

**Nashville
Back-to-School
preview,
pages 1B-4B**

Open house set July 30 for schools in Nashville

Classes in Nashville will begin Monday, Aug. 3.

Town hall meeting set Aug. 1 in Tollette

The meeting will be sponsored by the Howard County Democratic Committee.

Weekend benefits planned at church

On Sunday, Aug. 2, at 3 p.m. there will be a service with music and fellowship.

Inside the News-Leader
Obituaries, 2A
Early Files, 3A
Opinion, 4A
Sports, 10A
Trends, B
Classifieds, 7B



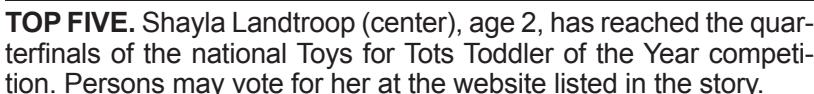
Nashville Primary ready for first day

Our teachers have already begun professional learning on the new curriculum and will continue receiving training and support throughout the year. While implementing a new curriculum always comes with a learning curve, it also brings new opportunities to strengthen instruction. We are excited about this change and are confident our students will continue to grow and build on the positive progress we've seen over

Our enrichment groups provide opportunities for students to

County girl in contention for Toddler of Year

Individuals may vote daily.
Shayla led the quarterfinals Monday afternoon, July 27. Voting for semifinalists will end Aug. 6.



All over Nashville School District, **'Stars Stand Out'**

He points to the district's success from 2025-26 and wants to carry that momentum into the new year.

See **Stars** • Page 5A



Clean audits received by Nashville

See City • Page 5A

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Hidden danger of too-cautious investing

By Josh Tice
Edward Jones Investments

One of the most significant risks investors face isn't losing money in a market dip; it's failing to reach their long-term financial goals.

Many people focus heavily on short-term losses in the stock market and try to protect their savings by investing conservatively or avoiding stocks altogether. But that runs the risk that their savings won't grow enough to keep up with inflation or support future needs.

Understanding what investment risk really means helps you make smarter financial decisions, considering these three key aspects.

Risk tolerance describes your emotional comfort with risk. If you'd want to pull your money out of the market during a downturn, that reveals something about your tolerance. Many financial advisors use questionnaires to help clients understand how they might react in different market conditions.

Risk capacity refers to how much risk you can afford to take. Your timeline matters. A 35-year-old saving for retirement has decades to ride out market swings. A retiree drawing income from their portfolio doesn't have that same cushion.

Required risk describes how much risk you may need to take to reach your financial goals. Higher returns generally come with higher risk, though higher risk does not guarantee higher returns. If you need strong growth to retire comfortably, you may need to accept more short-term volatility.

Sometimes these elements don't line up. You might be uncomfortable with risk but need strong growth to meet your goals.

Balance and diversification matter: Finding the right balance matters more

than you might think. A small difference in your annual rate of return, from 5% to 7% for instance, doesn't just add up a little. It multiplies. That's the power of compounding — returns earning their own returns, year after year, building on an ever-growing base. Over 30 or 35 years, that can become significant.

You needn't choose between playing it so safe your money barely keeps up with inflation and taking on more risk than you're comfortable with. Instead, a balanced mix can fit your comfort level and still help grow your money over time.

The age factor: You'll want to adjust your approach to risk as you get older. If retirement is years away, your portfolio may lean toward growth investments like stocks and stock mutual funds; you have time to absorb short-term losses and benefit from long-term gains. Lower risk investments like bonds still play a role because they can help smooth out changes in your portfolio's value.

As you near retirement, your portfolio may shift toward a more even mix of stocks and bonds to limit exposure to large market swings. The goal is to protect what you've built while still generating enough growth to fund a retirement that could last decades.

Investing well isn't about eliminating risk; it's about taking the right amount of it. Too little risk can be just as damaging as too much. A financial advisor can help you find the balance that matches your comfort level, your financial situation and your long-term goals.

Investors should understand the risks involved with owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates and investors can lose some or all of their principal.

Anniversaries



60TH ANNIVERSARY. Gene and Dale Tollett, formerly of Nashville will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary at an event Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Second Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Jacksonville. The hall is located at 1117 N. James St., Jacksonville, and the celebration will be 1-3 p.m. Friends and relatives of the couple are invited.



60TH ANNIVERSARY. Martha and Leland Gautney of Nashville will mark 60 years together at a family celebration Sunday, Aug. 2, at 177 Ramsey Hill Road in Nashville. The celebration will be 2-4 p.m., and family and friends are invited.



ROTARY SPEAKER. Richard Curry, founder of Arkansas Families of Fallen Officers, talked about the work of his group and its history, at last Wednesday's meeting of the Nashville Rotary Club. The group raises funds to give financial support to families of law enforcement, fire and first responders who are killed in the line of duty. The organization began here as a motorcycle club, and they conduct benefits to raise the funds for their assistance. "We owe them that respect," he said of the fallen officers. The Rotary Club meets at noon on Wednesdays in Room 101 on the Nashville campus of UA-Cossatot.

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Office: 418 North Main, Nashville
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The Nashville News-Leader

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www.swarkansasnews.com

Gospel meeting is Aug. 2-3-4

The public is invited to a Gospel Meeting at the McCaskill Church of Christ, located at 4556 Hwy. 371 east of McCaskill.

The meeting will be from Sunday, Aug. 2 through Tuesday, Aug. 4. The Sunday meeting will begin at 10 a.m. with Sunday School; worship will be at 11 followed by a potluck meal. The afternoon service will be at 2.

Services on the Monday and Tuesday nights will be at 7. The speaker will be Robert Orren, a former youth and family minister for the Hope Church of Christ.

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THE CECIL “BIRDDOG” HARRIS MEMORIAL

EARLY FILES

Tales from Howard County’s history reprinted in honor of longtime staff historian and photographer, Cecil Harris.
September 19, 1938 - December 15, 2012

Compiled by Patsy Young



A ribbon cutting ceremony at Brentwood Melrose Apartments in Nashville. Apartment manager Denise Van Derziel in the middle, with Chamber of Commerce members Cary Lott, left and Rose Ray, 2004.

134 years ago: July 1892
It is said that 30,000 persons have accumulated to their possession one-half the wealth of this great republic. Why is this? One chief reason is that the great mass of the people make no serious effort to accumulate property. This permits the wealth of the country to merge into the hands of the few.

The *News* received this week the July number of *Tolletts*, a very useful and elegant fashion bazaar, published by the Tollett Publishing Co. of New York.

Every lady who is interested in fashion should subscribe to Tollett’s as it contains the latest Paris styles and useful information. The price is \$1.50 a year and one copy is worth every cent.

80 years ago: July 1946
It was announced here Thursday that all grocery stores in the city will resume their Thursday afternoon closing schedule as of July 30th after having abandoned the closing during the peach harvest.

There are a number of other businesses which also observe the Thursday afternoon half-day holiday each week.

The barber shops in the city continued their closing during the harvest, finding that this could be done without much inconvenience to the public.

Notice: VFW Important Meeting tonight Friday, July 26, 8:00 at the court house in Nashville. Every member be there.

64 years ago: July 1962
A free Job Match Service is being offered by the Southwest Arkansas Development council. Anyone available for domestic service, yardwork, babysitting, etc. or anyone looking for someone to fill those jobs should call 4706.

Twenty marijuana plants were harvested and destroyed Tuesday afternoon by Sevier County Sheriff David Godwin. The plants, which average five feet in height, were found near Lockesburg. Also destroyed were various plants found in other parts of the county.

44 years ago: July 1982
Doc Severinsen and his five-piece jazz fusion band, Xebro, will appear in concert Monday, September 6 at the Perot Theatre. The single performance is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

The band was formed this year. The music is composed by members of the group and a new composer, Jeff Tyzik.

Severinsen is best known as the musical director of NBC’s “Tonight Show,” a position he has held since 1967. He has been voted the “Top Brass Instrumentalist” for ten consecutive years in the Playboy Music poll.

Square dance lessons will begin at 8:00 p.m. Monday, August 30, at the Center Point Community Building. The lessons are sponsored by the Diamond Squares.

Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period July 16-22, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses
(*Marriage licenses cost \$60 at the County Clerk’s office*)
July 20. Andrew James McCain, 22, McCaskill, and Kristen Ann Hendry, 21, McCaskill.
July 20. David Wayne Norrid, 58, Mt. Ida, and Krista Ann Burton, 49, Prescott.

Civil Court
CV26-128, July 17. LVNV Funding, LLS vs. Melinda Taylor. Debt.
CV26-129, July 20. Barclay Bank vs. Colton Cason. Debt.
CV26-130, July 20. LVNV Funding, LLS vs. Kimberly Bell. Debt.

Domestic Relations Court
No new Domestic Relations cases filed since DR26-68, July 15.

Criminal Court
(NOTE: POCS = possession of controlled substance; PODP = possession of drug paraphernalia; DOCS = delivery of controlled substance.)
CR26-46, July 21. State of Arkansas vs. Kimberly Raye Bohan, 59, white female, 321 W. College, Nashville; furnishing prohibited article, class B felony; PODP, class D; POCS, misdemeanor.
CR26-47, July 21. State of Arkansas vs. Kody Lynn Box, 34, white male, 11321 Hwy. 278W, Nashville; breaking of entering, class D; theft of property, class B; theft of property, misdemeanor.
CR26-48, July 21. State of Arkansas vs. Dustin Lee Scott, 31, white male, Little Rock; theft of property, class D; criminal trespass, misdemeanor.
CR26-49, July 21. State of Arkansas vs. Willie Ray Johnson, 54, black male, Nashville; POCS, class D.

Land/Property Transactions
Mortgagee Deed
July 22. Marilyn Sepulveda, Juan Sepulveda; to FirstTrust Home Loans, Inc.; part of Lot 1, Original Town of Mineral Springs, aka 119 N. Pine St. At public auction \$45,591.80.

Beneficiary Deed
July 20. Harla Dave Beavert; to Harla Dave Beavert, Trustee of the Dave Beavert Revocable Trust; 4 tracts in S4/S12/S33/S34 T8S/T9S R28W.
July 20. Harla Dave Beavert; to Harla Dave Beavert, Trustee of the Dave Beavert Revocable Trust; 2 tracts in S11 T9S R27W.
July 21. Harla Dave Beavert; to Harla Dave Beavert, Trustee of the Dave Beavert Revocable Trust; 124.434 ac. in S36 T7S R27W.

Warranty Deed
July 17. Maria Rosa Hernandez; to Rudy Ismael Mejia; Lot 4, Block 1, Bell’s Original Addition, Town of Mineral Springs.
July 20. Dave Beavert; to 241 Chapel Hill, LLC; 2.56 ac. in S2T9S R27W.
July 20. Harla Dave Beavert; to 243 Possum Hollow, LLC; 3 ac. in S33 T8S R28W.
July 21. Ty Joseph Basiliere and wife Aubry Coleen Basiliere; to Emily Faith Basiliere; Lots 7-8, Block 33, New Nashville, Howard County. \$40,000.

Two defendants sentenced after entering guilty pleas

Two defendants entered guilty pleas and received sentences last Wednesday, July 22, during the regular day for criminal court in Howard County.

On the bench was Judge Tom Cooper.

Sentences were handed down for:

--- Meagan Hill, 31, white female, Nashville, who was pleading in two separate criminal cases.

In one case she was charged with second degree domestic battery, and in the other she was charged with possession of controlled substance.

She will return for formal sentencing on Aug. 5. The sentence is expected to be five years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC).

--- Willie Ray Johnson, 54, black male, Nashville, charged with drug possession. He was sentenced to six years of probation.

Trial dates set
Dates for pretrial motions and for potential jury trials were set for:

--- Robert Johnson, 56, black male, Mineral Springs, charged with theft of property, criminal trespass and fleeing. Motions will be heard Aug. 5.

--- Kimberly Bohan, 59, white female, Nashville, charged with furnishing prohibited articles, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of controlled substance. Motions will be heard Oct. 17.

--- James Summers-Smith, 33, white male, Delight, charged with theft of property. Motions will be heard Sept. 30.

--- Vonderek Stewart, 21, black male, Mineral Springs, charged with furnishing prohibited articles and with theft of property. Motions will be heard July 26.

--- Cody Box, 34, white male, Nashville, charged with breaking or entering, and two counts of theft of property. Motions will be heard Sept. 30.

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8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Night

6:00 p.m.

Rev. Kevin Sartin

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Music - Kidz Zone

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The City of Nashville Fire Department is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions

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Full-time Fighter/EMT or Firefighter/Paramedic and paid per call firefighter performs firefighting, emergency medical care, rescue operations, fire prevention activities, and public education. These positions respond to emergency and non-emergency incidents to protect life, property, and the environment while maintaining department equipment, facilities, and readiness. Full-time Firefighter/EMT or Firefighter/Paramedic position is a 48/96 shift. Paid per call firefighter actual hours vary, but department meetings and required training typically occur during the evening and weekends, a minimum of twice per month.

Applicants must receive firefighter and other required training within one year, be between the ages of 18 and 35, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, an Arkansas DL, live within reasonable distance from the fire station, be able to pass a written exam, a physical ability test, an oral interview, and a background check prior to hiring. You must be able to pass a physical exam by the department's physician upon hiring. Full-time position required to obtain Firefighter I & II and EMT or Paramedic license preferred but not required at time of application.

To apply applications and job descriptions may be picked up and returned at the Nashville Fire Department at 505 N Washington Street between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. each Monday through Friday.

Deadline to turn in applications is Friday, August 7th, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

City of Nashville is an Equal Opportunity Employer and has the right to refuse any or all applications.

Welcome to the

53rd Annual Pine Tree Festival

Aug. 1st

I proudly support our area’s timber industry and those who work to make it an important part of our community.

Hope everyone enjoys their weekend at the Pine Tree Festival.

DISTRICT 4

HICKEY

SENATE

Point of view

Meteor Crater

A re-visit to a place that was on my ‘Bucket List’

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and as both of you have noticed, maybe, some of my recent columns have been inspired by columns of the past.

Like last week when I wrote about that hobo, Goldie.

I’ve continued looking at -- and being inspired by -- the old columns.

Hope you don’t mind. I like to tear myself away from all the lies, vitriol and hate in today’s news and on the Internet.

Here’s a story inspired by one of my old columns. It is NOT the old column merely repeated because I was lazy or suffering from Writer’s Block.

And so:

The first time I saw Meteor Crater was when I was flying to the West Coast after spending a couple of weeks at home on ‘leave’ from the Navy.

The pilot announced that if passengers looked out the windows on the righthand side of the aircraft they could spot Meteor Crater. I was vaguely familiar with it, having read about it in newspaper and magazine articles. I was not on the right side for a good look.

So I did something several decades later after watching the Jack Nicholson-Morgan Freeman film “Bucket List.” The film was about some things two terminally-ill men wanted to do or see before they died. Great movie.

I announced to daughter Julie that Meteor Crater was on my own Bucket List. She said “You’re not getting any younger and I want to see it, too.”

We planned a trip, and included some side attractions. And we set off. Two Arkies in a pickup truck with a handful of AAA maps.

Neither of us had ever seen New Mexico or Arizona up close, and we were just flabbergasted.

Closest town to the Crater was Winslow, Ariz. We found a restaurant in a restored hotel before striking out for the attraction.

Looking back, finding The Turquoise Room Restaurant at the La Posada Hotel might have been one of the highlights of the trip.

The Crater was fabulous and most interesting. We even hiked part way around the two-mile rim. There was a very dense peachbasket-sized chunk of the fireball that survived the impact. It was found miles away and it weighed two tons.

We decided to see the UFO attractions of Roswell, NM, on our way home.

It was a great idea. I’m a skeptic about UFOs and alien abductions and Ancient Aliens, but after seeing the exhibits in Roswell I now believe there was a government cover-up.

Oh, yeah, for any readers at Mineral Springs -- we stopped for lunch at Muleshoe, Texas.

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MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don’t have film. (And some people have no idea what film is and how it relates to photos).

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ANIMAL CRACKERS IN ABUNDANCE.

Sipping coffee on my patio last week I saw a flight of birds the like of which I had never seen before.

Before you ask what was in my coffee let me tell you I have already talked to one person who also saw these birds.

In was a V-flight of about 20 blackbird-sized birds. They appeared to be totally black except for a brilliant white stripe on the wing next to the bird’s body. Any ideas?

ALSO, cicadas are cranking up shortly after 6 a.m. and again in the evening. They’ll be gone for another year soon. Maybe.

AND ANOTHER THING. There was an article in LiveScience.com about brainy animals.

What is the smartest?

The site ranked them according to the number of brain neutrons, whatever those things are.

In descending order:

Human, chimpanzee, dolphin, gorilla, elephant, horse, dog, cat, rat, possum and mouse.

There are some people who would argue with whether Fido is smarter than Fluffy, but as you know I don’t like to stir things up.

I’ve had dogs AND cats.

A dog never left a hairball on the hood of my spotless buggy.

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COMING. There are only 4 Friday the 13ths before the one in 2029. And that’s the day that Asteroid Apophis will whiz past Earth so close that some people will be able to see it with the naked eye.

The cops will be watching my driveway to see if I make another nude appearance.

I have no idea how to pronounce the asteroid’s name.

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HE SAID: “The law isn’t justice. It’s a very imperfect mechanism. If you press exactly the right buttons and are also lucky, justice may show up in the answer. A mechanism is all the law was ever intended to be.” Raymond Chandler, crime novelist

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SHE SAID: ““Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.” Mother Teresa, saint

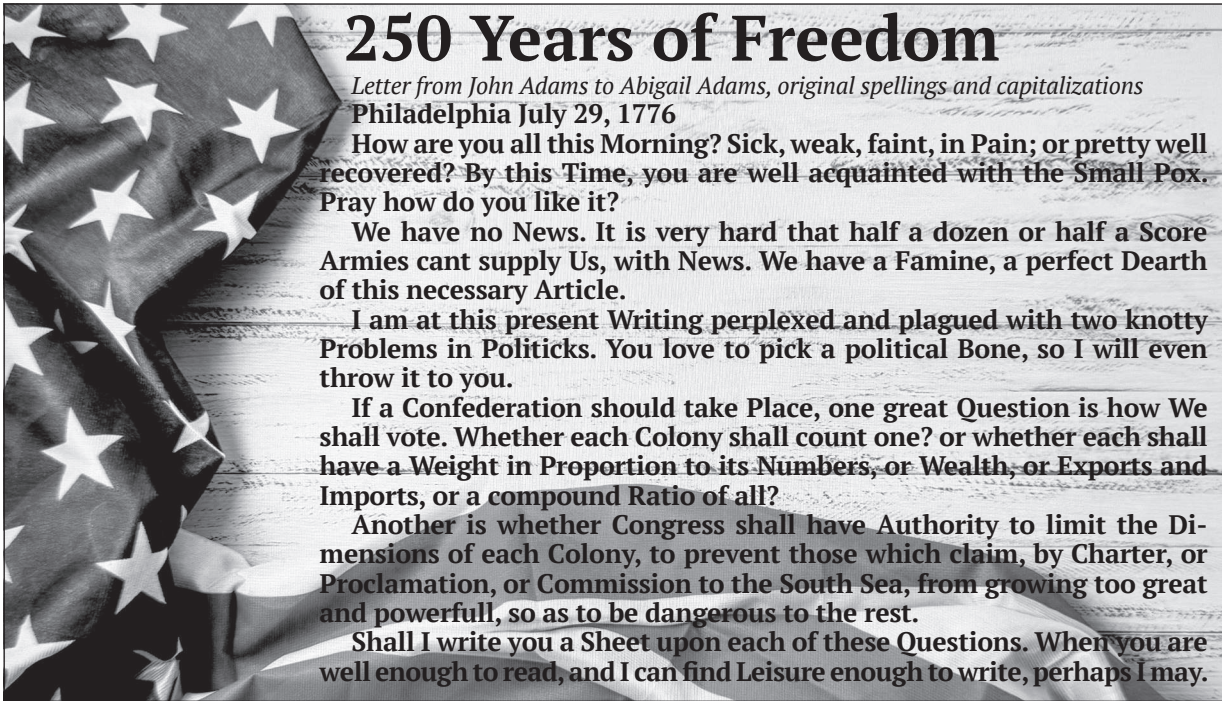
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SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Mine Creek
Revelations



By
Louie Graves



250 Years of Freedom

Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams, original spellings and capitalizations

Philadelphia July 29, 1776

How are you all this Morning? Sick, weak, faint, in Pain; or pretty well recovered? By this Time, you are well acquainted with the Small Pox. Pray how do you like it?

We have no News. It is very hard that half a dozen or half a Score Armies cant supply Us, with News. We have a Famine, a perfect Dearth of this necessary Article.

I am at this present Writing perplexed and plagued with two knotty Problems in Politicks. You love to pick a political Bone, so I will even throw it to you.

If a Confederation should take Place, one great Question is how We shall vote. Whether each Colony shall count one? or whether each shall have a Weight in Proportion to its Numbers, or Wealth, or Exports and Imports, or a compound Ratio of all?

Another is whether Congress shall have Authority to limit the Dimensions of each Colony, to prevent those which claim, by Charter, or Proclamation, or Commission to the South Sea, from growing too great and powerfull, so as to be dangerous to the rest.

Shall I write you a Sheet upon each of these Questions. When you are well enough to read, and I can find Leisure enough to write, perhaps I may.

Sales tax holiday set Aug. 1-2 as Arkansans shop for school

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey

Arkansas families preparing for the upcoming school year will once again benefit from the state’s annual sales tax holiday, scheduled as always for the first weekend in August. State lawmakers set the event in early August specifically to ease the financial burden on families with children headed back to school.

This year’s tax-free weekend begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, August 1, and runs through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 2. For the full 48 hours, both state and local sales taxes will be waived on a wide range of qualifying clothing, school supplies, and electronics.

The rules for eligible items remain familiar. Clothing and footwear priced under \$100 per item qualify for the exemption. This category includes everyday items such as shirts, pants, dresses, and shoes, but also extends to baby blankets, raincoats, uniforms, hats, aprons, neckties, scarves, and steel-toed boots. Diapers, including disposable diapers, are also tax-exempt.

Accessories costing less than \$50 per item are included as well. The list is lengthy, covering purses,

handbags, sunglasses, wallets, watches, jewelry, hair accessories, and wigs. Additionally, more than 65 types of cosmetics, such as mascara, various hair products, fingernail polish and remover, bath salts, artificial eyelashes, perfume, and stretch-mark cream, are exempt from sales tax during the holiday.

School supplies of all kinds qualify with no price limit. Families can purchase pens, pencils, paper, binders, crayons, markers, and art supplies without paying sales tax. Instructional materials used in the classroom, such as textbooks and reference books, are also eligible.

Electronics commonly used by students can be purchased tax-free regardless of cost. That includes laptops, desktops, tablets, printers, keyboards, calculators, cell phones, e-readers, and computer monitors.

However, entertainment devices, including video game systems, stereos, and televisions, are not included in the exemption.

The tax break applies to each individual article rather than to the total amount spent. For example, if a shopper buys three shirts at \$25 each and a pair of pants for

\$50, no sales tax will be charged on those items even though the total exceeds \$100. Because each individual item falls below the allowable threshold, all qualify. On the other hand, a single pair of shoes priced at \$120 would be fully taxable.

There is also no limit to the number of eligible items shoppers can buy, so long as each article meets its respective price restriction. Clothing must be under \$100 per item, accessories under \$50 per item, while electronics and school supplies have no price cap at all.

All retailers in Arkansas are required to participate in the tax-free weekend. The exemption applies to in-person purchases as well as qualifying online orders. Retailers are prohibited from splitting normally bundled items, such as men’s suits or pairs of shoes, into separate pieces in an effort to bring individual prices under the exemption threshold.

For complete definitions of eligible products and additional guidance, shoppers can consult the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration website or download the state’s Sales Tax Holiday Instructions.

Protecting natural resources vital to the future for residents

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

Arkansans understand that conserving our natural resources and growing our economy are not competing interests. Arkansas is blessed with pristine rivers, forests, farmland, lakes and abundant wildlife. These resources not only make us The Natural State, they also support the agricultural, manufacturing and tourism industries that strengthen our economy and way of life.

For generations, Arkansans have recognized that protecting these resources goes hand in hand with supporting the enterprises and communities that depend on them. To harness them, our communities need modern roads, reliable water utilities and dependable energy infrastructure.

Responsible stewardship means striving for preservation while creating opportunities for future growth. Protecting the environment and building a stronger economy should never be at odds, and I am encouraged that leaders at every level of government are working to restore this balanced approach.

The real challenge is not whether we do this, but how.

Environmental reviews and permitting serve an important purpose, but the process has become increasingly difficult to navigate. Businesses, farmers, local governments and even conservation organizations all rely on federal permits, but overlapping reviews, shifting requirements and years of uncertainty delay progress and increase costs.

This uncertainty has real consequences in Arkansas. When projects stall, taxpayers ultimately pay more and communities meet frustration instead of benefits.

Fortunately, the Trump administration has made meaningful progress on permitting reform.

Already, it has improved coordination among agencies, reduced duplicative processes and enabled timely decision-making. Earlier this year, Standard Lithium’s South West Arkansas Project completed all federal permitting through the FAST-41 Program. That benchmark demonstrates that agencies can coordinate efficiently, maintain rigorous environmental standards and provide predictability for businesses.

Another important step toward restoring common sense came with the Supreme Court’s decision in Sackett v. EPA, which clarified the scope of federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. It has freed farmers, businesses, local governments and regulators from paralysis around what activities would trigger federal permitting requirements.

We have also seen encouraging momentum within the Army Corps of Engineers. Earlier this year, Assistant Secretary Telle launched the “Building Infrastructure, Not Paperwork” initiative to refocus the agency on its core mission of delivering water resources projects.

Now, it is emphasizing better coordination, shorter timelines and a renewed focus on projects with the greatest impact.

In Arkansas, the Corps plays a vital role in maintaining the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System and improving our waterways and recreation sites. That means enhanced collaboration on undertakings within Corps jurisdiction, rooted in partnership rather than barriers and delays.

Congress has an important role to play as well.

As a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I have supported efforts to establish reasonable timelines for environmental reviews, improve coordination among federal agencies and concentrate resources on the projects with the greatest environmental impacts.

Congressman Westerman’s SPEED Act and other reform measures have already passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support and now the Senate has the opportunity to build on that momentum and deliver meaningful reforms.

As we continue this work, federal policies must serve the people and communities they are intended to help. Arkansans should not have to choose between protecting our natural resources and investing in the infrastructure and industries that support our communities.

With thoughtful reforms, strong environmental standards and a commonsense approach, we can uphold our responsibility as stewards of The Natural State while ensuring Arkansas’s economy and communities thrive for generations to come.

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

Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Free press, free people

Nashville News-Leader

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Primary

Continued
from page 1A

making it successful. We launched the program mid-year through last school year and were encouraged by the growth we saw in our students. After making adjustments based on what we learned, we're excited to see the impact SCRAP Time will have throughout the entire school year.

Building Improvements
-Hallway and classroom tile cleaned and waxed throughout the building.
-Carpets shampooed.

-Second and third grade rest rooms - old vanities removed and new sinks installed.

-Two classrooms painted along with touch-ups around the building.

-Scrapper Star Mural (provided by PTO)

-New carpet installed in the entire front office area.

Building Test Scores

While it's important to look at the percentage of students who scored proficient and compare those results to the state, the most meaningful measure of success is the growth our students make throughout the year. I'm proud to say we saw growth across every grade level, and our students and teachers have a great deal to be proud of.

Language Arts
Kindergarten – 76% proficient (10% above the state average)

First Grade – 62% proficient (6% above the state average)

Second Grade – 49% proficient (at the state average)

Third Grade – 43% proficient (at the state average, 5% increase from last year)

Math
Kindergarten – 45% proficient

First Grade – 61% proficient (8% above the state average)

Second Grade – 52% proficient (1% above the state average)

Third Grade – 56% proficient (10% above the state average, 9% increase from last year)

One of the greatest benefits of the ATLAS assessment is the amount of information it provides. The data helps us identify what's working, where students need additional support, and how we can continue improving our instruction. That work begins by carefully analyzing the results, which our teachers did together this summer with support from our educational cooperative. From there, our focus is simple: continue giving our very best every day to help every student succeed.



Primary school secretaries Britney White and Sheila Robinson

What else is new?

This past school year was the first year Arkansas fully implemented the third-grade promotion requirements under the LEARNS Act. Under this law, third-grade students who score a Level 1 in English Language Arts on the end-of-year ATLAS assessment are required to be retained unless they qualify for a state-approved exemption.

Fortunately, many of our students who were considered "at risk" worked incredibly hard throughout the year and achieved a Level 2 or higher by the spring assessment. Their growth was a testament to their effort, the support of their families, and the dedication of our teachers.

Keeping parents informed is one of our highest priorities. Mrs. Serrano and I will continue communicating with families about their child's academic progress, especially beginning in second grade, so there are no surprises as students approach third grade. Whether a student is at risk of retention or simply needs additional support, we are committed to being transparent about where they are, what their scores mean, and how we can all work together to help them succeed. We understand these conversations can be stressful, and we want families to know we are always available to answer questions, discuss progress, and support them every step of the way.

Additional Information
Over the past year, we've had several visitors spend time at Nashville Primary, and one of the things we hear over and over is, "There's just something special about this school." They're absolutely right,

and the reason is simple - our staff.

Our teachers and staff pour their hearts into this work every single day. They spend countless hours planning, encouraging, supporting, and celebrating our students because they genuinely care about each child who walks through our doors. I can say with complete confidence that our teachers love their students, pray for them, and want nothing more than to see them succeed. Teaching is not an easy profession, and the people who choose to do it well are truly special. Watching them serve our students with such dedication is one of the greatest privileges of being their principal, and it inspires me to be the best leader I can be.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the families of Nashville Primary, and we're excited to build on last year's success. We can't wait to see all that our students accomplish this year.

Be Kind. Be Your Best. Be a Scrapper!

Assistant Principal Miranda Serrano

"As I begin another school year as assistant principal at Nashville Primary School, I am excited to continue serving our students, staff and families. I am looking forward to another year of building relationships, working alongside our incredible teachers, and helping our students reach their full potential.

"Every day, I have the opportunity to work with students, partner with teachers, and help lead efforts that make Nashville Primary a great place to learn. I am excited to see what this school year has in store for our NPS Scrappers!"



The Nashville School District's central office staff includes Ashley Hale, treasurer; Kaylie Hignight, administrative assistant; and Cassandra Evans, bookkeeper.

Stars

Continued
from page 1A

Slayton and district administrators "do a fantastic job, and my hat's off to the classroom teachers who are in there every day."

Test scores are among the factors which are included each year in the school report card developed by the Arkansas Department of Education.

The Nashville district finished 2025-26 "fully accredited. Finding licensed teachers is hard to do for 150 positions. We're proud to be fully accredited," Graham said.

Campus improvements
It's been a busy summer on the district's four campuses as the maintenance staff prepares for the first

day of school on Monday, Aug. 3.

"Over 100,000 square feet of floors have been stripped and waxed," Graham said. "That's a major undertaking. The hybrid calendar doesn't have long to do it" from the time classes end in May until opening day in August.

Campuses have seen painting in hallways and classrooms, along with other improvements.

Perhaps the most visible project has been the installation of new turf at Scrapper Stadium. "I'm more confident," Graham said. "I think it will be installed by the Back-to-School Bash" Aug. 7.

If work proceeds as planned, "It will all come together."

When the turf is completed at the stadium, workers will start on the new track.

If the playing field is finished Friday, Aug. 7, work on the track will begin Monday, Aug. 10, the contractor has told Graham.

New turf will also be installed at the Scrapper Dome, replacing the indoor practice facility's field that has been in place since the building opened in 2003.

Enrollment

Like superintendents statewide, Graham will watch enrollment totals closely when school opens. "We hope to rebound," he said.

The Class of 2026 was large, with 159 students receiving diplomas. The incoming kindergarten class "will drop 25-30 kids," Graham said.

"We hope to convince folks that they want to be part of this district.

"I was born and raised public schools," Graham said.

City

Continued
from page 1A

lake bottom cleaning at Lake Nichols was complete except for some cleanup work. He said the project to siphon the bottom of the lake "went well."

The council heard from Dena Tollett, executive director of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce who outlined hopes for a vacant lot between buildings on the east side of the 100 block of North Main. She said she

had been trying to contact the owner of the building on the south side of the lot about the existing wall. The owner is currently in Mexico, she said. Her vision includes a "pocket park" with stage or bandstand, bench seating and alley access for the purpose of downtown activities. She and chamber summer volunteer Jonathon Lance spoke about some grant possibilities.

In the audience at the meeting were several candidates for council positions. The filing period for independent candidates began

Wednesday at noon.

Council members present included William Turley, Charles Pinkston, Kay Gathright, Lynn Dyer, Kathy Combs, Freddie Horne, Joe Hoen, Donna Harwell, Brent Thompson, Phil Jones and Khalid Benson; also Mayor Dunaway, City Recorder Lauren Clements, Financial Director Kimberly Green, Police Chief Amy Marion, Code Enforcement Officer David Riggs, Parks and Recreation Director Meghan Floyd, Fire Marshal Justin Thornton, and City Attorney Aaron Brasel.

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AM Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Noon: Potluck Meal
PM Service: 2:00 pm.

August 3rd **Evening Service: 7:00 p.m.**
August 4th **Evening Service: 7:00 p.m.**

Speaker: Robert Oren

Look us up on Facebook! McCaskill Church of Christ

Domtar agrees to \$1.5M deal over environmental issues at Little River County mill

By Patrick Massey • The De Queen Bee

ASHDOWN – Domtar A.W. LLC has agreed to pay a \$1.5 million civil penalty and invest at least \$2.6 million in environmental improvements at its Ashdown pulp and paper mill under a proposed settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment’s Division of Environmental Quality.

The proposed consent decree, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas, resolves allegations that the company violated the federal Clean Air Act and the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act.

Under the agreement, the \$1.5 million civil penalty will be divided between the federal government and the State of Arkansas. Domtar also agreed to complete a series of projects designed to reduce air emissions and improve monitoring of its pollution control systems.

According to the complaint, Domtar failed to install required pollution controls on a brown stock washer at its Ashdown facility. Brown stock washers are used in the paper manufacturing process to separate pulp fibers from waste liquids. Federal officials allege that without the required controls, the equipment could release hydrogen sulfide, a gas known for its strong “rotten egg” odor that can be harmful to human health.

The complaint further alleges the company failed to comply with required inspection and monitoring procedures. In one instance, regulators say Domtar went 53 days without conducting a required inspection, allowing a leaking valve to emit pollutants without detection. Officials also allege the company failed to perform required performance testing on two boilers, making it impossible to determine the full extent of hazardous air pollutant emissions.

The pollutants cited in the complaint include volatile organic compounds, methanol, carbon monoxide and chlorinated compounds such as chlorine dioxide and hydrochloric acid.

As part of the settlement, Domtar will install proper pollution controls on the brown stock washer, update its leak detection and repair program, increase the frequency of inspections and conduct required boiler performance testing. An independent third party will also review and revise the company’s leak detection and repair plan to help ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

In addition, Domtar agreed to complete two emissions reduction projects. The company will install capping valves intended to reduce leaks of volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants and will upgrade its biological wastewater treatment system to capture those pollutants before they are released into the air.

The Justice Department said the improvements are expected to significantly reduce harmful emissions from the facility.

Domtar A.W. LLC is a Delaware-based subsidiary of Domtar Corporation, which manufactures pulp, paper, packaging and tissue products. The company describes its Ashdown mill as one of the world’s largest fluff pulp production facilities.

The proposed settlement is subject to a 30-day public comment period before it can receive final court approval.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment investigated the case, while attorneys with the Justice Department’s Environmental Enforcement Section are representing the federal government. (Article reprinted with permission)



News-Leader photos/COURTESY OF HOWARD COUNTY

TRAIN DERAILMENT CAUSES BIG DISRUPTION NORTH OF TOWN

Eleven Union Pacific train cars derailed around 2 a.m. Tuesday north of Nashville, resulting the initial closing of Aylett Road and Corinth Road, as tons of heavy equipment (above) arrived on the scene. Howard County Judge Brent Pinkerton said the cars were carrying products to the Pilgrims Pride feed mill off Highway 369 and that many of the train cars leading to the derailment further up the track remained upright. Roddy Smith, coordinator of Howard County Office of Emergency Management, said rail service could be disrupted for up to three days and added that motorists should expect heavy equipment traffic on both Aylett and Corinth roads. The public is urged to avoid the area if possible.

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Applications may be picked up at the Howard County Housing Authority office located at
1010 S. Pope Street, Nashville, Arkansas (off of Hope Hwy).
Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, Monday - Friday, closed on Wednesday afternoons.
For questions, you may call the Housing Authority Office at (870) 845-1080.



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TOWN HALL MEETING
Saturday, August 1st
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
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Join us for an Open Town Hall featuring Gubernatorial Candidate Fred Love.



All state and local candidates, regardless of political affiliation, are invited to attend and present their platforms to voters.
There will be a candidate presentation period followed by a public Q & A.
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Mabelvale man charged in Pike County with internet stalking of child; Milwaukee driver arrested in stolen car

A 54-year-old Mabelvale man has been charged in Pike County with internet stalking of a child after he allegedly took the bait of an undercover social media account operated by the Pike County Sheriff’s Department.

Jeremy Alan Kirk was charged July 25 with internet stalking and electronic facilitation of a child sexual abuse. He pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday in Pike County Circuit Court and an Oct. 5 pretrial date was set. Kirk is currently in county custody and no bond amount has been set.

According to case information, Kirk messaged the undercover account, which portrays a 14-year-old girl, at the start of July. He initiated the conversation as though he already to knew the minor and asked questions about why they hadn’t spoke in such a long time, inquired about cheerleading and whether she had obtained her driver’s license. He offered to help study for the driver’s license test and stated he would be “a good boyfriend.”

When the decoy advised Kirk she was 14 years old, he continued the communications and offered \$100 to \$300 to reveal part of her body and then reportedly sent three photographs of his genitals that he claimed was his.

Communications got “increasing graphic and sexual” and a meeting was arranged for Kirk to meet the decoy. Kirk was taken into custody without incident after arriving at the meeting place.

Stolen truck results in charge

A Milwaukee, Wis., driver was arrested July 11 and charged July 24 with theft by receiving involving a vehicle stolen out of his home state.

Kyraim Lomar Hodges, 36, pleaded not guilty to the charge Monday and an Aug. 3 pretrial date was set. Hodges is currently in county custody and no bond amount is listed.

Hodges was arrested by the Arkansas State Police on Highway 84 during a traffic stop for possible fictitious tags. Hodges acknowledged that he had put the fictitious tags on his Mercedes-Benz and was unable to provide any documentation.

A check revealed the vehicle had been stolen from Milwaukee. Hodges said he bought the car at an auction for \$3,500. He is also charged with misdemeanor fictitious tags and no liability insurance.

Also on July 24, Adam Levi Trager, 38, of Waldron, was charged with possession of methamphetamine following a traffic stop on Highway 8 near Glenwood. The stop was conducted for the driver not wearing his seat belt. Trager was a passenger in the vehicle and was also unbuckled.

The driver, Anthony Erke, had a search waiver on file and a subsequent search found a glass smoking pipe with suspected meth residue, 3.30 grams of the drug and a small amount of marijuana. Erke and Trager were both arrested after neither would claim ownership of the meth. Erke is also expected to be charged in the case but as of Tuesday morning no charge had been filed.

Trager failed to show up for his court date Monday in Pike County and a failure to appear warrant was issued for his arrest.

Hempstead County issues reminder about trash pick-up

Hempstead County has issued a reminder to residence that trash pick-up is for household trash only and not yard waste, appliances, furniture, etc.

Large items can be taken to the county shop and placed in a dumpster provided by the county.

All boxes need to be broken down and bagged for pick up.

Paint cans containing paint must be brought to the county shop and placed in the dumpster provided.

Any lithium batteries need to be placed in the large open top dumpster at the county shop.

The Hempstead County Shop is open Monday – Thursday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Community fish fry, BBQ set for Saturday in M’boro

A community-wide fish fry and barbecue will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1 in Murfreesboro.

The event will be held at the Mauney Street church of Christ, located at 606 Mauney Street in Murfrees-



NCC to present ‘Tea with Miss Arkansas Teen’

The Nashville Chamber of Commerce will host “Tea with Miss Arkansas’ Teen” on Aug. 24 immediately following the Howard County Fair Parade.

The gathering will be held at Midtown Social, 117 East Howard St., and tickets are now available ay the NCC office or House of Crystal Bridal and Formals. The ticket cost will be \$10.

Presley Bennett, 17, of White Hall, was crowned Miss Arkansas’ Teen 2026 on June 12, earning the opportunity to represent Arkansas at Miss America’s Teen 2027.

Bennett competed as Miss Saline County’s Teen and impressed judges with her Michael Jackson inspired tap dance talent and her commitment to youth mental health advocacy through her community service initiative, Peaceful Places. Her initiative focuses on promoting mental health awareness and well-being in schools, encouraging students to prioritize emotional wellness and create supportive environments for their peers.

Bennett will represent Arkansas at Miss America’s Teen 2027, which will be held on Sept. 5, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Fla. She will compete alongside delegates representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for the national title.

Howard County District Court

July 23, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited
Howard County

Bevill, Adama, 43, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460 and sentenced to two days in jail

Castillo-Orona, Gilberto, 48, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver’s license/expired license

Cazeras, Hector J., 42, Little Rock, \$290 BF, speeding; \$195 BF, no driver’s license/expired license; \$245 BF, failure to appear

Ganous, Eileen J., 56, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$675 balance

Gastelum, Rogelio, 29, Dierks, guilty of non-payment of fines, committed to jail-suspended conditions; \$2,152 balance

George, Daniel L., 42, Plainview, \$210 BF, improper lighting

Guevara, Martin, 61, Dallas, Texas, \$360 BF, careless or prohibited driving

Harberson, Melody Annette, 43, Nashville, guilty of drinking on highway, fined \$235

Ibarra, Rosalba Jacquez, 42, Wickes, \$210 BF, no driver’s license/expired license

Johnson, Chasity Danielle, 40, England, guilty of improper or prohibited passing, fined \$230

Nix, Samuel Lloyd, 69, Texarkana, Texas, \$265 BF, speeding

Reyes, Bernardina, 45, Umpire, \$210 BF, no driver’s license/expired license

Robb, Labrayla, 22, Gran-nis, \$235 BF, violation of state park rules and use directive

Salaices, Brayam Francisco, 18, Dierks, \$65 BF, failure to present insurance; \$45 BF, no seat belt

Salinas Vasquez, Alicia, 27, Dierks, \$250 BF, speeding

Sanchez Luna, Michael G., 31, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver’s license/expired license

Thayer, Timothy Robert, 59, Mineral Springs, guilty of speeding, fined \$285

Weeks, Jeremy, 46, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of non-payment of fines; \$4,127 balance

City of Nashville

Anzaldua, Jose Elvis, 51, Texarkana, \$160 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Aparicio Morales, Cecilia, 26, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver’s license/expired license

Archer, Christian, 41, Hope, \$255 BF, non-payment of fines

Barron, Daniel Hernandez, 47, Fort Worth, Texas, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines

Beal, Vera, 33, Mineral Springs, \$245 BF, speeding

Bevill, Adam, 43, Nash-

ville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460 and sentenced to two days in jail

Duran, Angel, 23, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver’s license/expired license

Haley, Brittany Nashea, 38, Dierks, \$210 BF, expired vehicle tags/no tags; \$160 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Hill, Byron Jay, 42, Nashville, guilty of disorderly conduct, fined \$280

House, Austin T., 24, Horatio, \$210 BF, failure to yield

Logan, Shatina, 52, Nashville, guilty of third-degree battery, fined \$675

Martin, Karla J., 56, Dierks, \$210 BF, running stop sign or light

Martin, Sedric D., 29, Nashville, guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$210

Matthews, Jackie A., 42, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$3,000 balance

Munoz, Carlitos Daniel, 14, Prescott, guilty of no driver’s license/expired license, fined \$210; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Nash, Taylor Dawn, 30, Nashville, \$360 BF, leaving scene of the accident

Nunally, Omareon D., 20, Nashville, guilty of shoplifting, fined \$425

Ornelas, Roberto Miguel, 37, Mineral Springs, guilty of driving on suspended or

revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460

Ramirez Avila, Kevin Ivan, 27, Nashville, \$210 BF, no driver’s license/expired license

Richard, Lateeshia, 42, Nashville, guilty of disorderly conduct, fined \$285

Rolfe, Trisin James, 17, Dierks, \$210 BF, no driver’s license/expired license

Salinas-Vasquez, Melissa G., 22, Dierks, \$265 BF, speeding

Staggs, Steven S., 62, Nashville, \$235 BF, drinking on highway

Swift, Xavier M., 18, Arkadelphia, guilty of shoplifting, fined \$425

City of Dierks

Betancourt Caseus, Os-niel, 30, Dallas, Texas, \$285 BF, disqualified driver

Toye, William, 62, De Queen, \$265 BF, speeding

City of Mineral Springs

Ornelas, Roberto Miguel, 37, Mineral Springs, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260

Bench Trials

City of Nashville

Chambers, William Jr., 63, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445

Robinson, Keilan Jamar, 45, Prescott, guilty of speeding, fined \$255

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INSIDE

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City of Nashville Job Opening

The City of Nashville will be accepting applications for the **Waste Water Plant**. Applications will be accepted until Friday, July 31, 2026 at the office of the Public Works Director, 426 N. Main St., Nashville, AR 71852.

Brief descriptions of qualifications:

- This job requires a minimum education of a high school diploma or GED
- Must have or be able to obtain both a Class III Wastewater license and a Class II Water license within 2 years.
- Must have a valid Arkansas driver’s license

Brief description of duties:

- Be in good physical condition, as job requires physical labor in all types of weather
- Knowledge and Experience on a variety of equipment
- Have the knowledge to service and maintain equipment
 - Any other duties the supervisor may assign

Personal qualifications:

- Have good hand/eye coordination
- Have a good clean appearance and teamwork attitude
 - Be able to respond on a 24/7 emergency basis

Interested persons may obtain an application at the Nashville City Hall, 426 N. Main St., Nashville, AR 71852.

Candidates desiring to be considered for the above position should apply in person, no phone calls please. The City of Nashville reserves the right to reject any and all applications.

The City of Nashville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

After the storm:

- When venturing outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical electrical hazard. Assume any dangling wires you encounter are energized and dangerous. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility. Also, when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.





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Make the Most of Tax-Free Weekend

12:01 a.m. on Aug. 1- 11:59 p.m. Aug. 2

By Abby Gray
Howard County Extension Agent
Family Consumer Science

As families prepare for the upcoming school year, Arkansas’ Sales Tax Holiday offers an opportunity to stretch back-to-school budgets. This year’s tax-free weekend begins at 12:01 a.m. on Aug. 1 and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 2, allowing shoppers to purchase many school-related items without paying state or local sales tax.

The tax holiday applies to a variety of items, including clothing, school supplies, art supplies, instructional materials, electronic devices and even certain child-care essentials. Clothing items priced under \$100 each qualify for the exemption, and there is no limit on the number of eligible items shoppers may purchase. Electronic devices commonly used by students, such as calculators, cell phones, computer monitors, keyboards and e-readers, are also included during this tax-free weekend.

While tax-free weekend can provide significant savings, financial experts encourage shoppers to have a plan before heading to the store. Laura Hendrix, Extension Associate Profes-

sor of Personal Finance and Consumer Economics with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, recommends starting with a shopping list and setting a spending limit. Planning ahead helps families avoid impulse purchases and overspending, which can quickly offset tax savings.

Experts also recommend comparing prices between stores, watching for sales and taking advantage of coupons when possible. According to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, store discounts and certain store-issued coupons may reduce the selling price of an item enough to qualify it for the sales tax exemption.

Another way to maximize savings is to shop early. Tax-free weekends are often busy, and popular items can sell out quickly. Shopping early in the day can help families avoid crowds, secure priority items and reduce stress. Online shopping may also offer additional opportunities, as many retailers participate in tax-free events and may provide free shipping or special promotions.

Families can further stretch their dollars by looking for bundle deals,

loyalty rewards programs and additional seasonal discounts. Keeping receipts and tracking expenses can help shoppers stay within budget and provide documentation if price adjustments or returns are needed later.

One of the most important reminders for shoppers is that a tax-free purchase is only a bargain if the item is actually needed. Extension educators encourage consumers to focus on necessities and avoid buying unnecessary items simply because they are tax-exempt. Careful planning and responsible spending can help ensure that tax-free weekend delivers real financial benefits.

This article was compiled using information from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, including a 2026 Arkansas Sales Tax Holiday news release and a back-to-school tax-free weekend educational blog, as well as consumer budgeting tips from TDECU’s “Getting the Most Out of Tax-Free Weekend” article. The sources provide guidance on eligible tax-free purchases, budgeting strategies and practical ways families can maximize savings during the sales tax holiday.



Search underway for new manager

By Melanie Schwartz
Market Manager

As summer continues, the Howard County Farmers Market is preparing to welcome one of the season’s most anticipated arrivals—fresh, locally grown watermelons. Shoppers can expect the first watermelons of the season this Friday.

Last week, shoppers found tomatoes, bell peppers, hot peppers, figs, squash, onions, and a variety of other locally grown favorites. The recent stretch of extreme heat means that many of the tomato and cucumber plants have reached the end of their season.

In addition to fresh produce, shoppers can expect homemade baked goods, local honey, jams, personal care products, handmade crafts, and other locally made items. Every Friday offers something a little different, depending on what local farmers are harvesting.

The Howard County Farmers Market is also seeking a new Market Manager to help lead the market into the future. This volunteer leadership role is a great opportunity for someone who enjoys supporting local agriculture, small businesses, and community events. Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to email howardcountyfarmermarket@gmail.com.

The Howard County Farmers Market is open every Friday from 7 a.m. until noon at the market pavilion. Find us on Facebook for the latest information.

Tollette City Park to host Hoops For Hope & Community Day this Sunday

The first annual Hoops For Hope & Community Day, featuring a 3-on-3 basketball challenge, will be held Sunday, Aug. 2 at the Tollete City Park. Tip-off will be at 6 p.m. and three teams are already signed up.

There will trophies, medals, special prizes and community bragging rights for the participants.

There will also be free dogs and water, a school supply giveaway, a student-led mental wellness corner,

music and a family fun zone featuring kick ball, relays races and more.

To register your team, volunteer or donate, contact Chancey L. Ware at (870) 899-7111.

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Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

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Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Minister: Jim Pinson

Futrell Marine

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Nashville
(870) 845-3122



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nashvillefumc.org
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Worship 10:50 a.m.
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870-287-5652

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Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.

EBENEZER UMC

318 West Dodson • Nashville
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

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First & Third Sundays Monthly
Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.
Pastor: Ellis Ray Floyd

Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

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BIBLICAL SUBTERFUGE!

WHEN ABRAM WENT TO EGYPT TO ESCAPE THE FAMINE IN CANAAN, UNDOUBTEDLY, HE WAS IMPRESSED BY MANY THINGS THAT HE SAW IN THE LAND. THE EGYPTIAN CITIES WERE OF STUPENDOUS ARCHITECTURE AND, WHEREVER THE EYE FELL, ONE COULD SEE THAT EGYPT LACKED FOR NOTHING ---YES....



...THEY ARE MUCH WEALTHIER THAN HE, BUT, STILL, HE DOES POSSESS A MOST RARE JEWEL....

IF THE EGYPTIANS SEE THEE, THEY MAY KILL ME IN ORDER TO KEEP THEE! SAY, THEN, FOR MY SAKE, THAT THOU ART MY SISTER SO THAT THEY MAY NOT KILL ME!

...SARAI, HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE! WHAT IF THE EGYPTIANS, ON SEEING HER GREAT BEAUTY, SHOULD KILL HIM IN ORDER TO POSSESS HER! IN ABRAM'S MIND, IT IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY, AND SO HE HASTENS TO THE TENT OF HIS WIFE TO PLAN WHAT TO DO IN CASE TROUBLE OF THIS SORT SHOULD HAPPEN!

JOHN LEHTI

OF COURSE THE WHOLE PLAN REALLY BACKFIRED RIGHT IN ABRAM'S FACE WHEN THE PHARAOH FOUND OUT THAT SARAI WAS ABRAM'S WIFE (GEN. 12:9-20) AND ABRAM FOUND OUT THAT HE HAD WORRIED NEEDLESSLY--FOR PHARAOH COMMANDED HIS MEN TO PROTECT ABRAM, AND HIS WIFE, AND ALL THAT HE HAD!

224 SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Future Scrappers

Courtesy photos/SCRAPPER FOOTBALL



More than 100 kids in grades 1-6 attended at least one session of the Future Scrapper Football Camp last week. The camp was led by the Nashville coaching staff and high school players. It was held on the practice field while turf installation continued at Scrapper Stadium.



Football campers line up as Robbie Stavelly serves ice cream sandwiches and Gatorade on the final day of camp Thursday, July 23. Attendance increased on each of the three days that the camp was in session, with 117 players reporting for the last afternoon.



A camper goes through his drills last week.



Coach Brad Chesshir (right) talks to the campers.



Scrapper alumnus and former Arkansas Razorback La'Michael Pettway attended the camp July 21. He visited the Nashville coaching staff and worked with the young campers during the session on the practice field.

30 days remaining in the Countdown to the Scrappers' season opener Aug. 28.

WOODS & WOODS

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Jason Lenderman, CPA

SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Bryce Perrin, Nashville



Bryce, a Scrapper senior, was a consistent performer during summer 7-on-7 and team camps as the Scrappers prepared for the 2026 season.



This weekly feature sponsored by McDonald's of Nashville
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FIND NEW ROADS

Q & A

Nashville Elementary School

Nashville Elementary School

Principal: Tabitha Jones
Tabitha Jones begins her 20th year in education and 19th year serving Arkansas students. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Henderson State University in 2006, a Master’s Degree in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment from Walden University in 2008, and completed her Arkansas Building-Level Principal Licensure through Arkansas State University in 2017. After teaching one year in Missouri, Jones returned home to Arkansas. She joined Nashville Elementary School in 2013 and has proudly served the students, families, and staff of NES ever since.

Student Enrollment
2026–2027 Enrollment

- 4th Grade – 151 students
- 5th Grade – 149 students
- 6th Grade – 125 students

New Faculty and Staff
Nashville Elementary is excited to welcome several outstanding educators and staff members to the Scraper family.

- Christy Young – School Counselor (Transfer from Nashville Primary School)
- Megan Worthen – 4th Grade Science & Social Studies (Transfer from Nashville Junior High School)
- Emily Kesterson – School Nurse
- Abbie Lamb – 6th Grade Science
- Ashley Walston – 6th Grade Math
- Lorena Slatton – Special

Education

- Avy Martin – Dyslexia Paraprofessional
- Dalton Robertson – Custodian

New Programs and Opportunities
While Nashville Elementary will continue utilizing its current core curriculum, one change for the 2026–2027 school year is the addition of an on-campus Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) program.

Previously, students requiring ALE services attended another district campus. By bringing the program to Nashville Elementary, students will remain connected to their peers, teachers, and school community while receiving individualized support. This transition will allow staff to collaborate more effectively and better prepare students for a successful return to the traditional classroom setting.

Summer Building Improvements
Over the summer, Nashville Elementary continued investing in improvements that enhance both the learning environment and student safety.

Completed projects include:

- Installation of additional water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains throughout the building.
- Upgraded handwashing stations on both ends of campus.
- Playground drainage improvements on the 5th and 6th grade playground to reduce standing water and improve safety.
- Addition of a new set

of desks and chairs in one of the 4th grade classrooms to support student learning.

- Repainting of the majority of hallways throughout the building to create a refreshed and welcoming environment.

Current projects include:

- Adding electrical service to the school greenhouse.
- Upgrading the stage lighting system to enhance student performances and school programs.

Academic Achievement
Nashville Elementary has much to celebrate following another successful year of student growth and academic achievement.

Top Three-Year Average Growth Scores (2025)

- Math: Ashton Conrad – 87.60
- Science: Viviana Bustamante – 83.98
- ELA: Tabitha Jones – 82.84

Teachers Earning Effective One-Year Growth Scores (80% or Higher)

- Viviana Bustamante – Science (86.47)
- Ashton Conrad – Math (83.32)
- Mandy Brown – Science (82.03)
- Monica Wallace – Science (82.02)
- Joanna Howard – ELA (82.02)
- Mayra Cardona – ELA (82.01)
- Ashley Simmons – Math (80.75)
- Deidra Murphy – ELA (80.68)

ATLAS Assessment Highlights
Nashville Elementary students performed at or above

the state average in nearly every tested area.

- English Language Arts
- 4th Grade – Above State Average
- 5th Grade – Equal to State Average
- Mathematics
- 4th Grade – Above State Average
- 5th Grade – Above State Average
- 6th Grade – Above State Average
- Science
- 4th Grade – Above State Average
- 5th Grade – Above State Average

Additionally, Nashville Elementary implemented the Lexia literacy intervention program during the second semester. Students responded enthusiastically to the program, and staff look forward to expanding its use this school year to strengthen literacy growth.

Looking Ahead
The 2026–2027 school year will provide even more opportunities for family engagement and student involvement.

Plans include:

- Increased family participation through school-wide events.
- A new elementary science fair currently being planned by the science department.
- Expanded music performances and community events led by the music program.
- Additional celebrations and activities that showcase student learning throughout the year.



NASHVILLE ELEMENTARY. Assistant Principal Michael Coffee, Principal Tabitha Jones



NASHVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

IMPORTANT dates

2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR

A great year starts with being in the know!

FIRST & LAST DAY



- First Day of School: August 3, 2026
- Last Day of School: May 27, 2027

HOLIDAYS & BREAKS



- September Break – Sept. 7–11, 2026
- Fall Break – Oct. 12–14, 2026
- Thanksgiving Break – Nov. 23–27, 2026
- Christmas Break – Dec. 21–Jan. 4
- MLK Day – Jan. 18, 2027
- Winter Break – Feb. 12–16, 2027
- Spring Break – Mar. 22–26, 2027
- No School – Apr. 16–19, 2027

GRADING PERIODS



- 1st Quarter: Aug. 3 – Oct. 9 (45 days)
- 2nd Quarter: Oct. 15 – Dec. 18 (41 days)
- 3rd Quarter: Jan. 5 – Mar. 12 (45 days)
- 4th Quarter: Mar. 15 – May 27 (47 days)

Total Student Days: 178

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE DAYS



- September 15, 2026
- February 11, 2027

REGISTRATION / OPEN HOUSE



- Registration / Open House: July 30, 2026 1:00–6:00 PM

MAKE-UP DAYS



If school is closed for any reason, make-up days will be used in this order:

- Day 6 – February 12, 2027
- Day 7 – February 16, 2027
- Day 8 – February 15, 2027
- Day 9 – April 16, 2027
- Day 10 – April 19, 2027

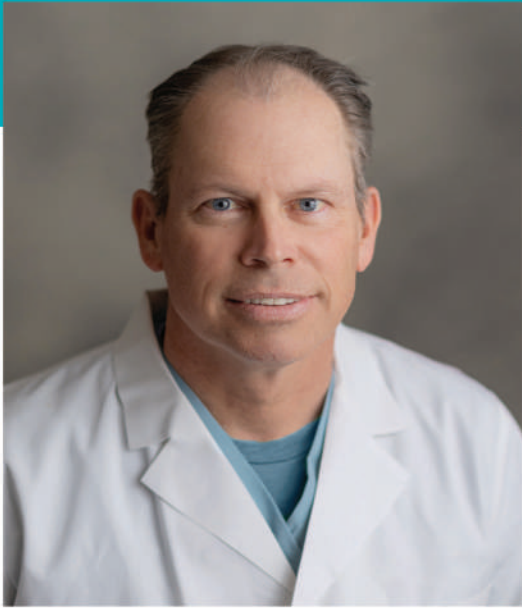
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NASHVILLE JUNIOR HIGH. Assistant Principal Ben Wallis, secretary Heather Pennington, counselor Lakan McAdams, Principal Hannah Topor and secretary Tracy Morrow.

Q & A

Nashville Junior High School

Principal: Hannah Topor
School: Nashville Junior High School
Enrollment for 2026-27 by grade
7th grade - 125
8th grade - 117
9th grade - 140
New faculty and staff
Ty Gordon - Health/Football

Tara Green - HS ALE
Cassandra Hamilton - JH ALE
Ashley Morrow - ESL/Dyslexia
Clara Prater - Girls' Basketball
Gabi Bevill - Art
Nate Staggers - Custodian

New and revised programs for 2026-27
While we are not starting any major new programs this year, we are excited to continue building on what is already working well for our students. Our Digital Kindness Wall, sponsored by Cornerstone Counseling, will return this year, and we've added an additional viewing screen our old locker area. These displays help us recognize students, share school news, and keep positive messages in front of our students every day.
Last year, we began using Lexia PowerUp as part of our reading intervention program and saw a lot of promise. This year, we'll be

able to use it from the very beginning of the school year to better support student growth and achievement. At Nashville Junior High, we're always looking for ways to improve and give our students the best opportunities to succeed.

Building improvements
A few classrooms received fresh coats of paint, giving those spaces a clean, updated look. We also plan to add new sod to the bare area in front of the school, helping improve the appearance of our campus. Inside the building, we created a dedicated meeting space with a conference table and chairs. This area will be used for teacher collaboration, parent meetings, and other important conversations throughout the school year.

Our PTO also continues to bless our school. This summer, they donated a new dining table for our teachers' lounge, creating a more welcoming space for our staff to enjoy during the day. We appreciate everyone who helps make improvements to our campus and look forward to welcoming students and families back for another great year.

How are your building's test scores? How will you deal with test preparation in

the coming year?

We are pleased with our ATLAS scores, but there is always room to grow. Our curriculum coordinator and testing coordinators have spent countless hours working with our data specialist at the education cooperative to review our results. Teachers and staff have also spent time digging into our ATLAS data and are using it to guide instruction. They are using the Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) to better understand what students know and what they still need to learn. This allows us to increase the rigor of instruction, meet students where they are, and help every student continue to grow.

While ATLAS provides valuable information, we know a student's success cannot be measured by one test on one day. Throughout the year, our teachers use a variety of classroom assessments, benchmark data, and daily observations to monitor progress and adjust instruction. Looking at multiple sources of data helps us provide the support each student needs to be successful.

Please add anything you would like to say about your school and the new year.

As we begin a new school year, we are excited to welcome our students and fami-

lies back to Nashville Junior High. NJHS has a long tradition of excellence, and we are proud to build on that legacy each year. Our goal is simple: to create a school where students feel safe, supported, and encouraged to do their best. We want every student to know they belong here and can grow academically, socially, and personally. We are looking forward to another great year of learning, celebrating successes, and making memories together. Thank you to our families and community for your continued support of Nashville Junior High. It's a great day to be a Scrapper!

Assistant principal: Ben Wallis

Plans for the year, your role at your school. Aspects of your job that have changed from last year.

As we begin a new school year, my goal is to simply be more present. I want to spend more time in the hallways and classrooms, building relationships with students and staff.

I don't have any new responsibilities this year, but I do want to do an even better job with the ones I already have. I want to listen more, observe more, and respond with purpose so I can better support our students, teachers, and families.

NES

Continued from page 1B

A Message from Principal Tabitha Jones

"At Nashville Elementary, we believe every child has the ability to shine. Our theme this year, 'Stars Stand Out,' reminds us that every student, staff member, and family plays an important role in making our school exceptional.

"We are committed to creating a safe, engaging, and supportive environment where students are challenged academically, encouraged to grow as leaders, and celebrated for their unique talents. We look forward to partnering with

our families and community as we make the 2026-2027 school year our best yet."

Assistant Principal Michael Coffee

Assistant Principal Michael Coffee will continue supporting teachers and students through instructional leadership, student discipline, campus operations, and school safety.

His focus for the coming year includes strengthening student achievement, building positive relationships with students and families, and supporting teachers as they provide high-quality instruction each day. He remains committed to helping Nashville Elementary foster a positive school culture where every student can succeed.



NASHVILLE ELEMENTARY. Assistant Principal Michael Coffee, Principal Tabitha Jones, secretary Reba Coulter and secretary Allison Liggins.

New literacy program offers focus on writing

By Kim Slayton
Curriculum coordinator

During the 2026-2027 school year, the Nashville School District will implement a new K-3 literacy curriculum, **Arts and Letters**.

This curriculum provides students with rich, knowledge-based reading experiences while placing a strong emphasis on writing. Rather than completing isolated writing assignments, students engage in writing that is directly connected to the stories, informational texts, and literature they are reading. This approach strengthens reading comprehension while helping students develop meaningful writing skills and literacy experiences.

Elementary teachers participated in professional development during the summer to prepare for implementation of the new curriculum. Additional professional

learning is already scheduled for January to continue supporting teachers as they reflect on instructional practices and ensure successful implementation throughout the school year.

Writing continues to be a major instructional priority for the Nashville School District.

This summer, the Arkansas Department of Education released updated writing rubrics aligned to the ATLAS assessment. District literacy teachers received professional development on the new scoring expectations and instructional practices associated with these rubrics.

Beginning this school year, literacy teachers will incorporate these updated writing rubrics into daily instruction, providing students with consistent expectations

See **Literacy** • Page 3B

School is back in session!

Kids First!

Think Safety!

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We would like to wish all of the area students, teachers, and administrators a safe, healthy, productive, and blessed school year!

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Do your Back-to-School shopping at

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Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Nashville School District

July 29, General meeting for faculty and staff
July 30, Meet the Teachers Open House, 1-6 p.m.
Aug. 3, First day of class
Aug. 7, Back to School Bash
Aug. 28, First Scrapper game

BACK TO SCHOOL Bash!

Kick off the school year with fun, friends, and festivities!

Saturday, August 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Goodie Bags Snowcones & School Supply Drive

SCHOOL SAFETY

The best way to have a successful school year is to be safe in and outside of school. Start by following these important safety tips:

- Never go anywhere with a stranger.
- Don't walk anywhere alone. Always go with a buddy.
- Know your home address and phone number.
- Let your parents know if you go somewhere after school.
- Tell your parents or teachers if someone is bothering you.
- Don't run in the school hallways.
- Learn fire drill procedures at school and at home.
- Don't pet or bother unfamiliar animals.

The City of Nashville
"Sharing the hometown feeling"



Kim Slayton, curriculum coordinator

Literacy

Continued
from page 2B

and meaningful feedback throughout the writing process.

Several staffing changes have been made within the Curriculum and Assessment Department to better support students and teachers throughout the district.

Sarah Horne has transitioned from District ESL Coordinator to District Dyslexia Coordinator, where she will oversee dyslexia screening, intervention, and compliance services.

Tessa Dean will serve as

the new District ESL Coordinator, providing support for the English Learner programs across the district.

Holly Couch will serve as the K-3 Reading Specialist and Testing Coordinator, supporting early literacy instruction, Individual Reading Plans, Interventions, and assessments.

Krisanna Miller will serve as the K-3 Reading Specialist and Testing Coordinator, supporting early literacy instruction, Individual Reading Plans, Interventions, and assessments.

These changes strengthen the district's commitment to providing targeted academic support along with high-quality education for every student.

Nashville School District

Central office
600 N. 4th St.
870-845-3425

Nashville High School
1301 Mt. Pleasant Drive
870-845-3261

Nashville Junior High
1000 N. 8th St.
870-845-3418

Nashville Elementary School
200 Immanuel Street
870-845-3262

Nashville Primary School
1201 N. 8th St.
870-845-3510

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'Stars Stand Out' in NSD

By Tate Gordon
Assistant superintendent

As we prepare to welcome students back for the 2026–2027 school year, the Nashville School District enters the year with optimism, purpose, and a continued commitment to student success.

Education continues to evolve, and this year will bring additional state initiatives related to higher education and workforce readiness. As these changes take effect, the responsibilities of our administrators, teachers, and staff will continue to grow. Our focus remains clear: adapt to new opportunities, remain compliant with state and federal requirements, and always place students at the center of every decision we make.

As part of the district's Arkansas AR AAP Strategic Plan, two districtwide academic goals have been established for the 2026–2027 school year. The first goal focuses on increasing student growth in writing on the English Language Arts portion of the ATLAS assessment. The second goal is to increase the overall percentage of students scoring at Level 3 or above in both English Language Arts and Mathematics.

To accomplish these goals, our teachers and staff are committed to achieving a five-percent increase over last year's summative assessment results in both writing growth and overall student proficiency. Student progress will be monitored throughout the year using beginning-, middle-, and end-of-course writing and mathematics assessments. Teachers will also utilize ongoing formative assessments to analyze instructional data, identify student needs, and make timely adjustments that provide additional support and maximize student achievement.

Federal and state funding will continue to play an important role in supporting student success by providing after-school tutoring, summer learning opportunities, instructional materials, classroom technology, intervention programs, professional development for teachers, dyslexia resources, and personnel that directly support students across the district.

While academic achievement remains a priority, our mission extends far beyond test scores.

This year's district theme, "Stars Stand Out," serves as a reminder that every individual has the opportunity to make a meaningful



Tate Gordon, assistant superintendent

“When dedicated educators, supportive families, and an engaged community work together, remarkable things happen for children.”
Tate Gordon, assistant superintendent

difference in the lives of our students.

As I begin my 30th year in education—and my 22nd year as a proud Scrapper—I feel incredibly blessed to serve alongside some of the finest educators and support staff anyone could ask for. Throughout my career, I have learned that great schools are not defined solely by beautiful facilities, innovative programs, or championship trophies. Great schools are built by exceptional people who care deeply about children and choose every day to invest in their future.

The 2025–2026 school year gave our district and community many reasons to celebrate. We witnessed remarkable student achievements, academic growth, athletic success, artistic accomplishments, and countless acts of kindness and service that reflected the very best of Nashville Schools.

As we look forward to another exciting year, I want to recognize the individuals whose contributions often cannot be measured by a state assessment.

Every day, teachers and staff across our district pour their hearts into helping students succeed. They build relationships, encourage confidence, teach life skills, inspire creativity, develop character, provide stability, and open doors that

can change the course of a child's future.

Our bus drivers safely transport students to and from school each day. Our cafeteria staff ensure every child has nutritious meals. Our custodians create clean, safe, and welcoming learning environments. Our paraprofessionals provide individualized support for students with unique needs. Our counselors, librarians, interventionists, coaches, office staff, maintenance personnel, administrators, and teachers in every classroom and every content area all contribute to the success of our students.

None of these roles are more important than another. Each one is essential, and together they create

the culture that makes the Nashville School District such a special place to learn and grow.

As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We know challenges will come, but we also know that our people are our greatest strength. When dedicated educators, supportive families, and an engaged community work together, remarkable things happen for children.

There are many stars shining brightly throughout the Nashville School District. This year, we look forward to watching those stars continue to inspire others, lead with purpose, and remind our community why "Stars Stand Out."

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Wishing all area schools a successful year!

Dr. Glenn Lance & Staff

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A NEW START

We hope the school year ahead is filled with exciting challenges, new friends and fond memories.

We wish each and every one of you a successful and enjoyable year.

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8 a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Q & A

Nashville High School

Principal Ashley Riggs
Nashville High School
Enrollment for 2026-27
by grade

10th 122
11th 130
12th 120
New faculty and staff
Lee Greenfield- Math
Spencer Green- Band
Scena Pierce- Nurse
Boomer Brown- Credit Recovery / WIN
Tessa Dean- ESL Coordinator

New and revised programs on your campus for 2026-27

CTE Pathways Changed
Agribusiness Systems
Agriculture Power, Structural, and Technical Systems
Animal Systems
Plant Systems

Fashion & Housing Design (will no longer be offered after 2026-27)
Media Creation

Information Technology and Security
Pre-Educator
Accounting

Banking & Finance (new for 2026-27)
Business Finance (will no longer be offered after 2026-27)

Family & Community Services (will no longer be offered after 2026-27)

Behavioral & Mental Health (new for 2026-27)

Office Administration (will no longer be offered after 2026-27)

Management
Val/Sal and Honor Grad Policy changed

New Program for track-

ing Discipline
New reading program for struggling readers called Lexia

Building improvements
New carpet in 3 classrooms

Upgraded Apple Mac lab
Fresh paint to upper part of all hallways

Floors have been completely re-done

New tread on entry stairs in the arena

New turf

New track

Power washed the entire outside of the building (donated by Chase Williamson)

Cleaned up landscaping

How are your building's test scores? How will you deal with test preparation in the coming year?

Our test scores showed great growth in both Math and ELA. We think our curriculum is working perfectly. This year we are moving to a modified block schedule that will allow 10th grade students to have English and math all year long. We believe that will positively impact student test scores.

What else is new?

This year our theme is Stars Stand Out. This theme means helping someone else shine. Stars Stand out is not just a slogan; it's when adults help students believe that they matter. The teachers at Nashville High School do this everyday. This is who we are. My teachers are the people who notice a student eating alone in the cafeteria. My teachers stay after the

bell because a conversation matters. They celebrate the "C" because they know how hard it was to earn. They show up at ballgames, concerts, shows, and ceremonies. They believe every student deserves someone in their corner. I have never worked with a group of people who care as deeply as my teachers do about each and every student. They give all of themselves to help students feel loved, cherished, and cared for---even if it is just for the short amount of time we get the amazing gift of being part of their lives. THAT IS WHY STARS STAND OUT. THIS IS WHAT MAKES NASHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SPECIAL. THIS IS WHAT MAKES THE TOWN OF NASHVILLE SPECIAL.

Assistant principal Eric Perez

Plans for the year, your role at your school. Aspects of your job that have changed from last year.

My role at NHS has not changed. I help uphold high curriculum standards, while dealing with all discipline issues. I am also the building 504 coordinator.

This year I am implementing a new paperless discipline and student conduct tracking program.

We are very excited about this year.

The entire building seems to be buzzing with excitement.

It will be a great year at NHS.



READY AT NHS. Assistant Principal Eric Perez, Principal Ashley Riggs, secretary Cristal Perez, secretary Kelly Davis, career coach Natalie Sherman, counselor Beverly Tedford and nurse Scena Pierce.



Football players remove one of the sponsor ads from the sideline as work continues on the summer improvement project.



Nashville High School teachers and staff gather for their first meeting Monday, July 27, in the school cafeteria. Superintendent Doug Graham held his general meeting with the district's faculty and staff Wednesday, July 29, and unveiled his song of the year which fits the 2026-27 theme "Stars Stand Out." Classes in Nashville will begin Monday morning, Aug. 3.



Crews haul off some of the debris after removing the stadium turf.

First day of school in Nashville Aug. 3
Back-to-School Bash Aug. 7
First football game Aug. 28

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Students & Teachers:
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Welcome

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back to School

It's time to embark on a brand new year of
excitement and learning!
Stay focused and work hard, and we know you'll meet
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~Look both ways before crossing the street
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wishes all area schools a **GREAT**
2026-2027 school year.

**BACK TO SCHOOL TIME
ONCE AGAIN!**

Good Luck to all of
our students!

Joe F. Chaney, OD
119 W. College • Nashville • 870-845-2020



Photo Courtesy of UBF

COMING TO DIERKS SATURDAY NIGHT. The Ultimate Bullfighters and their freestyle competition will again headline the 53rd Pine Tree Festival this Saturday night at 8:00 in the city park. The cost will be \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids with kids under five getting in for free. There will a UBF merchandise table open where fighters will hold a meet-and-greet following the main event.

53rd Pine Tree Festival Saturday

The 53rd Pine Tree Festival will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Dierks City Park with the Ultimate Bullfighters again headlining the event.

Ultimate Bullfighting will start at 8 p.m. with tickets prices \$15 for ages 13 and up and \$10 ages 6-12. Kids under five get in free. The fighters will be available for pictures and autographs following the competition at the merchandise table.

Prior to the main event, the popular Mutton Bustin' competition will happen at 6:00 with registration star-

ing at 5:00.

The festival will officially get underway at 7 a.m. with the Pine Tree Festival 5K. Registration is now open. For more information, contact the Dierks Chamber of Commerce.

There will also be a loader competition at 7:00 followed by a baking contest at 9:00 in the Dierks Community Building, a classic truck, motorcycle and car show at 12:00 and a corn hole tournament at 12 noon with \$150 going to the winner and \$100 to second place

A "sawdust scramble" for the kids and the saw competitions will start at 1:00. The Rusty Relics Antique Tractor Club will also be in attendance.

The Pine Tree Festival Parade will roll down Main Street at 10:00 with lineup at 9:00 behind Mariachi's Mexican Restaurant.

For more information about the parade, contact Jaron Tipton at (870) 584-6325.

The day will also include arts, crafts and vendors, mini train rides and bounce houses.

SATURDAY NIGHT GIVEAWAYS

Buy a ticket to the bullfighting and automatically be entered into the drawings for these prizes:
2-Night Stay @ Thigpen's Hideaway Cabin & \$500 Cash

Stay
Cool &
Safe
at the
Pine
Tree
Festival

The Nashville
News-Leader



**Congratulations
Dierks Chamber
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See you at the
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53RD ANNUAL

Dierks Pine Tree Festival
August 1ST

- Be Courteous • Watch for Pedestrians
- Look Before You Lock
(**NEVER** leave children
unattended in a vehicle!)

Howard County Sheriff
BRYAN M^CJUNKINS



How SW Arkansas Played the Lottery in June 2026

County	Cash 3	Cash 4	Fast Play	Instant Settlement	New Lotto	Lucky for Life	Mega Millions	Natural State	Power Ball	Total Sales
Hempstead	\$68,545	\$29,859	\$11,766	\$423,335	\$3,172	\$7,020	\$4,425	\$5,210	\$9,455	\$562,787
Howard	59,024	20,160	7,234	246,159	2,248	4,520	2,895	2,197	4,916	349,352
Little River	4,926	3,402	1,453	117,601	928	3,395	2,505	1,460	4,291	139,961
Pike	507	544	7,111	153,838	2,804	4,310	2,055	3,441	4,863	179,472
Sevier	7,035	351	1,438	191,511	2,048	5,000	1,070	4,118	5,963	218,533
State Total	\$1,028,053	\$660,926	\$1,183,120	\$37,889,114	\$854,140	\$1,397,340	\$851,275	\$1,035,067	\$1,674,359	\$46,673,394

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

SOURCE: Arkansas Lottery Commission

Hempstead County joins sex offender registry network ‘OffenderWatch’

The Hempstead County Sheriff’s Office has announced that it has joined the nationwide OffenderWatch sex offender registry network, which enables interagency collaboration on investigations and sharing of critical information involving registered sex offenders with other local law enforcement agencies across the country.

In addition, residents of Hempstead County can use the Hempstead County Sheriff’s Office website to search for sex offenders residing in their neighborhood and subscribe to receive email alerts from the www.sheriffalerts.com/ar/Hempstead

OffenderWatch is the nation’s leading sex offender registration solution, with over 15,000 unique users in 33 states. More than 3,500 local and state law enforcement agencies are utilizing the software to keep track of registered offenders across jurisdictions, collaborate on interagency operations, and automatically notify the community through the Hempstead County Sheriff’s Office

website and email alerts.

“Hempstead County Sheriff’s Office is pleased to join the coast-to-coast OffenderWatch network in order to better share information, coordinate investigations, and collaborate on sex offenders,” said Sheriff James A. Singleton “When a registered offender moves from outside the county, deputies save countless hours researching and re-entering data because the offender record is seamlessly shared from one agency to the other. OffenderWatch builds a history of the data we have on file, and this facilitates registry staff, investigators and others working together. So, our deputies can be more proactive in offender management and keeping the community aware.”

There are over 900,000 registered sex offenders in the United States, according to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. However, agencies often use disparate systems for managing sex offenders. OffenderWatch allows different law enforcement agencies to collaborate

on a single offender record, improving accuracy and aiding in public safety.

OffenderWatch allows the sheriff’s office to better collaborate on investigations with the U.S. Marshals, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) teams and other investigators. Further, the citizens of Hempstead County can now access a dedicated OffenderWatch page that enables them to search for nearby offenders and receive real-time email alerts regarding relocation of sex offenders within their community.

Hempstead County Sheriff’s Office is also now offering the free OffenderWatch App for download on both Android and iPhone smartphone devices. After installing the app, citizens will be able to see registered sex offenders located near them or their family members. They will also receive free alerts when a registered sex offender moves into their neighborhood. The app also offers online safety information and tips for how to talk to children about sex offenders.

FLASHING RED



KIDS AHEAD

The school year is upon us and we want to wish all students a fun-filled year of great learning opportunities.

Remember safety first: Always watch for our children as they are loading and unloading onto school buses.

For more information, please visit www.stavelandassociates.com

Staveland Associates

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

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903-826-3481

PUBLIC NOTICE

Howard County is accepting sealed bids on asphalt paving for approximately five miles of various county roads. Bids will be based on a two-inch compaction. Bid totals should include the hot mix, supplying all equipment related to application of the product, and hauling to the job sites. Construction/application shall conform to the latest edition AHTD specifications.

Howard County will also accept bids for chip and seal overlays of various roads in the county. These bids should include the equipment to provide a double layer of chip and seal.

Bids will be opened July 31, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Howard County Judge’s Office, 421 N. Main St., Nashville, AR. More information is available by contacting the judge’s office at 870-845-7500.

Howard County reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

Brent Pinkerton _____
Brent Pinkerton, Howard County Judge
(This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$74.70)
(HCJ: 5, 6)

Featured LISTING!

519 N. 7th St., Nashville



Beautiful 4 BR, 3BA that sits .54 acre lot in the heart of Nashville. This all brick home offers a spacious living room with wood burning fire place, nice spacious kitchen, large utility room and spacious bedrooms. This home has totally been remodeled and includes new flooring and many other wonderful updates. Will need 24 hour notice on showings. **PRICE \$233,000.**

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Allana O’Neal, 870-557-7162
John Anderson, 870-557-4062

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO 2026-9

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO 2025-16

THE 2026 HOWARD COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE.

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

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

Howard County Road General Supplies (2000.0200.2001) should increase by \$251.54. The increase comes from a settlement payment from a lawsuit as a Class Member in the class action lawsuit City of Laurel, Mississippi et al.v.Cintas Corporation No.2.

Howard County 911 Telephone and Fax-Landline (3020.0501.3020) should increase by \$336.59. County Clerk Telephone & Fax-Landline (1000.0101.3020) should increase by \$61.47. The increase comes from AT&T for a refund of credit on final bills.

Howard County OEM Other Miscellaneous (1000.0500.3100) should increase by \$34,190.00. OEM Other Sundry Insurance (1000.0500.3054) should increase by \$417.50. \$14,107.50 of the increase comes from a reimbursement from the City of Nashville for their portion of the purchase of the new MACC 1 Command Center. \$20,500.00 of the money comes from the Contingency Fund.

Howard County Road Budget Bridge & Steel (2000.0200.2031) should decrease by \$89,610.00. This money should be transferred back into the Contingency Fund for the Holly Creek Reservoir Rd. Bridge project.

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

Brent Pinkerton, Howard County Judge
Attest:
Keri Teague, Howard County Clerk
July 20,2026

(This publication was paid for by the Howard County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$114.30)
(HCJ: 6)

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Robert Crocker 870-285-5779
Melinda Bennett 870-451-2226

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF: SANDRA MYERS

31 PR 26-62

NOTICE OF PROBATE-TESTATE

Last known address of decedent: 119 W. Runnels St., Mineral Springs, Arkansas
Date of death: October 24, 2025

An instrument dated April 17, 2020, was on July 20, 2026, admitted to probate as the last Will of the above named decedent, and the undersigned has been appointed Executor thereunder. A contest of the probate of the Will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

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

This notice first published July 22, 2026.

Jess Cox, Executor, by
Aaron R. Brasel, ABN 2009138
Post Office Box 813
Nashville AR 71852
(870) 845-4100 – Telephone
(AB: 5, 6)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF: SHIRLEY ANN HARPER ANTHONY

CASE NO: 31 PR-26 -61

NOTICE OF PROBATE-TESTATE

Last known address of decedent: 402 S. Arkansas Avenue, Dierks, Arkansas
Date of death: July 11, 2026

An instrument dated September 22, 2021, was on July 20, 2026, admitted to probate as the last Will of the above named decedent, and the undersigned has been appointed Executrix thereunder. A contest of the probate of the Will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

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

This notice first published July 22, 2026.

Pamela Dutra, Executrix, by
Aaron R. Brasel, ABN 2009138
Post Office Box 813
Nashville AR 71852
(870) 845-4100 – Telephone

(AB: 5, 6)

Local metal detector digs up bits of history

By John Balch
News-Leader staff

Tyler Shuffit has only been metal detecting for five years but he has already found some interesting pieces linked to the history of Howard County's Corinth community.

The piece that currently fascinates Shuffit the most is a token bearing the name "W.E. Leslie & Co. Corinth" on one side and "Good for 25¢ in Merchandise" on the other.



Tyler Shuffit

Shuffit said historical records show Leslie was the postmaster of Corinth from 1892-1897 and possibly operated a mercantile store. He added that his research found that Leslie was enlisted in the 19th Arkansas Infantry Confederate State Army known as "The Davis Blues."

Shuffit's research also lead him to locate the fresh water spring he said was the "deciding factor" for Corinth community to be homesteaded so many years ago. "The whole idea of me going out there, I was looking for that spring," he said. "And I wanted to find something personal, or anything that said there was a town here."

And, he found it, too, when he unearthed the token located on private land in the Corinth community where he has permission to search.

The private land is also where Shuffit dug up a Texas-star saddle ornament made of pewter and a "bit boss" or horse tack dating to the mid-1800s to mid-1900s.

Another notably find is a "toe tap" described as a metal plate attached to boots to protect the toe and heel. This find bears as a patent



News-Leader photos/JOHN BALCH

BITS OF HISTORY FROM THE GROUND. These items, which include saddle ornaments, a 'bit boss' and a 'toe tap' patented in 1959 and a vintage merchandise token, were all found on private land in the Corinth community by local metal detector Tyler Shuffit.

date of Nov. 20, 1859.

"(The toe tap) very well could have come off the boots of some of the first settlers there," he said.

Shuffit has also under-

cover smaller finds and old bottles on the site with every find giving him more inspiration.

"I was very overweight and into video games when

I was growing up," he said. "You wouldn't have caught me outside."

The slender 29-year-old Tyson worker said he now gets out on the search every

day, even in this heat, and always informs the land-owners of his plans. If any landowner is interested in Shuffit searching your land, call him at (870) 200-3079.

Back-to-School Fair Pike County Health Coalition get school supplies, clothing, groceries, more in hands of 233 kids

By Shannon Ballard
Pike County 4-H

The Pike County Health Coalition has announced the success of this year's Back-to-School Fair, held on July 26 at the Pike County Fairgrounds. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, approximately 233 children received school supplies, clothing, groceries, educational resources, and other services to help them start the new school year prepared and confident.

This event would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors, volunteers, community partners, and organizations that came together with one common goal, to support the children and families of Pike County.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the following organizations for their generous monetary donations and support:

- Diamond Bank
- First State Bank
- Bank of Delight
- Southern Bancorp, Inc. (including the use of their smoker)
- Olen and Carmen Hendrix Foundation
- Pike County Fair Board (for the use of the Pike County Fairgrounds)

We also appreciate those who helped make our Touch-a-Truck experience a favorite attraction for the children:

- Antoine Fire Department for bringing a fire truck
- Pike County Sheriff's Office for providing police vehicles
- Pike County Judge Eddie Howard for providing county equipment

A special thank you goes to Harbor House for donating the bouncy house, which provided hours of fun for the children.

We are also grateful to the many organizations that participated by providing educational information, activities, and goodie bags for families:

- First Baptist Church – Murfreesboro
- First Baptist Church – Delight
- Delight Church of Christ
- Tri-Lakes CASA
- Ouachita Children & Family Services
- Harbor House
- Pike County 4-H
- Kids Dental
- Sport Clips Haircuts
- United Methodist Church
- The CALL of Pike & Montgomery Counties
- Glenwood Family Clinic
- Percy & Donna Malone Child Safety Center

Liberty Hill Baptist Church
Wolf Creek Sand & Gravel
AFMC
Imagination Library
Glenwood Head Start
First Step of Glenwood
Dr. Rhodes – Murfreesboro Dental
Home Circle Counseling LLC

The Pike County Health Coalition would also like to recognize the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes collecting donations, organizing supplies, setting up, serving families, and cleaning up after the event. Your dedication and servant hearts made this event possible.

The success of this year's Back-to-School Fair demonstrates what can be accomplished when a community comes together to support its children. We are grateful to everyone who donated, volunteered, participated, or attended.

Your generosity helped ensure that hundreds of Pike County children are beginning the school year with the tools they need to succeed.

We look forward to continuing this tradition and serving even more families in the years to come. Thank you, Pike County, for making a difference in the lives of our children and families.

Wishing everyone
a great time at
the 53rd Annual
Pine Tree Festival

Wes Howard

Tax & Accounting Co.

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Welcome

to
Dierks, Arkansas
and the 53rd Annual
Pine Tree Festival!

We hope you have a
wonderful time and enjoy the festival

Mayor Ronnie Cogburn
and
The City of Dierks

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success on the
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