, he asked Love, “What did you do in 16 years? We need to address crime, education, economic development, affordability. We need to protect farmers. We need to stop data centers.”

Shelby said he is “more than qualified for this job. I’ll put my credentials up against his any day of the week.”

In response to a question from Brock, Love said he decided to enter the race because “multiple people asked me to run. My first answer was no. More people asked me. I

prayed about it, took it to God in prayer.”

Shelby said he entered because he “went to watch the Senate, then went home. It’s not fair to the state. Most legislators don’t listen to the citizens. The governor’s office, the executive branch, must give legislators the opportunity to be legislators” instead of rubber-stamping what the governor wants.

Brock asked the candidates for their position on Education Freedom Account vouchers, a key ingredient of the governor’s signature LEARNS Act.

“Do you believe we can afford EFAs? No,” Love said. “The state has chronically underfunded public education. On my first day in office, I will issue an executive order that we will not be administering EFAs.”

The vouchers “take \$400 million in public school money” for private schools and homeschooling, Love said. “Ninety percent of our kids are in public education. We are going to be focused on the 90 percent. Ninety-five percent of EFAs go to kids who are already in private schools.”

Shelby said the state “can’t take EFAs completely away. That will hurt kids. The only way is to scale it back in increments. It’s great for homeschoolers.”

The subject then turned to state prisons.

“We need more opportunities for people,” Love said. “Young people need summer employment. We have worker shortages everywhere in Arkansas. This will stem the tide of prison.”

Literacy is another factor, Love said. “We have to make sure are students are learning to read and provide opportunities for these young people.”

Shelby said Arkansas needs “more rehab programs. We

need to lock up the bad buys. Inmates who are close to home need to get clean.”

Brock asked about the state’s economy and ways to make improvements.

“The most important economic issue is a prepared workforce,” Love said. “We have workforce shortages in lots of areas. We need to get a pipeline from high school for those who want to learn while you earn.”

Affordability is a major issue, according to Shelby. “Everything has gone up, but wages stayed the same. We have to figure a way for youth to see their future.”

Brock asked the candidates for their views on data centers.

“Our policy should be whatever the people want. The county judges and quorum courts decide. Local county leaders are the way to go,” Shelby said.

Love said there “definitely should be a moratorium. Data centers are popping up at alarming rates. We don’t know the long-term impact. I wouldn’t recruit data centers to Arkansas. There are a lot of better opportunities to grow on our own here.”

If the centers add “benefits to an area, I wouldn’t mind. They need an independent power source and independent water supply,” Shelby said.

Legalization of recreational marijuana came up during the debate.

Love said he is against it. “When you grow up a community where you see recreational marijuana, it’s not always a positive thing. I see kids get out of cars at school, and they smell of marijuana because people at home smoked it all night.”

Shelby said he is “for whatever Arkansas wants. Everything should revolve around what Arkansans want. If people want marijuana, let them have it. Who cares? I don’t smoke

marijuana.”

Brock then asked about the incumbent. “Gov. Sanders is not here. What’s been her biggest failure?”

Shelby replied, “Leadership skills. You have to care about what people think. Her biggest flaw was wanting to go to Washington, D.C., before she was ready. [Gov. Asa Hutchinson] left her an inheritance, and she just pissed it away.”

Love said the biggest failure has been “the LEARNS Act. That’s going to do the most damage to our most valuable resource - our children. LEARNS cripples our public education system. That’s the biggest failure she has. She’s putting \$400 million in private schools for kids who already had that choice. That’s her biggest failure and will have the longest-lasting impact.”

Brock wrapped up the questioning by asking the candidates what they would do on Day One if they become governor.

“I’ll fire a lot of people. If you consistently do a bad job, you lose your job,” Shelby said. “In education, would it be crazy to get somebody from Arkansas to run the Arkansas Department of Education?”

The current education secretary, Dr. Jacob Oliva, was brought in from Florida.

“Every system we have now is failing. We have to get new people who will be held accountable,” according to Shelby.

Love reiterated that his first act would be to “issue an executive order to stop the Education Freedom Accounts. Period. Vouchers are killing our public school system. The long-term impact ruins public education. Rural schools need [the money] the most.”

Next week: The debate among candidates for Arkansas Secretary of State.

The awards presentation Saturday afternoon marked the conclusion of the convention.

Other activities included sessions on a number of newspaper topics, panel discussions and two debates featuring candidates in the November General Election. (See related story on page 1A.)

Stand Up

Continued from page 1A

clude food trucks, bounce houses, face painting and music.

There will be a fireworks display after McCoy’s performance.

For more information, call the chamber office at 870-845-1262.



Neal McCoy

DHC

Continued from page 1A

To further support workforce development efforts, Developing Howard County will create and maintain a dedicated workforce and industry portal on DevelopingHowardCounty.com. The portal will provide information on career opportunities, workforce resources, educational pathways, participating employers, recruitment videos, direct links to company hiring platforms, and resume submission opportunities.

Throughout the year, DHC will coordinate workforce outreach efforts, educational engagement activities, hiring events, and community awareness initiatives designed to connect employers with talent and strengthen the county’s workforce pipeline.

In addition to supporting current employers, the initiative will create a long-term workforce marketing platform that can be utilized to support future industrial recruitment projects. By showcasing Howard County’s industries, workforce, educational partnerships, and ACT Work Ready Community designation, the campaign will provide marketing assets that help attract new investment and job creation opportunities.

School changes salary schedule

The Nashville School board voted Monday, June 29, to add \$500 to the last five steps on the salary schedule.

Board members approved the addition on a recommendation from Superintendent Doug Graham.

The board approved a 2 percent raise for all classified personnel, including bus drivers.

The following salary index changes were made: Tate Gordon, 1.76; Ashley Riggs, 1.66; Tabitha Jones, 1.49; Nathan

“As Howard County continues to grow, it is important that we invest in both the industries that have chosen to call our community home and the workforce that makes their success possible,” said Vanessa Weeks, director of economic development for Developing Howard County. “This initiative allows us to celebrate our existing industries, support their workforce needs, and strengthen our ability to attract future opportunities that create jobs and improve quality of life throughout Howard County.”

Howard County became the first county in Southwest Arkansas to successfully achieve ACT Work Ready Community recertification, demonstrating the county’s ongoing commitment to workforce development, employer engagement, and educational alignment. The new initiative builds upon those efforts by creating additional tools and resources to support workforce attraction, retention, and economic development.

By combining industry promotion, workforce recruitment, community engagement, and economic development marketing, Developing Howard County is creating a comprehensive strategy designed to support business growth, workforce development, and long-term investment in Howard County.

Evans, 1.51; Eric Perez, 1.36; Ben Wallis, 1.34; James “Bunch” Nichols, 1.51; and Kim Slayton, 1.61.

The Personnel Policies Committee did not have a plan which members were comfortable with to address teacher absences, Graham said. “There might be something coming down the road.”

The board hired Buddy Ray as a part-time consultant coach for senior high football at a rate of \$75 per day for 100 days.

Awards

Continued from page 1A

Second place Best Front Page Design, John R. Schirmer, Louie Graves, Don Hall. “These front page designs are exciting. The thoughtful juxtaposition of

photos, along with the alternating bold headlines and gray sidebars guides your eye down the page, creating a colorful journey from top to bottom.”

Second place Best Headline Writing, Don Hall for “Quirky Albuquerque.” “Most other headlines are judged on wit,” the judge said. “This one stood

out for the beauty of its meter, its hi-lo-hi rhythm, something akin to symmetry.”

Honorable mention Best News Photo, John Balch for “The big million dollar reveal. ‘I love the emotion and excitement captured in this photo. But a little too blurry to make the top three,” the judge said.

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

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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

ISSUE NO. 2

Popular Name

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

Ballot Title

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

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

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

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



APA photo/BRITT TALENT

Ouachita Baptist University connections at the Arkansas Press Association convention last weekend include Rex Nelson, Michael Westbrook, Dr. Jeff Root, Dr. Deborah Root, Chris Babb, Andrew Bagley and John R. Schirmer. Westbrook works with Nelson, the Roots and Babb on the Ouachita Football Network. He received APA's Journalism Educator of the Year Award. The others all graduated from OBU while Dr. Bill Downs led the Communications Department.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Dede Robinson of the News-Leader received a second-place award from APA for a sports action photo



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

David Fisher of Danville received APA's Golden 50 award, and his wife Mary Fisher was recognized posthumously. Fisher reminisced about his experiences in APA, including escapades with Louie Graves of the News-Leader.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Karen Brown (right) recognizes Terri Cobb, APA's retiring director of finance.

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The Leader sports department

All Arkansas Preps honorees

Three Nashville Scrapperettes earned All Arkansas Preps honors earlier this month at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. They include Parker Tate, golf; Karstyn Scrivner, second team basketball; and Landyn Tompkins, second team softball. The recognition came for their play during the 2025-26 season. Winners were selected by the sports staff of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

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FIND NEW ROADS

UACE waives day fees at rec areas for America’s birthday

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced that it will waive day use fees at its more than 2,800 USACE-operated recreation areas nationwide in support of America’s 250th birthday celebration, July 3-5.

The waiver covers fees for boat launch ramps and swimming beaches. The waiver does not apply to camping and camping-related services, or fees for specialized facilities (group picnic shelters) and events. Other agencies that manage recreation areas on USACE lands are encouraged, but not required, to offer the waiver in the areas that they manage.

Visitors are encouraged to contact Vicksburg District lake and river projects before visiting to ensure recreation areas are open. More information about the operational status of recreation areas and what they offer can be found at www.corpslakes.us and <http://Recreation.Gov>

USACE also offers other fee-free days throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration. In 2026, fee-free days are:

- Independence Day weekend: 3-5 July
- National Public Lands Day: 26 September
- Veterans Day: 11 November

The fee-free initiative was first instituted on Veterans Day 2006 with the intent to support and honor the men and women who have served the nation in the U.S. Armed Forces.

USACE is one of the leading federal providers of outdoor and water-based recreation, hosting millions of visits annually to its more than 400 lake and river projects. It’s estimated that 90% of the USACE-operated recreation areas are within 50 miles of metropolitan areas, offering diverse outdoor activities for all ages close to home.

To discover a USACE recreation site near you, visit the USACE website at <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/visitors/visitors.cfm> or visit www.recreation.gov.

The USACE Vicksburg District is engineering solutions to the nation’s toughest challenges. The Vicksburg District encompasses a 68,000-square-mile area across portions of Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana, that holds nine major river basins and incorporates approximately 460 miles of mainline Mississippi River levees.

New fans now cooling HC Farmers’ Market

By Melanie Schwartz
Market Manager

Visitors to the Howard County Farmers’ Market will notice a welcome improvement this Friday. New ceiling fans were installed in the pavilion this week, completing the second major improvement made this year thanks to the generous support of our community sponsors.

With Fourth of July weekend and Nashville’s Stand Up for America celebration bringing friends and family to town, now is the perfect time to stop by to pick up fresh ingredients for your holiday cookout or simply enjoy a relaxing Friday morning at the market.

This week’s vendors expect to have tomatoes, cucumbers, purple hull peas, okra, peppers, eggs, lamb, homemade jams, sourdough bread and other baked goods, fresh flowers, handmade crafts, and personal care products. Aunt B’s Coffee Cart and Unique JFC Dawgs will also be on site with coffee, drinks, breakfast, and lunch.

As the market continues to grow, we’re also looking for the next Market Manager. If you’re passionate about supporting local agriculture, small businesses, and community events, we’d love to visit with you about this volunteer leadership opportunity. Email us at howardcountyfarmermarket@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

The Howard County Farmers’ Market is open every Friday from 7 a.m. until noon. Come enjoy the new pavilion fans, support your local vendors, and make the market part of your holiday weekend.

Celebrate our nation’s birthday
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Saturday, July 4th 2026

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250

Howard County District Court

June 25, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited
Howard County
Allen, Aubrey Rene, 24, Lockesburg, \$265 BF, speeding
Allen, John D., 27, Mineral Springs, \$210 BF, failure to yield
Andrew, Robert C., 49, Saratoga, no contest, non-payment of fines, committed to jail-suspended conditions; \$3,117 balance
Brinkley, Blake W., 38, De Queen, guilty of speeding, fined \$255
Contreras, Jefferson V., 26, Stuttgart, \$210 BF, no driver’s license/expired license
Cruz Hernandez, Victoriano, 26, Umpire, \$255 BF, speeding; \$260 BF, fictitious vehicle tags/license; \$210 BF, no driver’s license/expired license
Frachiseur, Evin Gene, 19, Horatio, \$265 BF, speeding
Furr, Gregory Neal, 61, Nashville, \$255 BF, speeding
Griffin, Javaris S., 24, Tampa, Fla., \$285 BF, disorderly conduct
Hawthorne, Torneshia, 41, Nashville, guilty of non-

payment of fines, committed to jail-suspended conditions; \$2,547 balance
Headings, Brittney Jean, 19, Columbus, \$245 BF, speeding
Hillery, Koniska, 25, Nashville, \$245 BF, speeding
Jaimes Aguilar, Beata, 43, De Queen, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345
Kight, Justin O., 38, Nashville, \$245 BF, speeding
Loomis, Bradford, 58, Wickes, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75
Maxwell, Zaria C., 20, Mineral Springs, guilty of speeding, fined \$255; guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$210
Mays, Elvin, 47, Nashville, guilty of DWI #2, fined \$1,675, sentenced to seven days in jail, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course
Pardo, Nelson G., 51, De Queen, guilty of speeding, fined \$255; guilty of no driver’s license/expired license, fined \$210; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360
Ray, Nicole Michele, 39,

Ozan, \$255 BF, speeding
Ross, James F., 28, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Salazar Drullet, Yusnay, 46, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., \$235 BF, possessing open container of alcohol in motor vehicle
Samuels, Korneisha S., 23, Hope, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines; guilty of defective headlights, fined \$225; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260
Talley, Barry K., 41, De Queen, \$235 BF, violation of state park rules of use
Thomas, Jonathan E., 55, Nashville, \$360 BF, no proof of liability insurance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260
White, Precious Emani, 27, Texarkana, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$345 balance
Young, Jody Allen, 49, Nashville, \$265 BF, speeding

City of Nashville
Allen, Mercedes Nicole, 28, Texarkana, Texas, guilty of third-degree battery, fined \$675
Bell, Lyrika D., 27, Stamps, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Coburn, Savion, 26, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of non-payment of fines; \$2,280 balance
Cowling, Jarod R., 32, De Queen, guilty of leaving scene of accident, fined \$360
Hall, Danyelle Shunnece, 26, Dierks, \$210 BF, failure to yield
Hicks, Shareese, 30, Texarkana, Texas, \$285 BF, disorderly conduct
Hill, Madison M., 25, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$212 balance
Hill, Malachi J., 19, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$125
Mays, Elvin, 47, Nashville, guilty of non-payment to fines, committed to jail-suspended conditions; \$3,366 balance
Melson, Waylon L., 43, Delight, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months
Miranda, Sabrina J., 38, Mineral Springs, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,485 balance
Parker, David A., 48,

Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$1,065 balance
Parks, Brandon K., 32, Murfreesboro, guilty of no motorcade endorsement, fined \$200
Pryor, Dariyona Rachelle, 20, Nashville, guilty of no driver’s license/expired license, fined \$210; guilty of no seat belt, fined \$85
Ramirez Samano, Ismael, 59, De Queen, \$160 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Rivas, Walter, 16, Nashville, guilty of driving under influence, fined \$435, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course
Stone, Tracy M., 64, Blevins, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$420 balance
Wiley, Warren M., 46, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460
City of Dierks
Briggs, Andrea, 45, Dierks, guilty of cruelty to animals, fined \$475 and one day of community service
Hedaoo, Shreenidihi, 28, Dallas, Texas, \$265 BF, speeding

Saunders, Alexis Nicole, 31, Jeffersonville, Ind., guilty of speeding, fined \$255
Vasquez, Ana Patricia, 22, De Queen, \$310 BF, driving on restricted license
City of Mineral Springs
Edwards, Shelby K., 25, Ashdown, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Dean, Michael W., 58, Lockesburg, \$235 BF, free float violation

Bench Trials
Howard County
Chambers, Robert L., 62, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$1,809 balance
Page, Braxton, 19, Mena, guilty of violation of state park rules and use, fined \$235
Shuffit, Tyler Scott, 29, Nashville, guilty of violation of ignition/interlock device, fined \$460
City of Nashville
Jones, Shameeka, 30, Nashville, guilty of disorderly conduct, fined \$285
Strong, Tina, 59, Nashville, guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$110

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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: <u>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:</u> <u>(1) Development and diversification of the economy of the State of Arkansas;</u> <u>(2) The elimination and prevention of unemployment or underemployment in the State of Arkansas;</u> <u>(3) The development or expansion of transportation or commerce in the State of Arkansas; or</u> <u>(4) The development or improvement of real estate in the State of Arkansas that contributes to economic development within the State of Arkansas.</u> <u>(b) The authority under subsection (a) of this section includes without limitation providing for the creation of economic development districts.</u> <u>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.</u> <u>(b) The bonds under subsection (a) of this section:</u> <u>(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;</u> <u>(2) Shall not be considered in calculating debt limits for bonds issued under Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 4; and</u> <u>(3) Shall not be subject to the provisions of:</u> <u>(A) Arkansas Constitution,</u>	<u>Article 16, § 1:</u> <u>(B) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 62; or</u> <u>(C) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 65.</u> <u>SECTION 3. Implementation. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the implementation of this amendment.</u> <u>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.</u> <u>(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.</u> <u>(b) However, a county, city, town, or other municipal corporation may obtain or appropriate money for a corporation, association, institution, or individual to:</u> <u>(1) Finance economic development projects; or</u> <u>(2) Provide economic development services; or</u> <u>(3) Provide funding or lend credit to an economic development district.</u> <u>(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.</u> <u>(+)(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:</u> <u>(A) Manufacturing, production, and industrial facilities;</u> <u>(B) Research, technology, and development facilities;</u> <u>(C) Recycling facilities;</u> <u>(D) Distribution centers;</u> <u>(E) Call centers;</u> <u>(F) Warehouse facilities;</u> <u>(G) Job training facilities;</u> <u>(H) Regional or national corporate headquarters facilities; and</u> <u>(I) Sports complexes designed to host local, state, regional, and national competitions, including without limitation</u>	baseball, softball, and other sports tournaments; and <u>(J) An economic development district as authorized by the General Assembly and designated as part of an economic development plan;</u> <u>(2)(3) “Economic development services” means:</u> <u>(A) Planning, marketing, and strategic advice and counsel regarding job recruitment, job development, job retention, and job expansion;</u> <u>(B) Supervision and operation of industrial parks or other such properties; and</u> <u>(C) Negotiation of contracts for the sale or lease of industrial parks or other such properties; and</u> <u>(3)(4) “Infrastructure” means:</u> <u>(A) Land acquisition;</u> <u>(B) Site preparation;</u> <u>(C) Road and highway improvements;</u> <u>(D) Rail spur, railroad, and railroad construction;</u> <u>(E) Water service;</u> <u>(F) Wastewater treatment;</u> <u>(G) Employee training which may include equipment for such purpose; and</u> <u>(H) Environmental mitigation or reclamation.</u> <u>(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.</u> <u>SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Article 16, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Property taxed according to value — Procedures for valuation — Tax exemptions.</u> <u>(a) All real and tangible personal property subject to taxation shall be taxed according to its value, that value to be ascertained in such manner as the General Assembly shall direct, making the same equal and uniform throughout the State. No one species of property for which a tax may be collected shall be taxed higher than another species of property of equal value, except as provided and authorized in Section 15 of this Article, and except as authorized in Section 14 of this Article. The General Assembly, upon the approval thereof by a vote of not less than three-fourths (¾ths) of the members elected to each house, may establish the methods and procedures for valuation of property for</u>	taxation purposes, but may not alter the method of valuation set forth in Section 15 of this Article. <u>(b)(1) The following property shall be exempt from taxation: public property used exclusively for public purposes; churches used as such; cemeteries used exclusively as such; school buildings and apparatus; libraries and grounds used exclusively for school purposes; and buildings and grounds and materials used exclusively for public charity.</u> <u>(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.</u> <u>(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.</u> <u>(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.</u> <u>SECTION 6. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 62, § 6, is amended to read as follows: § 6. Conduct of elections.</u> <u>(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.</u> <u>(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</u>	<u>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.</u> <u>(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.</u> <u>SECTION 7. Repealer — Construction.</u> <u>(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.</u> <u>(b) This amendment supersedes all previous constitutional provisions, amendments, laws, or judicial interpretations that conflict with this amendment’s terms.</u> <u>(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.</u> <u>SECTION 8. Severability.</u> <u>The provisions of this amendment are severable, and if any provision of this amendment should be held invalid, the remainder shall stand.</u> <u>SECTION 9. Effective date.</u> <u>This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be effective on and after January 1, 2027.</u> 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.
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STATE OF ARKANSAS

Heart&Home

Simple Food Safety Tips for Summer Celebrations

By Abby Gray
Howard County Extension Agent
Family Consumer Science

As families across the United States prepare for backyard barbecues, picnics, and fireworks this Fourth of July, food safety experts are reminding Americans that preventing foodborne illness is just as important as firing up the grill. With warm temperatures creating ideal conditions for bacteria growth, simple precautions can make the difference between a festive celebration or a holiday spoiled by illness.

Four Core Steps for Food Safety

At the heart of Fourth of July food safety guidance are four basic principles: **clean, separate, cook, and chill**. These steps help reduce the risk of harmful bacteria like *Salmonella* and *E. coli*, which thrive in improperly handled food.

Experts warn that one of the most critical factors is temperature. Bacteria multiply rapidly in the “danger zone,” between **40°F and 140°F**, making proper handling essential during hot summer celebrations.

Handwashing is a key defense. Officials recommend thoroughly washing hands before and after handling raw meat, poultry, or seafood to help control the spread of bacteria.

Keep It Clean and Avoid Cross-Contamination

Maintaining cleanliness throughout food preparation is essential. This includes washing hands, utensils, and surfaces frequently, especially when working with raw foods.

Separating raw meats from ready-to-eat foods also reduces risk. In coolers or prep areas, raw meat juices can contaminate fruits, vegetables, and cooked items if

they come into contact.

Even on the grill, safety matters. Using clean plates and utensils prevents cooked food from becoming re-contaminated by bacteria from raw meat.

Grilling Safely: Temperature Matters

Cooking food to the correct internal temperature is one of the most effective ways to prevent foodborne illness. Experts caution that color alone is not a reliable indicator of doneness—using a food thermometer ensures accuracy.

Recommended internal temperatures include:

- 145°F** for whole cuts of beef, pork, lamb, and fish
- 160°F** for ground meats
- 165°F** for poultry and pre-cooked meats such as hot dogs

Cleaning the grill before use is also recommended, as preheating and scrubbing grates helps remove residue from past cooking sessions.

Keep Food Cold in the Summer Heat

Hot summer weather makes it more difficult to keep food safe, especially during outdoor events. Experts suggest using separate coolers for beverages and food since drink coolers are opened more often and may not stay as cold.

Coolers should be stored in shaded areas and kept below 40°F whenever possible. Timing is equally important.

Leftovers should be refrigerated within **two hours**, or within **one hour if temperatures exceed 90°F**, to prevent bacterial growth.

Small Steps, Big Impact

Food safety officials emphasize that these simple precautions—from washing hands to properly storing leftovers—can significantly reduce the risk of illness during July Fourth celebrations.

With millions of Ameri-

cans gathering outdoors, taking these steps helps ensure the holiday remains both fun and safe.

Featured Recipe: Corn on the Cob with Chili Lime Butter

Looking for a simple, flavorful addition to your Fourth of July menu? This easy corn recipe pairs well with any cookout. By combining safe food handling practices with delicious seasonal recipes, families can enjoy a healthy and memorable Fourth of July celebration.

Prep Time: 40 minutes
Cook Time: 10 minutes
Servings: 4
Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons salted, light margarine
- 1 teaspoon grated lime peel
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 1 teaspoon chili seasoning
- 4 ears of yellow corn-on-the-cob (fresh, in husk)

Directions

In a small bowl, mix margarine, lime peel, lime juice, and chili seasoning until combined.

Cover and let stand for at least 30 minutes.

Remove outer husks, leaving inner leaves. Remove silk, rinse in cold water, and place corn in a plastic bag (leave slightly open). Microwave on high for 6 minutes, then turn and cook for another 4 minutes.

Carefully remove, cool briefly, and peel remaining husk and silk.

Serve hot with about 1 teaspoon of chili lime butter per ear.

Nutrition (per serving)
Calories: 148
Protein: 5g
Carbohydrates: 27g
Fiber: 4g
Fat: 4.4g

Howard County’s Sales and Use Tax Distribution for May 2026

RECEIPTS	HOWARD CO.
Deposit	\$619,349.14
State service charge.....	18,580.47
Interest earned	1,534.45
Vending decals	8.51
Amount distributed	\$602,311.63



HOWARD COUNTY DISTRIBUTION

Dierks City Treasurer #1	\$15,692.18
Dierks City Treasurer #2.....	3,923.04
Mineral Springs City Treasurer #1	18,587.35
Mineral Springs City Treasurer #2	4,646.34
Nashville City Treasurer #1	71,145.86
Nashville City Treasurer #2	17,786.47
Tollette City Treasurer #1.....	3,169.28
Tollette City Treasurer #2.....	792.32
Howard County (Jail)	54,755.60
Cossatot Community College UofA	54,755.60
Howard County Road	77,299.40
Howard County Landfill	33,128.32
Howard County General fund	27,606.93
Howard Memorial Hospital	11,042.77
Economic Development.....	11,042.77
Total Distributed	\$602,311.63

SOURCE: Howard County DeputyTreasurer Taylor Stone

Operation hours adjusted for historical society

Due to AARP staffing assignment changes, the Howard County Historical Society / 1912 E.A. Williams Chapel & Museum will be adjusting its hours of operation.

On Monday-Friday, the museums will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

City of Murfreesboro, Pike County offices closing Friday for holiday

The City of Murfreesboro will be closed on Friday, July 3 for the annual Independence Day holiday.

As such, Thursday and Friday’s normal sanitation route will be collected Thursday, July 2.

The Pike County Courthouse and associated satellite offices will also be closed on Friday, July 3 for the holiday, but will impact no sanitation collection for the week.



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We wish our customers and neighbors a Happy & safe 4th of July.

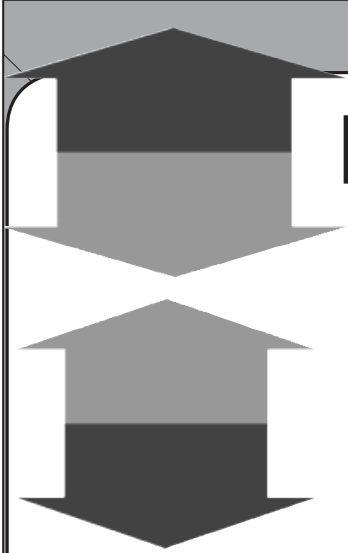


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Nashville's City Sales and Use Tax For May 2026

Deposits.....	\$140,845.73
State Service Charge	4,225.37
Interest Earned (Act 513 of 1983)	348.95
Vending Decals Sold	1.94
Total Distributed	\$136,971.25

SOURCE: City Finance Officer Kimberly Green

MS man back in Pike County jail after missing jury trial

A Howard County man is back in the Pike County jail this week after he missed his jury trial last week.

Timothy Leon Spencer, 37, of Mineral Springs, was due in court the morning of Thursday, June 25 to face a jury trial on charges of residential burglary, theft of property and possession of a firearm by a certain person. He failed to show up at the appointed time and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest and his bondsman contacted. Spencer was arrested on June 26 and is now in jail awaiting a Nov. 30 pretrial date with no bond.

Spencer was charged in July 2025 involving a break-in at a Murfreesboro home.

According to case information, the Murfreesboro Police Department was dispatched to a home on Worrell Street the night of July 15. The responding officer found the homeowner with her juvenile son and Spencer standing under the carport.

The homeowner told the officer when she arrived at the home they allegedly found a truck parked under their carport. Thinking the vehicle belonged to a visiting friend, the son went inside to tell the truck owner to move so his mother could park in the carport. The son reportedly found Spencer in the kitchen “holding a black handgun in his hand by the barrel,” according to case information. Spencer is said to have dropped the handgun and claimed he was in the wrong house.

The mother stated the gun belonged in the home and it was apparent Spencer had taken off his shoes in the master bedroom and was actually wearing the mother’s shoes at the time of the encounter. Spencer is also accused of eating and drinking from the refrigerator.

The felony firearm charge against Spencer is due to his status as a convicted felon with a history of multiple felony offenses.

Sentences handed down

On Monday, June 29 in Pike County Circuit Court, Kartez Rysheem Smith, 36, a former resident of Murfreesboro with a Miller County address, pleaded “true” to violating the terms of his parole. He was sentenced to a total of six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC).

On Monday, June 22, Joseph Dutch Forga, 42, of Glenwood, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault on a family or household member. He was sentenced to six years in the ADC with three years suspended. Forga was also ordered to attend six months in an in-patient rehabilitation center.

Shane Williams, 21, of Glenwood, pleaded guilty Monday to a felony charge of fleeing. He was sentenced to six years of probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs.

Shane McElroy, 35, of Okolona, pleaded guilty tampering with physical evidence and possession of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to five years probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs.



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Thursday - 8 a.m.
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Saturday (Esp.) - 6:30 p.m.

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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

QUEEN ESTHER HAS LEARNED OF THE DECREE, INSTIGATED BY HAMAN, CONDEMNING ALL THE JEWS IN PERSIA TO DEATH! NO ONE KNOWS THAT ESTHER HERSELF IS A NIECE OF MORDECAI, THE JEW, AND NOW...

GO, HATACH! LEARN ALL ABOUT THIS TRAGIC THING FROM MORDECAI—SO WE CAN PLAN TO STOP IT!

...HAVING GOTTEN ALL THE DETAILS FROM MORDECAI, ESTHER BEGINS A COUNTERPLOT

I MUST GET TO SEE THE KING, HIMSELF!

GO! TELL MORDECAI TO GATHER ALL THE JEWS IN PRAYER AND FASTING—FOR I GO TO THE KING, UNBIDDEN, AT THE RISK OF DEATH!

IT IS THE LAW THAT A PERSON MAY ONLY GO BEFORE THE KING IF THE KING SENDS FOR HIM—TO PRESENT ONESELF TO THE KING, UNBIDDEN, IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH AND CAN ONLY BE AVERTED IF THE KING POINTS HIS GOLDEN SCEPTRE AT THE PERSON, THUS ACCEPTING HIS PRESENCE—SO EVEN ESTHER, QUEEN, THOUGH SHE BE, IS RISKING HER LIFE BY THIS LAWBREAKING ACT!

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Rev. Kevin Sartin

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Worship 11:00 a.m. • Youth 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening service 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Charles Green, Pastor



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870-845-3030
nashvillefumc.org

Pastor: Pam Estes
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Worship 10:50 a.m.

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Wednesday WOW 6:00 p.m.
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Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.

M'boro council approves sewer rate increase

The Murfreesboro City Council voted last week during a special meeting to increase the city's sewer rates.

The new sewer rates, which do not affect water rates, will start being charged this week (July 1) with additional increases scheduled into 2027.

The residential base rate will increase from \$13.25 to \$15.55 in 2026 then from \$15.55 to \$16 in 2027. Usage per 1,000 gallons will increase from \$5.30 to \$8.10 in 2026 then from \$8.10 to \$8.36 in 2027, as detailed in Ordinance No. 2026-2 approved by the council.

The ordinance included an emergency clause to put the rates in place by July 1 after a mix-up involving the submission of a rate study conducted by Crist Engineering.

Water Commission Jack Bennett explained that a 2023 rate study done by the company was not registered with the state for some unknown reason. A new rate was then presented around June 1 that showed a need for an increase in the sewer rate with the water rate currently remaining in line with projections.

Bennett said the study shows that there will be no more increases on the sewer rates until 2031. "But, let me put an asterisk on that: We are facing some major repairs to the water department," he added, "and when I say major, we're looking at a preliminary estimate of \$650,000."

The repairs will include changing out the sand and gravel mixture content that filters the water and the possible replacement of the tile that lines the holding structure.

Bennett said the waterworks department will likely have to secure a loan for the repairs and a rate review will also need to be conducted.

An inspection at the water plant is expected to happen toward the end of 2026 or the start of 2027 to determine the extent of the needed repairs.

Two area fatal accidents reported by state police

A Lockesburg man was killed the night of June 25 in an all-terrain vehicle wreck in Sevier County, according to the Arkansas State Police.

The victim was identified as Mark Edward Bradshaw, 54.

The state police reported Bradshaw was driving west-bound on Old Dierks Highway when he lost control of his 2021 Polaris RZR and overturned. The accident

was reported at 10:54 p.m.

Conditions were reported as clear and dry at the time of the accident.

On June 23, Beverly Redden, 54, of Ashdown, died after she stopped her 1995 Chevrolet van on a Little River County railroad crossing and was struck by a train. The accident happened at 3:45 a.m. on Highway 108 in the city limits of Ashdown.



OUTLAWS ATTEND TEAM CAMP. The Dierks senior high (above) and junior high Outlaw football teams recently attended a team camp at Waldron, under the direction of new Outlaw head coach Lantz Castleman.



Happy Independence Day

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A Day at the Beach

Cowabunga!

The beach is a cool place to have fun with your family. Read the clues to fill in these beach puzzles!

Head for the beach, excited and happy:

1. carry your share of stuff to the spot you choose on the _____
2. set up blanket, chairs and _____
3. blow up the beach _____
4. check out where the _____ are stationed
5. bob in the _____ and surf on your board
6. unpack _____ from the cooler and share
7. feed bread crusts to the _____
8. put on more sun lotion and drink _____
9. throw and _____ the beach ball
10. read a chapter of your new _____
11. walk on the _____ to visit people fishing
12. watch the _____ and ships sail by
13. shovel _____; dig moat around sand castle
14. walk along shore to find cool _____
15. gather all your stuff and carry out your _____

Head for home, exhausted and happy!

Get ready for the beach:

1. fold the beach _____
2. pack a lunch into a _____
3. rub on _____
4. gather folding _____
5. wear flip-flops to protect _____
6. grab beach _____ for drying off
7. find a _____ with a brim
8. grab fun beach _____
9. pour cold water into _____
10. put on _____ to shade eyes

Hunting for Treasure

Treasure hunt! Comb the beach for the 5 treasures below. Start at the shovel and finish at the pail.

Sand Sculpture Contest!

Did you know that there are people who are pros at building sand sculptures? Some are artists or architects who travel to different countries to enter championships or to bring fun and wonder to special events. Fill in the spaces below with the vowels to see what things are needed at a contest or festival:

1. s _ _ nd
2. w _ _ t _ r
3. sh _ _ v _ ls
4. good w _ _ th _ _ r
5. lots of p _ _ pl _ _ watching
6. pr _ _ z _ s

Ugh! You'd think being a crab would make me better at this!

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Arkansas Game Wardens at work on the water

Arkansas game wardens ramping up to keep boaters safe during America250

By Randy Zellers
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

The coming Independence Day holiday weekend is shaping up to be one of the biggest boating celebrations of the decade. This year, tens of thousands of anglers, waterskiers, kayakers and pleasure boaters will converge on Arkansas water to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Second Continental Congress’s formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is asking everyone to enjoy their holiday weekend but to boat responsibly and avoid situations that could ruin the celebration — namely, boating under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.

According to Sgt. Sydney Grant, AGFC Boating Law Administrator, Arkansas game wardens will conduct their annual Operation Dry Water campaign July 3-5 to increase safety on Arkansas

water and reduce boating accidents that result from boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

“Operation Dry Water is an annual program where boating enforcement agencies across the country increase water patrols during the Independence Day holiday, the heaviest boating traffic weekend of the year,” Grant said. “We always patrol and keep a watchful eye out for intoxicated boaters, but with the holiday landing on a Saturday and many people receiving the day off on Friday, the extended weekend will likely bring many more people to the water. Add in the celebrations for America’s 250th birthday, and I expect that total to be even larger.”

Boating while intoxicated can be even more dangerous than driving a car while intoxicated, as most boaters have less experience operating a boat. Boats also don’t have brakes and are slower

to maneuver than cars. These slower reaction times to a sudden danger can be the difference between life and death.

Grant adds that the effects of alcohol are magnified by the conditions that boating creates.

“Sun, heat, wind and wave action all intensify alcohol’s impact,” Grant said. “A person who normally wouldn’t feel much effect of one or two beers in an air-conditioned home may find themselves impaired by the same amount of alcohol on the water.”

Even passengers should pay attention to their consumption levels.

“Drinking too much can lead to a dangerous situation or poor decisions for anyone,” Grant said. “We’ve also caught many people who enjoyed a day on the water, but then got in a car for the ride home, still under

the effect of alcohol. Practicing a little restraint during your boating day helps us make both the roadways and waterways of the state safer during this big family holiday.”

Grant emphasizes that Operation Dry Water isn’t a competition or initiative to see how many tickets wardens can issue; in fact, it’s much the opposite.

“If we didn’t have to give a single ticket this weekend for intoxicated boating, I think every game warden in Arkansas would celebrate,” Grant said. “Our job is to make sure people can enjoy the water safely and come home with great stories from their weekend. We’re not here to ruin the fun; we simply ask everyone to be responsible, avoid overindulging, and always make sure you have a sober boat operator and designated driver.”

South Pike school board works through short agenda

By PJ Tracy • Murfreesboro Diamond

The South Pike County School Board met in short session for their June 2026 meeting.

Superintendent Tanya Wilcher told the board that the carpet installation was ongoing in the office and library areas.

With the start of the school’s new fiscal year, the board approved the monthly meetings to be held on the third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

A \$150 stipend was approved for Denise Stuard as the burgeoning elementary BETA program will now be expanded to the junior high school.

The board also approved a move for the Dean of Students Cheyana Burns role to be expanded from 195 contract days to 205.

As an employee of the district, Steve Martin was allotted no more than \$2,000 as the school’s basketball referee assigner (\$825 last year) as well as a referee for some jamboree games.

The board was told of the plan to disperse land held by the district after the Pike County Tax Collector told them it would now be taxed due to its remote locations not tied to the current school campus.

The land includes two parcels in the former Bowen School District (.87 and .47 acres) off Bowen Road. There is also an acre of land off Highway 26 in the former Brocktown School District. That land is bordered by Potlach and Weyerhaeuser properties.

The school plans to sell the land for fair market value, and Wilcher said she will investigate the legal processes.

“It may be as easy as a bid process,” she told the board. She described the land as “unused vacant timber scrub” that is not attached to any other district holdings.

While the taxes on the land would be nominal -- \$20.38 a year -- Wilcher said there was no real point in owning the land for owning’s sake as it offered the school no value.

The board voted to rescind the contract offer approved in May to Drake Staggs as an assistant football and baseball coach for the 2026-2027 school year. Wilcher told the board he ended up accepting a job outside Dallas at a salary our district couldn’t match.

After further interviews, the board accepted Wilcher’s recommendation of hiring Aaron Carter from Manila as the school’s new assistant football and baseball coach. Carter has worked in eastern Arkansas for much of his coaching career.

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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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CELEBRATING AMERICA

On July Fourth, we celebrate the birthday of the United States of America, and all the great things our nation represents. We're proud of our country and the values it upholds, and we gratefully salute the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who fight to defend America and her ideals. God bless the U.S.A.

Wishing you a safe and Happy Independence Day!

Howard County Sheriff Bryan McJunkins

Happy Independence Day!

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ISSUE NO. 4

Ballot Title

Ballot Question

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.

Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities Financing Act of 2025.

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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250th

Birthday

at

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN DAVID COMPTON, DECEASED NO. 31PR-25-68

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATRIX AND FILING OF CLAIMS

Last known address of decedent: John David Compton
Date of death: August 19, 2025
The undersigned, Julia McCorkle Williams, was appointed administratrix of the estate of the above-named decedent on the 12th day of June, 2026.
All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.
This notice first published this 24th day of June, 2026.

Julia McCorkle Williams, Administratrix
BY: Victor Martin, ABN 2018116
Attorney at Law
420 N. Main, Suite One
P. O. Box 922
Nashville, AR 71852
(870) 845-5256 phone
(870) 845-5899 fax

(VM: 1, 2)

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VIN#1GKEC13V96R109756
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(BD: 2)

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 13, 2026, at or about 01:30 PM, the following real property will be sold at the Main Entrance of the Howard County Courthouse, 421 N. Main St., Nashville, AR 71852 to the highest bidder for cash:

Part of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 24, Township 9 South, Range 27 West, described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of said SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 24, Township 9 South, Range 27 West; thence South 510 feet; thence west 150 feet; thence North 510 feet; thence East 150 feet to the point of beginning.

More commonly known as: 1513 TINSDALE ST, NASHVILLE, AR 71852

On March 31, 2006, ESTATE OF JOHN DAVID COMPTON executed a Mortgage in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”), as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc, its successors and assigns, as Beneficiary, which was recorded March 31, 2006, in Book 2006, at Page 2609 in the real estate records of Howard County, Arkansas. Default has occurred in the payment of said indebtedness, and is now wholly due. The loan is now in default.

Tenants of the property may claim an interest in the real property herein.

The terms of the call are certified funds paid at the conclusion of the sale or wiring of funds within twenty-four hours of the sale. All transfer taxes will be the responsibility of the purchaser. The party initiating this action is Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., 3217 S. Decker Lake Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84119, 800-258-8602.

May 11, 2026
Date

Chase Taskerud
Managing Attorney, Arkansas
Marinosci Law Group, P.C. as Attorney in Fact for U.S. Bank NA, successor trustee to Bank of America, NA, successor in interest to LaSalle Bank NA, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Washington Mutual Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, WMALT Series 2006-5 Trust

LEGAL PRECEDENT IS NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER THE SENDING OF THIS LETTER MAKES US A DEBT COLLECTOR. TO THE EXTENT IT DOES, PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE IN BANKRUPTCY OR HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED IN BANKRUPTCY, THIS LETTER IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT OR AS AN ACT TO COLLECT, ASSESS, OR RECOVER ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY.

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MILITARY SERVICE OR HAVE BEEN IN THE MILITARY SERVICE WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, AND YOU ENTERED THE SERVICE AFTER SIGNING THE PROMISSORY NOTE AND DEED OF TRUST, PLEASE NOTIFY THIS FIRM IMMEDIATELY AS YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO RELIEF UNDER THE SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT. WHEN CONTACTING THIS FIRM ABOUT YOUR MILITARY SERVICE, YOU MUST PROVIDE THIS FIRM WITH EVIDENCE OF YOUR MILITARY STATUS. IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE SUCH EVIDENCE, WE WILL ASSUME THAT YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED TO PROTECTION UNDER THIS ACT.
(PNA: 52 - 3)

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND INTENTION TO SELL

YOU MAY LOSE YOUR PROPERTY IF YOU DO NOT TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 30, 2026, at or about 01:00 PM, the subject real property described herein below will be sold at the main entrance to the Howard County Courthouse, 421 North Main Street, Nashville, AR 71852 to the highest bidder for cash. The sale will extinguish all interests, including those of existing lien holders or previous owners in the property. THE TERMS OF SALE ARE CASH THE DAY OF SALE AND ALL TRANSFER TAXES WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PURCHASER.

WHEREAS, the property secured under the Mortgage is located in Howard County, Arkansas more particularly described as follows:

The following land lying in Howard County, Arkansas, to-wit: Part of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 22, Township 10 South, Range 28 West, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 22, and run East 198 feet, Thence South 660 feet or to the right of-way of Highway No. 27, Thence following said right-of-way in a westerly direction 198 feet. Thence North 660 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. This being the same property conveyed to Christine L. Whitmarsh, dated 06/03/1991 and recorded on 06/06/199 in Book 277, Page 147, in the Howard County Recorder's Office, Parcel No. 001-04485-0000

Street Address: 1678 Highway 27 South, Mineral Springs, AR 71851

WHEREAS on February 27, 2025, Christine L. Whitmarsh, Unmarried Women executed a Mortgage in favor of Regions Bank, which was recorded on March 20, 2025 as Instrument Number R2025-00434, in the real estate records of Howard County, Arkansas. The party initiating foreclosure is Regions Bank and can be contacted at or in care of its servicer initiating foreclosure at: Regions Bank dba Regions Mortgage, 1900 Fifth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203, at Telephone Number 1-800-748-9498; and

WHEREAS, there may be tenants that claim an interest in the real property herein based upon said tenancy; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned is the attorney for the mortgagee and is acting on and with the consent and authority of the mortgagee who is exercising its power of sale under Ark. Code Ann. §18-50-115 which implies a power of sale in every mortgage of real property situated in this state that is duly acknowledged and recorded; and default has occurred in the payment of said indebtedness, and the same is now therefore wholly due; and the holder of the debt has requested the undersigned to sell the property to satisfy said indebtedness.

The undersigned is an active, licensed member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the State of Arkansas, and the law firm of the undersigned maintains an office at 415 N. McKinley St., Suite 1177, Little Rock, AR 72205 that is located within the State of Arkansas, is accessible to the public during regular business hours, and has the ability to accept funds from a grantor, mortgagor, or obligor to reinstate or pay off a mortgage or deed of trust.

WITNESS my hand this May 20th, 2026.

TIMOTHY D. PADGETT, P.A.
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE FOR REGIONS BANK
Renee Price
Timothy D. Padgett, P.A.
415 North McKinley
Ste 1177
Little Rock, AR 72205
(850) 422-2520
26-006815
(PNA: 2 - 5)

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Pike County’s ‘wet’ quest under Aug. 1 deadline

With Aug. 1 as the deadline to turn in petitions to the Pike County Clerk, the Vote Pike County Wet Committee (VPCWC) is asking for help from all the county registered voters in effort to achieve a ballot spot on this November’s election.

The group currently has 600 petitions and must collect around 1,800 more in the remaining time. A hot dog benefit was held last weekend in Murfreesboro and collected around 30 petitions.

By signing a petition, it will permit the issue to go to a ballot referendum for the voters to approve or disapprove of alcohol sales in Pike County, the group must collect the signatures of 38% of the county’s registered voters -- 2,291 to be exact -- to clear the legal hurdle for countywide consideration. The group currently sits at about 26% of their goal.

“If you have ever wanted to do even a small part to help Pike County grow, there is simply no easier way than to sign one petition,” said Lisa Harvill.

Local businessman Jack Bonds said the math is simple.

“If 1,000 Pike County residents purchase an average of \$20 worth of alcohol a week, that is over one million dollars in taxable expenditures over the course of a year. If Pike County can draw the same revenue from Montgomery and Howard Counties, then it is three million dollars a year of taxable expenditures ... and that’s not including what we would get from tourists visiting our area. The county and municipalities can certainly use that extra boost.”

Ultimately, Bonds said it is up to the people to make this happen or not.

“This is your moment to make a difference in sales, taxation, revenue and job

opportunities, and all it requires today is your signature. This is it, and by August 1 it will be gone. We’re working toward big things for the county from a tourism standpoint. Bottom line, if you don’t sign a petition and we fall one short, you can’t complain in the future. Alcohol is part of tourism infrastructure across the nation, and it is the single best thing we can do to affect that industry here. All future growth of the county is tied to it.”

“Since the last election, four years ago, we have had a continued population decrease. We have attempted change this with building the grocery store and continued growth with community leaders. The whole point of it is that this decline in population reflects in our communities through businesses, schools and churches. We must take steps to grow ... people tell me all the time that they like Murfreesboro the way it is, but it’s not the way it is -- we are diminishing and going away. I want to see Murfreesboro back to 1,700-1,800 people the way it was when I moved here -- that’s the way it was. The election allowing alcohol sales in the county is not just a monetary decision, but a decision for community growth.”

And for those against the issue, Bonds said simply that “if you can show me a better way, I’ll hold the flag with you ... but all we have is tourism, and it’s hard to have expanded tourism numbers without alcohol.”

For more information on the group, visit Facebook page 2026 VOTE PIKE COUNTY WET.

For more information or questions on the effort, call Lisa Harvill at (870) 557-1860.

Those interested in signing a petition can visit:

Chimney Rock Grocery, Murfreesboro
Harvill Insurance, Murfreesboro
Gypsy Underground Flea Market, Murfreesboro
OK Café, Glenwood
Tobacco Store, Glenwood
Langley Store, Langley
Residents can also look for popup “Sign The Petition” tents, or call the number above to verify the location of volunteers at locations across the county.

There will also be another public events for residents to sign a petition. On Saturday, July 4, the Gypsy Underground will host a community yard sale in their parking lot in Murfreesboro and petitions will be available.



News-Leader photo/NIKKI FIELDS

WON'T BE LONG. The turf at Dierks' Ayers Field in The Holler is expected to be installed in the coming days as work continues on the \$1 million makeover Dierks High School won in the T-Mobile Friday Night Lights sweepstakes last year.

Nashville Family Dentistry

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Glenn Lance, D.D.S., Cynthia Lance, Lauren Zylke, Brittany Hooper, Cassi Mounts and Betty Rojas-Barton

We are celebrating America's 250th Birthday and would like to invite everyone to Nashville's Stand Up America Saturday, July 4th.

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