

Obituaries



Clarence Ray Dallas
Clarence Ray Dallas, 87, of Mineral Springs, Ark., passed away on Friday, July 31, 2026, in Nashville, Ark. He was born June 9, 1939, in Nashville, Ark., the son of the late Harry Thomas Dallas and Minnie Etta Dyer Dallas.
Mr. Dallas was a member of the New Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Mineral Springs. Clarence loved to be outdoors gardening, working on his tractor and tending to his animals.
In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepfather, George Allen.

Survivors include: his wife, Robbie Dallas of Mineral Springs; a son, James Ray Dallas and wife Arlette of Texarkana, Texas; a daughter, Becky Smith and husband Charles of Cushing, Texas; three grandchildren, Jamie Rawlinson, Todd Dallas, Brittany Bates; three great-grandchildren, Sarah McCammack, Gavin

Rawlinson, Emma Rawlinson and Austin Bates; two brothers, Joe Dallas, and Bobby Dallas and wife Marcille; a sister, Dorothy Hedrick and a number of other relatives and friends.
Visitation will be 5-7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 2, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.
Funeral services will be 10 a.m., Monday, Aug. 3, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville, with Bro. Chuck Reel and Bro. Archie Phillips officiating.
Burial will follow in Bluff Springs Cemetery under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.
You may send an online sympathy message at www.latimerfuneralhome.com.



Hollis Elder Reed
Hollis Elder Reed, 88, of Nashville, Ark., passed away peacefully on Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026, in Dierks, Ark. He was born on Jan. 18, 1938, to the late Reuben and Donie

Reed.
Mr. Reed had many hobbies that he enjoyed during his lifetime. He was an avid outdoorsmen, gardener, and horseman. In the fall, you would typically find him in the woods. In the spring and summer, he would be in the garden. He was well known for the wonderful garden he grew and always shared his bounties with neighbors. He always prided himself on the corn he grew. For many years, Mr. Reed also enjoyed driving horse-drawn wagons and going on trail rides around Nathan. Music was also a true passion for Mr. Reed. He would get together with friends to play and sing. At one time he even recorded a song on a record with a friend. Mr. Reed also loved to lead singing at the Nathan Church of Christ where he was a longtime faithful member.
Hollis never met a stranger and was always willing to lend a helping hand. His goal was to make you smile or laugh. Mr. Reed always had great stories to tell, even if they were just that, stories.

Mr. Reed's most prized possession was his family, especially when it came to his granddaughter. His favorite place to spend time with them was at the family cabin, where they would get together and cook meals that always included fried potatoes.
In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Hazel Sharp, Dessie Sharp, Alva Anderson, Bessie Jo Anderson, Ruby Kelm, Gracie Westfall, and one brother, Perry Reed.

Mr. Reed is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Joyce Sweeden Reed; one son, Wade Reed and wife Carla; one daughter Stacey Jamison and husband Gary; and one granddaughter, Codie McAlister and husband Tanner. Mr. Reed also leaves behind one sister, Dorthy Davis, and numerous nieces and nephews and friends, and all his beloved dogs.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville. Funeral services will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026, in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Nashville with Danny

White officiating.
Interment will follow in Academy Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.
You may send an online sympathy message at www.latimerfuneralhome.com.



Betty Lou Harper
Betty Lou Harper, age 84, of Nashville, Ark., passed away on July 31, 2026, in Nashville, Ark. She was born on May 26, 1942, in Nashville, Ark., and lived her life with warmth, grace, and a deep love for the people and places that mattered most to her.
Betty was a devoted member of Ridgeway Baptist

Church and found strength and fellowship in her faith throughout her life. She also served her community with dedication as the retired Deputy Treasurer for Howard County, where she was respected for her steady work ethic, her sense of responsibility, and her kind manner. Her years of service reflected the care she carried into every part of her life.
She was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin G. Jeans and Willie Dell Walden Jeans; her husband, Don H. Harper; and her brother, Marvin Gibson Jeans, Jr.
Betty carried the memory of her loved ones in her heart and remained a source of love and encouragement to those around her.
She is survived by: her children, Sheila and husband Scott Hicks of Nashville, and Terry and wife Jacqueline McDonald of Mineral Springs. She is also survived by her sister, Susie and husband James Fisher of San Antonio, Texas. Betty leaves behind her grandchildren, Anthony and wife Sarah Hicks, Terra and husband Jake Carey, Braiden and wife

Casie McDonald, and Aron and wife Jemile McDonald. Her legacy continues through her great-grandchildren, Noah McDonald, Barret McDonald, Attlee McDonald, Jake Hicks, and Hailey Hicks.
Betty treasured her two best friends, Barbara Anderson and Melissa Kennedy, and loved them dearly. Their friendship brought joy and companionship to her life, and she especially enjoyed traveling with them. She also loved her cats and found happiness in the simple pleasures of life, always appreciating the comfort of home, family, and friendship.
Those who knew Betty will remember her as a loving mother, grandmother, sister, and friend who lived with quiet strength and a generous spirit.
The family will receive friends at Nashville Funeral Home from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026. A graveside service will be Monday morning at 10 a.m. at County Line Cemetery with Bro. Alan Cook officiating.
Memorials may be made to St. Jude Cancer Research.

Filing period for Independent candidates will end at noon Wednesday

As of mid-morning Tuesday a total of six independent candidates had filed for Howard County municipal positions in the Nov. 3 General Election.
The filing period was to officially close at noon Wednesday, Aug. 5. Howard County Clerk Keri Teague who organizes and super-

vises all elections said Tuesday that she expected more independent candidates to file.
Filed candidates by mid-morning Tuesday included:
Nashville City Council --- Joe Hoen, alderman Ward 1 Position 2; Carol Mitchell, alderman Ward 5 Position 2.

St. Martin's Mass times to change Aug. 15-16

The Mass schedule for St. Martin's Catholic Church will change as of the weekend of Aug. 15-16. The new schedule was announced Sunday by the pastor, Fr. Martin

Seibold.
On Saturdays there will be a bi-lingual service at 5 p.m.; and there will be a Mass in Spanish at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

Farm Bureau meeting is 11th

The annual meeting of the Howard County Farm Bureau will be Tuesday, Aug. 11.
The event will be in the Nashville High School cafeteria, and doors will open at 5:30. The catered meal and meeting will be 6-8 p.m., no carryouts, please. The public is invited.



SPEAKER AT ROTARY. Julia Pope Linhoff talked about her new business -- Rooted Wellness and Aesthetics -- at last Wednesday's meeting of the Nashville Rotary Club. She is a nurse practitioner who said she addresses health "From every angle," from skin care to weight loss. She said she is in process of moving into new headquarters in Nashville. The Rotary Club meets at noon on Wednesdays in Room 101 at UA-Cossatot.



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY. Mike and Lisa Myers were married Aug. 7, 1976, just after they graduated from Louisiana Tech University. Soon after their honeymoon they went to work for the FBI in Washington, D.C. The photos are 'then and now.'



Gospel Singing set for Aug. 7 at Saratoga Church of Christ

The public is invited to attend a Gospel Singing on Friday, Aug. 7, with Tim Stevens and Ryder Dennis.
The event will be at 7 p.m. at the Saratoga Church of Christ, located at 108 Ark. Hwy. 32 W., Saratoga.

YOU'RE INVITED

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

August 11, 2026 | 6 – 8 P.M.

Nashville High School Cafeteria

Doors Open at 5:30 | 1301 Mt Pleasant Dr., Nashville

FARM BUREAU ARKANSAS

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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



The first and second grade Mineral Springs School Rhythm Band, circa 1939. Back row teachers Cleo Ennis, Edna Mae Bridgeman, Kate Tollett and Mary Dowdle.

122 years ago: August 1904

An election upon the question of removing the county seat of Howard County from Centre Point to Nashville was ordered by the circuit court at this place.

Judge A. B. Grace of Pine Bluff, presided in the case upon the request of Judge Steel. October 7 was fixed by Judge Grace this morning as the date for holding the election.

No notice of an appeal has been filed by Centre Point.

72 years ago: August 1954

An early morning blaze Tuesday destroyed a Howard County landmark of a half a century in Dierks.

The old Holman Hotel was destroyed before firemen could extinguish the flames. The two-story frame building was unoccupied and had been vacant for several years. The hotel was reportedly built in 1905 or

1906 and was owned by L. C. Holman.

47 years ago: August 1979

Connie Barker of Nashville won the 1979 Ford Pinto door prize at the Pine Tree Festival Saturday night.

According to Project Chairman Gary Sirmon, at least 4,000 people packed the town of Dierks during the day to see the parade and the competitions. Sirmon estimated the evening performance paid attendance at about 1,800 to see Ferlin Husky, the Drifting Cowboys and Susan Haney.

The festival had its beginning in 1935 and was presented by the Arkansas Division of Forestry and Parks. It was known in the early years as the “Old Time Forest Festival.”

The Forest Festival was discontinued in 1942 because of World War II. The festival was resumed in 1948.

As a special feature in

1950, the cast from the Louisiana Hayride was on hand for the evening performance and featured Johnny and Jack, the Tennessee Mountain Boys, Kitty Wells and Red Sovine. They came as a group for \$250.

44 years ago: August 1982

Junior Stokes of Dierks reported to the police of finding a burned Ford Thunderbird on a Weyerhaeuser road. The car, which had Texas tags, was later found to have been stolen from a Richardson, Texas resident.

A number of local officers assisted in the unsuccessful manhunt for three prisoners who escaped from the jail at Arkadelphia. One of the three had been apprehended in Nashville with allegedly stolen merchandise.

A downtown business reported that a salesman selling cleaning mats was making a nuisance of himself and “almost had to be thrown out of the store.”

Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period July 23-29, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses

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

July 24. Jason Robert Wilhite, 42, Lockesburg, and Julia Shankles, 40, Lockesburg.

July 27. James Michael Ruffaner, 27, Nashville, and Brittini Leigh Brewer, 37, Nashville.

Civil Court

CV26-131, July 21. Jefferson Capital Systems vs. Victoria Pannell. Debt.

CV26-132, July 23. Diamond Bank vs. Stanley Parker, Jr. Mortgage foreclosure.

CV26-133, July 27. LVNV Funding, LLS vs. Marilyn Calley. Debt.

CV26-134, July 27. LVNV Funding, LLS vs. Lisa Ables. Debt.

CV26-135, July 28. Jefferson Capital Systems vs. Nicole Murry. Debt.

CV26-136, July 28. Jefferson Capital Systems vs. Sharee Jones. Debt.

CV26-137, July 28. Jefferson Capital Systems vs. Nicole Murry. Debt.

Domestic Relations Court

DR26-69, July 24. Lisa Ables vs. Robert Rodgers. Order of protection.

DR26-70, July 27. Dorothea Hunter vs. James Lofton. Order of protection.

Criminal Court

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

CR26-50, July 28. State of Arkansas vs. Thomas Franklin Mcle, Jr., 35, white male, Newhope; felon in possession of a firearm, class D felony; theft of property, class D.

Land/Property Transactions

Quitclaim Deed

July 27. William B. Tate; to William B. Tate and Peggy J. Tate, trustees of the Tate Living Trust; Lot 6, Block 9, Greenwood Addition, City of Nashville.

July 29. Wayne Murphy and wife Linda Murphy; to James Murphy; 0.77 ac. in S36 T9S R27W.

Beneficiary Deed

July 28. Charles F. Nutt; to Charles David Nutt; 32.051 ac. in S21 T10S R28W.

July 28. Charles F. Nutt; to Patricia Aletta Southerland; 30 ac. in S21 T10S R28W.

Warranty Deed

July 23. Michael Shane Chandler and wife Tiffany Chandler; to Greg Pryor and wife Jenna Pryor; 3.96 ac. in S6T9S R27W. \$200,000.

July 27. Tony R. Kirkpatrick and Shawn E. Kirkpatrick, husband and wife; to Tony and Shawn Kirkpatrick, Co-Trustees of the Kirkpatrick Family Revocable Trust; 4 tracts in S14/S26/S35 T5S R28W /R29W.

July 27. Katie Ann Wesche, and William B. Tate and Peggy J. Tate as Trustees of the Tate Living Trust; to Ashley Renee Morrow and husband Paul Morrow; Lot 6, Block 9, Greenwood Addition, city of Nashville. \$206,500.

July 28. Crystal Michelle Gray and husband John Robert Gray; to Rodney Evan Tompkins and wife Anita Fern Tompkins; Lot 1 and part of Lot 2, Block 1, Greenwood Addition, City of Nashville. \$210,400.

July 28. Monica D. Brown; to Quintin Deshun Stuart; part of Lots 12-13-14, Block 60, City of Nashville. \$150,000.

July 29. Kyle Whisenhunt and wife Lisa Whisenhunt; to Geri Summerhill and Kelly Williams, joint tenants; 1 ac. in S24 T8S R27W.

Two miss court dates

Trial dates were set for two defendants who pleaded not guilty last Wednesday, June 29, but the court is looking for two more who missed courtroom dates.

On the bench for Howard County’s regular day for criminal court was Judge Bryan Chesshir.

The not guilty pleas were from:

--- John Paul Garate, 24, white male, Nashville, who is charged with breaking or entering, and with the unusual charge of inhaling or use of certain compounds. He is to return Aug. 5.

--- Thomas Mcle, 35, white

male, Newhope, who is charged felon in possession of a firearm, and with theft of property.

Pretrial motions will be heard Aug. 12.

A true plea was given by Robert Hines, 32, white male, with an address of Huntington, Texas, on the charging sheet. He is charged with failure to meet the terms of his probation on a 2022 conviction. He was sentenced to 120 days in a regional punishment facility, and his probation was extended a year.

Failure to appear warrants were ordered for Ya-

londa Benson, 52, black female, Nashville, charged with a pair of drug-related felonies; and for Marrisra Delarosa, 30, white female, Nashville, charged with theft of property. Bond for both defendants was revoked.

A no contest plea was given by Vonderek Stewart, 21, black male, Mineral Springs, who was charged with furnishing prohibited articles; theft of property; and for furnishing or possession by a minor.

He was fined \$100 and was sentenced to time already spent in jail.

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

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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

ISSUE NO. 3 Popular Name

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

Ballot Title

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

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

THERETO:

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

SECTION 1. Loans and grants of public money. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Arkansas Constitution, the General Assembly may provide for the creation of programs and the making of loans and grants of public money for the public purposes of: (1) Development and diversification of the economy of the State of Arkansas; (2) The elimination and prevention of unemployment or underemployment in the State of Arkansas; (3) The development or expansion of transportation or commerce in the State of Arkansas; or (4) The development or improvement of real estate in the State of Arkansas that contributes to economic development within the State of Arkansas. (b) The authority under subsection (a) of this section includes without limitation providing for the creation of economic development districts.

SECTION 2. Economic development district projects. (a) An economic development district may issue bonds for the purpose of financing projects within the economic development district. (b) The bonds under subsection (a) of this section: (1) May be secured by and be payable from all or a portion of any funds received by or allocated to the economic development district; (2) Shall not be considered in calculating debt limits for bonds issued under Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 4; and (3) Shall not be subject to the provisions of: (A) Arkansas Constitution,

Article 16, § 1; (B) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 62; or (C) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 65.

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

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Political subdivisions not to become stockholders in or lend credit to private corporations — Exceptions. (a) No county, city, town or other municipal corporation, shall become a stockholder in any company, association, or corporation; or obtain or appropriate money for, or loan its credit to, any corporation, association, institution, or individual. (b) However, a county, city, town, or other municipal corporation may obtain or appropriate money for a corporation, association, institution, or individual to: (1) Finance economic development projects; or (2) Provide economic development services; or (3) Provide funding or lend credit to an economic development district. (c) As used in this section: (1) “Economic development district” means a designated area within a city, county, or cooperative area established under authority granted by the General Assembly to promote economic development within the designated area. (2) “Economic development projects” means the land, buildings, furnishings, equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and improvements that are required or suitable for the development, retention, or expansion of: (A) Manufacturing, production, and industrial facilities; (B) Research, technology, and development facilities; (C) Recycling facilities; (D) Distribution centers; (E) Call centers; (F) Warehouse facilities; (G) Job training facilities; (H) Regional or national corporate headquarters facilities; and (I) Sports complexes designed to host local, state, regional, and national competitions, including without limitation

baseball, softball, and other sports tournaments; and (J) An economic development district as authorized by the General Assembly and designated as part of an economic development plan; (3) “Economic development services” means: (A) Planning, marketing, and strategic advice and counsel regarding job recruitment, job development, job retention, and job expansion; (B) Supervision and operation of industrial parks or other such properties; and (C) Negotiation of contracts for the sale or lease of industrial parks or other such properties; and (4) “Infrastructure” means: (A) Land acquisition; (B) Site preparation; (C) Road and highway improvements; (D) Rail spur, railroad, and railroad construction; (E) Water service; (F) Wastewater treatment; (G) Employee training which may include equipment for such purpose; and (H) Environmental mitigation or reclamation. (d) The General Assembly, by a three-fourths vote of each house, may amend the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section so long as the amendments are germane to this section and consistent with its policy and purposes.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Article 16, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Property taxed according to value — Procedures for valuation — Tax exemptions. (a) All real and tangible personal property subject to taxation shall be taxed according to its value, that value to be ascertained in such manner as the General Assembly shall direct, making the same equal and uniform throughout the State. No one species of property for which a tax may be collected shall be taxed higher than another species of property of equal value, except as provided and authorized in Section 15 of this Article, and except as authorized in Section 14 of this Article. The General Assembly, upon the approval thereof by a vote of not less than three-fourths (¾ths) of the members elected to each house, may establish the methods and procedures for valuation of property for

taxation purposes, but may not alter the method of valuation set forth in Section 15 of this Article. (b)(1) The following property shall be exempt from taxation: public property used exclusively for public purposes; churches used as such; cemeteries used exclusively as such; school buildings and apparatus; libraries and grounds used exclusively for school purposes; and buildings and grounds and materials used exclusively for public charity. (2) If property exempt from taxation under subdivision (b) (1) of this section is included in an economic development district, the tax status of the property shall not change. (c) Property located within an economic development district created by the General Assembly shall be exempt from taxation except for taxes, assessments, or other charges levied by the economic development district of which the property is a part. (d) Nothing in this Section shall affect or repeal the provision of Amendment 57 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas pertaining to intangible personal property.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 62, § 6, is amended to read as follows: § 6. Conduct of elections. (a) The General Assembly may enact laws governing the conduct of elections authorized by this Amendment. Absent the enactment of such laws, such elections shall be held, called and conducted in accordance with the laws governing elections generally. The results of such election shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or municipality (as the case may be) and any contest of such election or the tabulation of the votes therein shall be brought within thirty (30) days after such publication or shall be forever barred. (b)(1) Any bonds or other obligations of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision facilitating the development and diversification of the economy of the state that are issued for the purpose of making loans or grants in connection with a program authorized by the General Assembly under this amendment and that are payable from

ad valorem taxes shall be approved by a vote of the majority of the qualified electors of the county, municipality, or political subdivision voting on the issue. (2) A program created or a loan or grant made by an economic development district that is secured by a pledge of ad valorem taxes or financed by the issuance of any bonds or other obligations payable from ad valorem taxes of the economic development district does not constitute or create a debt for the purpose of any provision of this Constitution.

SECTION 7. Repealer — Construction. (a) Any provision of this Constitution, including without limitation amendments to this Constitution, that conflicts with or is in any way inconsistent with this amendment is repealed or deemed modified to give precedence to this amendment. (b) This amendment supersedes all previous constitutional provisions, amendments, laws, or judicial interpretations that conflict with this amendment’s terms. (c) If this amendment conflicts with any existing constitutional provision, amendment, law, or judicial interpretation, this amendment shall prevail and be given full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Severability. The provisions of this amendment are severable, and if any provision of this amendment should be held invalid, the remainder shall stand.

SECTION 9. Effective date. This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be effective on and after January 1, 2027.

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



COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

Point of view

Disgusting vandal

Olympian that damaged pool liner is obviously guilty

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I want to stop thinking only of myself. I want to give my attention to the needs of others.

So I'm starting a 'Go Fund Me' for that poor guy who was absolutely convicted in the media by the President of the United States, along with the 'judge' the President appointed as U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, of the crime of vandalizing the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

I watched some news briefings by Jeanine Pirro as she assured a questioning journalist that the pool was definitely vandalized and that she and the Department of Justice were going to charge this poor ole guy of vandalizing the pool because it was a real shame the vandalizing was done before the public could glorify in its splendor in time for the country's 250th birthday.

This defendant was described in the media as a 'former Olympian.' I assumed from the President's tone and the sneering look of the U.S. Attorney that this person was a sorry, very sorry, lousy and no-account individual to have committed such a heinous unpatriotic act.

Here are some buts

But but but then the U.S. Attorney herself announced that there would be no criminal charges. She announced that the pool liner malfunction was NOT due to vandalism, but was in fact caused by improper installation by the company --- owned by a supporter of the President. The liner was improperly installed.

Strange. The President's buddy got the no-bid \$14 million project without much fanfare.

But here's this poor guy, a former Olympian, who has had to go out and find himself an attorney willing to go up against the might of the President of the United States, his Department of Justice, and the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

I'm betting the former Olympian's attorney didn't come cheap. So, it's only fair that I start one of those 'Go Fund Me' accounts to help with his legal expenses.

This episode is a pretty good example of the weaponization of the Department of Justice.

And now it's beginning to look like I might need to start a 'Go Fund Me' for the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia because her boss is blaming her for not getting after that Olympian.

Her former devoted colleagues at Fox News are nowhere in sight and they decline comment.

● ---- ● --- ●

MORE THINGS I LEARNED from opening an email: The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

● ---- ● --- ●

AND ANOTHER THING. Sometime in recent weeks I've become unable to turn pages in my bedside book. And I am unable to get dental floss to let go of my fingers.

No cash reward offered for suggestions.

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ANIMAL CRACKERS. Take my word for it. We've got Cicadas in the morning and evening. Mr. Google describes them as the "standard" annual summer squad plus some "early risers" from the 17-year and the 13-year outbreaks. I remember one Hellish summer when the 17 and the 13-year cycles and the annual summer cycle all came out at the same time.

The ground was literally covered in some spots by those empty Cicada shells.

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HINDSIGHT. Ain't it great? There are some 'experts' in the U.S. Senate who are attacking Dr. Anthony Fauci for his handling of the Covid crisis.

He was the physician, scientist and immunologist who was medical advisor to the President during that crisis.

He is being raked over the coals for the shutdown of the country and his efforts effort to stop the spread of what we now know was a fatal virus.

Hindsight is so nice. We can also look back and say it was too bad that we dropped The Bomb on Japan to end WWII.

Rest assured these guys know more about viruses than a mere immunologist doing his best to protect his fellow citizens.

The same people that are attacking Dr. Fauci don't want you to have your children vaccinated against measles.

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HE SAID: "I busted a mirror and got seven years bad luck, but my lawyer thinks he can get me five." Steven Wright, comedian

● ---- ● --- ●

SHE SAID: "I grew up in a school that had a big music program, and it was incredible. It's what I looked forward to during the day. I had chorus, strings, band." Alison Krauss, bluegrass singer and fiddler

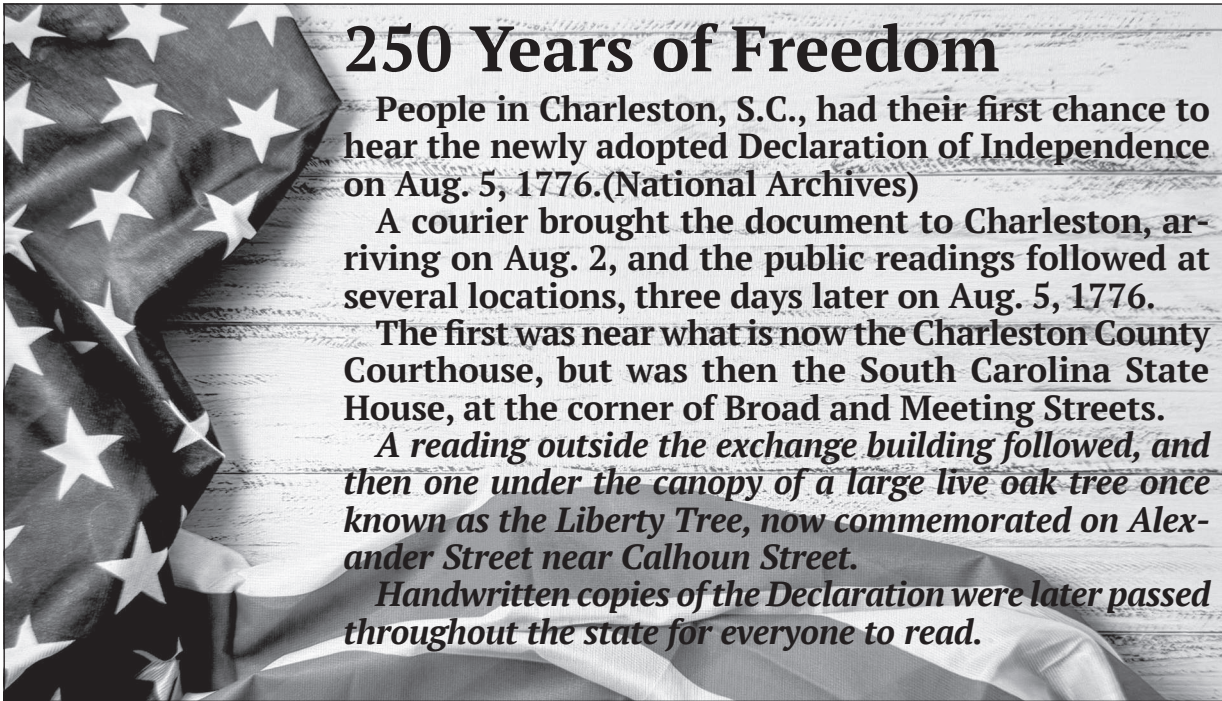
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SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Mine Creek
Revelations



By
Louie Graves



250 Years of Freedom

People in Charleston, S.C., had their first chance to hear the newly adopted Declaration of Independence on Aug. 5, 1776.(National Archives)

A courier brought the document to Charleston, arriving on Aug. 2, and the public readings followed at several locations, three days later on Aug. 5, 1776.

The first was near what is now the Charleston County Courthouse, but was then the South Carolina State House, at the corner of Broad and Meeting Streets.

A reading outside the exchange building followed, and then one under the canopy of a large live oak tree once known as the Liberty Tree, now commemorated on Alexander Street near Calhoun Street.

Handwritten copies of the Declaration were later passed throughout the state for everyone to read.

State's congressional delegation

invited to White House for meeting

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey

Members of the Arkansas Senate and House of Representatives were recently invited to the White House to meet with key staff from the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs for the White House State Leadership Conference.

The purpose of the meeting was to offer a forum for state elected leaders to have meaningful dialogue and an exchange of ideas with federal Executive Branch leaders on policies that impact Arkansans.

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, commonly referred to as IGA, was created in 1955 under President Dwight D. Eisenhower to bridge relationships and interactions between federal and state governments.

Today, IGA serves as the primary liaison between the White House and governors, state legislators, mayors, county officials, and tribal leadership. IGA staff work to ensure proper coordination between federal agencies and the states.

Speakers included staff from the White House Intergovernmental Affairs team, as well as Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Directors and Deputy Directors from a broad

range of federal agencies.

Ashley Walukevich, the Director of White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, opened the meetings and welcomed the members of the Arkansas Senate and House.

Director Walukevich encouraged members to utilize staff and engage the White House on any federal agency or White House policies that impact Arkansas.

Emily Domench, Executive Director of the Permitting Council, discussed her role in coordinating and fast-tracking the permitting process for large scale business and infrastructure projects across multiple federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Department of the Interior.

Most recently, Arkansas was able to utilize the "Fast 41" program (Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act) to expedite the lithium bromine extraction project in the Smackover Formation.

Sean Cairncross, National Cyber Director, discussed the need to strengthen our nation's defense against critical infrastructure cyber-attacks through scalable state-federal pilot programs as well as public-private partnerships to

enhance innovation and reduce bureaucratic burdens.

Director Cairncross also discussed the need for AI data centers and emphasized the importance of their development as a matter of national security, while recognizing that the data centers should also pay their share in the development of power generation necessary to operate.

JC Miller, Senior Policy Adviser, discussed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and recently approved waivers for healthy foods and work requirements for able-bodied working adults aged 18-64.

The conference concluded with remarks from Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin. He detailed the extensive coordination among federal, state, and local officials to ensure safety during the World Cup and the nationwide America 250 celebrations.

Mullin also discussed how local police forces could partner with and receive funding from federal law enforcement agencies, including funding available through the 287(g) program.

Local law enforcement agencies that are interested in participating should contact the Department of Homeland Security.

Senator leaves legacy in education

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

Arkansas has a proud history of producing leaders whose ideas have shaped our nation and influenced generations beyond our borders. One of the most notable examples is Senator J. William Fulbright, whose vision for educational exchange resulted in a program that has spent eight decades building connections, expanding opportunities and strengthening relationships among people and nations.

As we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Fulbright Program, it is fitting to reflect on the lasting impact of this Arkansas native's commitment to promoting greater understanding through education.

Senator Fulbright believed lasting peace depends on people learning from one another. His vision has stood the test of time. What began in 1946 as a bold idea has grown into one of the world's most respected international exchange programs, operating in more than 160 countries and creating opportunities for students, educators, researchers and professionals to study, teach and collaborate internationally.

The program's impact is remarkable. More than 450,000 individuals from the United States and around the world have participated in Fulbright exchanges. Its alumni include leaders in science, government, education and

the arts, including Nobel Prize winners, Pulitzer Prize recipients, heads of state and other individuals who have gone on to make meaningful contributions in their communities and professions.

In light of that incredible impact, I am pleased to be leading a Senate resolution recognizing the Fulbright Program's 80th anniversary and honoring its extraordinary legacy. Taking the opportunity to recognize a program with such deep Arkansas roots that has strengthened our nation and helped build lasting partnerships around the world is important.

Educational exchanges like the Fulbright Program do more than enrich academic experiences. They expose participants to different cultures, encourage the exchange of ideas and build relationships that often last a lifetime. Those personal connections strengthen diplomatic ties, create platforms for cooperation and help advance our nation's interests abroad.

I have seen the program's impact firsthand throughout the time I have been blessed to represent our state.

In nearly every country I visit, I meet government officials, business leaders or educators who are Fulbright alumni or have a close connection to the program. They speak proudly about their experiences, and these relationships demonstrate the power of bringing

people together through education and common purposes.

The Fulbright Program has long enjoyed bipartisan support because its value extends well beyond the classroom. It serves as an important tool of American diplomacy by promoting good will, expanding educational opportunities and strengthening alliances and partnerships around the world. I have supported the Fulbright Program under administrations of both parties because its mission reflects American values of innovation, service and engagement.

As we look to the future, we should continue investing in initiatives that promote educational exchange, foster greater cultural understanding and help address global challenges. Programs like Fulbright prepare future leaders, encourage cooperation and reinforce the values that have made America the trusted partner of so many nations.

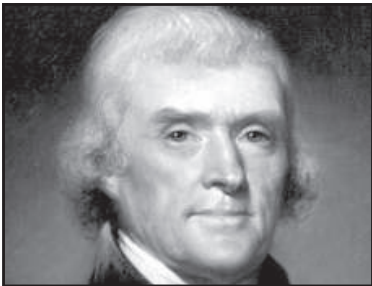
Arkansas is proud to be the home of Senator Fulbright and the remarkable influence he exerted to shape global events. As we celebrate the program's 80th anniversary, we honor his vision and the generations of students, educators, researchers and professionals who have carried it forward, proving the enduring power of education to break down cultural barriers, bridge divides and build a better future.

Nashville News-Leader

•
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John Balch, associate editor
Tracy Denny-Bailey, advertising manager
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"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Free press, free people

Letters policy

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

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

E-mail: jrs@nashvilleleader.com

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

School

Continued
from page 1A

rip them off. Find somebody who has accomplished this and borrow their map.”

He said there are three parts of every day based on “what you need to do, what you have to do, what you want to do. Contentment comes when your head hits the pillow at night and you say, ‘This was good.’”

Curry mentioned six non-negotiables.

First, “Be driven. Devote yourself to the pursuit of excellence. If this is just a job to you, please quit now. Make the team better. The pursuit of excellence requires elite effort, attitude, toughness. If every person in the district imitates my drive today, what will it mean?”

He told the educators that “there’s a little girl who can’t wait to be in your room. She will remember everything about how you made her feel. Drive is a fire. It can burn a building down, or it can heat the building up.”

Next, “Be disciplined. Do what’s right. Do what’s best. Discipline is the backbone of consistent achievement. Average people do average things. Have a relentless commitment to a strategy and get better at everything you do. What needs to change?”

Third, “Be diligent. Do what’s right. Focus on consistency and precision. Decide what matters most today. Have priorities you define.”

Fourth, “Be determined. You will face adversity. Great coaches have their teams face adversity before the game. They’ve built you for things that you will face.

If you’re looking for an excuse for mediocrity, you’ll find it.”

Number five, “Be dependable. Winners consistently deliver. You can’t be good if you only show up when you feel like it. Become a person others can rely on.”

Then, “Be demanding. Hold yourself and those around you to a standard of daily excellence. Expect and demand the very best. We never drift to excellence.”

Following Curry’s presentation, Graham likened the upcoming year to a relay, complete with the batons given to the teachers.

“Parents hand off their kids to you,” he said. “A relay is never won by one person. It’s not won by the fastest person alone. It takes teamwork and a clean hand-off. You have to work in your buildings to pass a kid from kindergarten to twelfth grade. Have a smooth hand-off.”

Sometimes in a race, a runner “may stumble. The goal is to recover the baton and keep running. Never leave a teammate or a baton behind,” Graham said.

Exchange zones are found throughout the race and the academic year, he said. “Every meeting, every email, every hallway conversation, all are exchange zones.”

Getting to the race itself, the first leg is the parents when they hand off their students, Graham said.

The second leg is the administration and school board setting the vision for each campus.

Third is the support staff. “They keep the race going when no one is looking.”

The “anchor leg is the teacher. It’s the one who’s most competitive. Not the



GUEST SPEAKER. Author and motivational speaker Jim Curry (standing by U.S. flag) offers suggestions to Nashville School District faculty and staff during their general meeting July 29 at the high school cafeteria.

fastest, but someone who will refuse to lose. The teacher will find a way to win. Be part of a team that gets that baton around,” Graham said.

Last on the meeting agenda was the unveiling of the song of the year, a long-standing tradition for Graham going back to his first year as superintendent.

All four buildings have a common theme for 2026-27 instead of each campus having its own, according to Graham. “It’s a group effort.”

The theme and song of the year - “Stars Stand Out” by Coach Brad Chesshir.

“Coach Chesshir started thinking about it during his vacation,” Graham said, and the song came together.

He showed a video with pictures from each campus, all tied together by “Stars Stand Out.”



BATONS FOR EVERYBODY. NJHS Assistant Principal Ben Wallis hands out batons before Superintendent Doug Graham spoke to school district faculty and staff Wednesday, July 29.

School

Continued
from page 1A

ing to work,” she shares.

Recently the NPD received a grant to upgrade their patrol cars. The state of Arkansas paid 90% of the cost for new laptops, mounting hardware, and printers for each car.

“The 90/10 grant is what

made it possible to put that very expensive equipment in every car,” Chief Marion states.

Each patrolman can now run tags, do reports, check for outstanding warrants statewide, and print tickets from the driver’s seat of their patrol car.

She has no plans for retirement. “This is all I’ve known; I truly love helping people.”

And your goal for the

Nashville Police Department?

“Getting older, and looking down the road, my goal is to train up the next generation of law enforcement officers,” she says. “I look forward to serving the people of Nashville for many years to come.”

“And,” she adds, “Thank you to the people of Nashville for giving me the opportunity to lead your police department.

Retire

Continued
from page 1A

health scare during a race, Harberson said. “I did a little research and learned that

one in 10 people who suffer cardiac arrest outside of a hospital survive, and brain damage begins in just four to six minutes. Kim, you’re a walking miracle. I’m blessed to know you.”

She thanked Howard

“for your dedication to our hospital, your friends and co-workers, and our community.”

Afterward, several of those friends and co-workers shared their stories about the retiree.

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CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT (OR
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LE BY THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

NOTICE TO THE PUB-
LIC

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

ISSUE NO. 1
Popular Name
A Constitutional Amendment to be Known as “The Citizens Only Voting Amendment” and Providing That Only a Citizen of the United States Meeting the Qualifications of an Elector Under the Arkansas Constitution May Vote in an Election in this State.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 3, § 1, is amended to read as follows: § 1. Qualifications of electors. (a)(1) Only a citizen of the United States meeting the qualifications of an elector under this section may vote in an election in this state. (2) A person who does not meet the qualifications of an elector under this section shall not be permitted to vote in any state or local election held in this state. (a)(b) Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, any person may vote in an election in this state who to vote in an election in this state a person shall be: (1) A citizen of the United States; (2) A resident of the State of Arkansas; (3) At least eighteen (18) years of age; and (4) Lawfully registered to vote in the election. (b)(1)(c)(1) In addition to the qualifications under subsection (a)(b) of this section, the General Assembly shall provide by law that a voter shall: (A) Present valid photographic identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person; and (B) Enclose a copy of valid photographic identification with his or her ballot when voting by absentee ballot. (f)(g) A voter meeting the requirements of this section also shall comply with all additional laws regulating elections necessary for his or her vote to be counted.

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

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

COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

Cossatot River State Park & Natural Area

Soak up last bit of summer fun

Join park interpreters for an educational program, guided hike, or snorkeling adventure. Pack a lunch and make a day of it, allowing time to explore the interactive exhibits of the visitor center, take a short trail walk, or just be with nature along the river bank. See you at the river.

Saturday, Aug. 1

Mammals of Cossatot
9-11a.m. @ Cossatot Falls

Saturday, Aug. 1

River Sleuths

2p.m. @ Sandbar Bridge

Sunday, Aug. 2

Birding Walk

8:30a.m. @ Waterleaf Trailhead

Every Sunday

Snake Feeding

3p.m. @ Visitor Center

Saturday, Aug. 8

Intro to Nature Journaling Hike

9a.m. @ Brushy Creek Nature Trail

Saturday, Aug. 8

Tree ID Hike

2p.m. @ Harris Creek Trailhead

Sunday, Aug. 9

Backyard Insects

11a.m. @ Cossatot Falls

Saturday, Aug. 15

Mammals of Cossatot

9-11a.m. @ Sandbar Campground

Saturday, Aug. 15

Amphibian Crawl Hike

3p.m. @ Waterleaf Trailhead

Sunday, Aug. 16

Orienteering

10a.m. @ Visitor Center

Saturday, Aug. 22

Salamander Search Hike

10a.m. @ Cossatot Falls Entrance

Saturday, Aug. 22

Bird Feeder Fun

2p.m. @ Visitor Center Amphitheater

Sunday, Aug. 23

Tree ID Hike

9a.m. @ Brushy Creek Nature Trail

Saturday, Aug. 29

Mammals of Cossatot

9-11a.m. @ Cossatot Falls

Saturday, Aug. 29

Technology in Nature

3p.m. @ Visitor Center

Sunday, Aug. 30

Survival Skills

11a.m. @ Cossatot Falls



STATE 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS. The State 4-H Shooting Sports Championship was held on July 16-17 with the Howard County 4-H shooting sports club sending five members that competed in the shotgun portion of the competition on July 16, according to Dawson Bailey, Howard County Agri Extension Agent. Those members were Payeton Bagley, Connor Bagley, Emmett Jamison, Hudson Worley and Holden Worley. This year for the shotgun day, the 4-H center was packed. There were between 75 and 80 shooters registered and only two trap fields. The competition got behind early and ran way longer than it was supposed to. Even after waiting in the heat, our kids did not get flustered. The senior team that consisted of Payeton, Connor, and Emmett held their own, shooting a 116 out of 150 as a team. Hudson and Holden shot as individuals in the junior division. In 4-H, the juniors only shoot one round of 25 in the trap competition. Out of 25, Hudson shot a 20 and Holden shot a 15. At the end of the day, Howard County got to bring home an award. The senior team shot well enough to be in a shootout and placed third. We are proud of our shooters for the time and dedication they put in. Team members (from left) Hudson Worley, Emmett Jamison, Connor Bagley, Payeton Bagley and Holden Worley.

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OPENING NIGHT: Friday, August 7 at 7 p.m.
BIBLE PROPHECY AND THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES
Saturday, August 8 at 6 p.m.
THE PROPHECY THAT PREDICTED WORLD HISTORY
Saturday, August 8 at 7 p.m.
REVELATION'S GREAT CONTROVERSY
Monday, August 10 at 7 p.m.
THE LONGEST TIME PROPHECY IN GOD'S WORD
Tuesday, August 11 at 7 p.m.
THE ANTI-CHRIST REVEALED
Thursday, August 13 at 7 p.m.
THE UNCHANGING GOD PROVIDES US WITH HOPE
Friday, August 14 at 7 p.m.
HOPE WHEN THE LITTLE HORN TRIES TO CHANGE GOD'S LAW
Saturday, August 15 at 11 a.m.
HOPE IN THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD
Saturday, August 15, After Lunch
DIDN'T HAVE TOO, WANT TOO, & NOBODY COULD MAKE ME
Monday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m.
HOPE IN THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST
Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m.
WHAT REALLY HAPPENS WHEN IT HAPPENS
Thursday, August 20 at 7:00 p.m.
HELLFIRE REVEALING GOD'S LOVE

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Skyler Ramsire (left) and Trendon Northcross were among the players who delivered Scrapper posters to Nashville businesses last week.



The 23-year-old turf on the practice field in the Scrapper Dome was removed last week, with a new artificial surface to be installed.



Bryce Perrin (7) runs the ball at practice Monday afternoon, Aug. 3.



New turf covers the field at Scrapper Stadium.



Scrappers worked out on the practice field Monday, Aug. 3, as new turf is installed at Scrapper Stadium.

Closer to kickoff



Jakhari Starr (1) takes the handoff from DJ Jefferson during practice Monday afternoon, Aug. 3, the first day of fall camp statewide.



Work continues on the new artificial turf at Scrapper Stadium.

23 days remaining
in the Countdown
to the Scrappers'
first game Aug. 28
at home against Bismarck

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SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by
The Leader sports department

Area athletes

Fall camp opened this week
for high school football players
under Arkansas Activities As-
sociation rules. Players will add
to their gear as the week pro-
gresses. Tennis players, golfers
and cross country runners con-
tinue to practice, with their sea-
sons opening within the next few
days.



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- \$1,000

\$45,199

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FIND NEW ROADS



DIERKS PINE TREE FESTIVAL PAGEANT WINNERS. (Front from left) Young Miss Queen Annslee Sutton, Tiny Miss Queen Tilley Frachiseur, Little Miss Queen Delannie Waldrop, Toddler Miss Queen Delilah Waldrop, Baby Miss Queen Maggie Moss, Baby Miss Runner-up Eliana Edge, Petite Miss Queen Rowyn Resendis; (back) Teen Miss Queen Myla Lewis, Miss Queen Allanis Chandler and Junior Miss Queen Raylee Michaud.

Fall scholarships available for single parents in Howard, Pike counties

Single parents have until Sept. 1 to apply for Fall 2026 scholarships from the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund (ASPSF). Awards range from \$400 to \$1,600 and are available to eligible students pursuing an associate degree, bachelor’s degree, professional certificate, or skilled-trade program. Applications opened Aug. 1 at aspsf.org/scholarships.

For many single parents, earning a degree means balancing classes with full-time work, raising children, arranging transportation, and finding reliable child care. ASPSF pairs flexible scholarship funding with mentorship, career guidance, workshops, and connections to local resources so parents have support throughout their educational journey.

Every parent who earns a degree or workforce credential helps strengthen the future of local communities by building the local workforce and creating opportunities for families to thrive close to home.

“All parents deserves the opportunity to

build a better future through education,” ASPSF CEO Jenn Morehead said. “When we remove barriers to earning a degree or workforce credential, families, employers, and communities all benefit.”

Who Can Apply
Applicants must:

- Be a single parent.
- Live in an eligible Arkansas county or Bowie County, Texas.
- Hold a high school diploma or GED.
- Be pursuing an associate degree, bachelor’s degree, professional certificate, or skilled-trade program.

Both new and returning applicants are encouraged to apply before the Sept. 1 deadline. Complete eligibility requirements and the online application are available at aspsf.org/scholarships. Learn more at aspsf.org.

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Slave descendants gather for reunion at new, improved Bullock Historic Memorial Garden

By John Balch
News-Leader staff

“Today, we gather to honor and remember our ancestors whose lives, sacrifices and legacy continue to inspire us. May this memorial serve as a lasting tribute to their memory and a reminder of the strong family foundation they left for us.”

Those were the words of Machella Jackson on Saturday, July 25 as she welcomed close to 100 fellow descendants of former slaves Leandor “Mint” (1846-1909) and Mary (1841-1911) Bullock to the Bullock Historic Memorial Garden, located within Polk Cemetery in the Muddy Fork community.

The visit on July 25 was part of the 2026 Bullock Family Reunion’s heritage journey that included stops in Howard and Pike counties and included the unveiling of six legacy headstones to join the one placed in 2018 for Mint and Mary Bullock.

Mint and Mary Bullock were born slaves and lived to be free after suffering “the brutal inhumanity of slavery” and raised four sons, according the inscription on their joint headstone.

The new headstones unveiled included Alice Bullock Benson (1904), Doc Amos Bullock (1924), William Bullock (1923), John Henry Bullock (1930), Viney Bullock (1944) and Alice Jackson Bullock (1946). World War One veteran John Wesley Bullock’s headstone was also included in the ceremony.

Several children (Descendants of Promise) participated in the unveiling and passed out flowers to all in attendance to be placed on the headstones before a special butterfly release ceremony was held. Each butterfly represented those buried in the cemetery.

As each butterfly awakened from its flat triangle holding box and started to take flight, Charlotte Carr told the descendants, “Hold it up so she can go. Let it go!”

Back in 2018, Bullock Historic Memorial Garden was just called Bullock Cemetery and there was a wooded trail to the backside across the Polk Cemetery grounds, which also includes a vast history of slavery in southwest Arkansas.

The area has been improved vastly since 2018, including a road for direct access to the memorial garden, thanks to members of the Bullock Reunion Committee and the hard work of Pike County native, Jerry Kizzia, 83.

Kizzia was presented with a special citation during the event for appreciation of his “dedicated, unwavering support in helping prepare the Bullock Historic Memorial Garden” and his “generosity, hard work and commitment” to the role in preserving the Bullock family legacy.

“This did not exist the last time we were here,” Carr told the crowd about the tree cutting and site preparation completed by Kizzia. “It was just trees and we had to come through the other cemetery to get here. There was no road here the last time.”

Kizzia also received a special gift: a new pair of overalls. Julia Bullock-Lewis said every time she has ever seen Kizzia that he was wearing overalls and figured he deserved a new pair.

Kizzia was moved by the recognition as he thanked those gathered and said it



SPECIAL PRESENTATION. 83-year-old Jerry Kizzia receives a citation recognizing his work in helping improve the Bullock Historic Memorial Garden by the Bullock Reunion Committee’s Julia Bullock-Lewis, who also presented Kizzia with a new pair of overalls.

was appropriate the reunion was happening in the year America celebrates its 250th birthday and suggested, “One day, when we all get to Heaven, let’s have another Bullock reunion.” The comment drew several “amens” from the gracious crowd.

Howard County Judge Brent Pinkerton was also on hand for the event and was recognized for the county’s work contributions to help improve access to the memorial garden.

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

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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

ISSUE NO. 2
Popular Name

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

Ballot Title

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS FOR THEIR COMMON DEFENSE, FOR LAWFUL HUNTING AND RECREATIONAL USE, AND FOR ANY OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSE; PROVIDING THAT THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS INCLUDES WITHOUT LIMITATION THE POSSESSION AND USE OF AMMUNITION, FIREARM ACCESSORIES, AND FIREARM COMPONENTS; AND PROVIDING THAT THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS IS A NATURAL, FUNDAMENTAL, AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHT THAT SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

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

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

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

SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Right to keep and bear arms. (a) The citizens of this State shall have the right to keep and bear arms; for: (1) their Their common defense; (2) Lawful hunting and recreational use; and (3) Any other lawful purpose. (b) The right to keep and bear arms under subsection (a) of this section includes without limitation the possession and use of: (1) Ammunition; (2) Firearm accessories; and (3) Firearm components. (c) The right to keep and bear arms under subsection (a) of this section is a natural, fundamental, and individual right that shall not be infringed.

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

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



COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

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Home&Heart Quick, Easy Back-to-School Lunch Tips for Busy Families

By Abby Gray
Howard County
Extension Agent
Family & Consumer
Science

As students head back to the classroom, packing healthy lunches can become a daily challenge for busy families. Fortunately, a little planning and creativity can make lunchtime easier while

ensuring children have the nutrition they need to learn, grow and stay energized throughout the school day.

Nutrition and food safety experts recommend getting children involved in the lunch-packing process. Allowing children to help select and pack their foods gives them a sense of ownership and makes them more

likely to eat and enjoy what is packed. Older children can even take responsibility for packing their own lunches with guidance from parents.

One of the easiest ways to simplify mornings is to create a designated lunch-prep area stocked with containers, utensils, napkins and other supplies.

Keeping everything in one location makes packing lunches quicker and helps children participate in the process. Families can also prepare some foods the night before to reduce the morning rush.

Build a Balanced Lunch

Experts recommend thinking about all the food groups when planning lunches. A balanced meal can include:

Fruits, Bananas, Grapes, Strawberries, Apple slices, Applesauce, Vegetables, Carrots, Celery sticks, Cherry tomatoes, Broccoli florets, Cucumber slices, Whole Grains, Whole-grain bread, Whole-grain tortillas, Whole-grain crackers, Whole-grain pitas, Protein, Peanut butter, Lean lunch meats, Refried beans, Dairy, Low-fat milk, Yogurt, Cheese and String cheese

Parents can also offer a variety of healthy choices and let children decide what goes into their lunchbox. Providing options can reduce food waste and encourage children to make healthy decisions.

Make Lunch More Fun

Keeping lunches interesting can encourage children to eat healthier foods. Experts suggest switching up the traditional sandwich by using whole-grain pitas, English muffins, tortillas or crackers. For younger children, cookie cutters can turn lunch meat and cheese into fun shapes that make meals more appealing.

Another tip is to pair fruits and vegetables together.

Mixing sweet fruits with vegetables, such as apple slices and celery sticks or raisins and carrots, may help picky eaters try new foods. Small containers filled with vegetables and dip; hummus or fruit can also make lunches more enjoyable.

For an extra smile during the school day, parents may want to include a short note of encouragement in the lunchbox.

Don't Forget Food Safety

Keeping lunches safe is just as important as making them nutritious. Food safety experts recommend using insulated lunch bags and at least two ice packs to keep perishable foods cold until lunchtime. Frozen juice boxes, yogurt tubes or water bottles can also help keep foods chilled while thawing in time to be enjoyed at lunch.

Parents should wash their hands before handling food, keep cold foods cold, and ensure containers are easy for children to open. When packing foods such as fruits

and vegetables, including utensils, napkins or a small wet wipe can make cleanup easier for students.

Plan Ahead for Success

Experts agree that a little preparation goes a long way. Stocking up on lunch supplies, preparing ingredients ahead of time and involving children in the planning process can make back-to-school lunches less stressful for families and more enjoyable for students.

Recipe Corner: Veggiecakes

Looking for a make-ahead lunchbox option that sneaks in extra vegetables? Try these easy Veggiecakes. They can be served with nut butter and low-sugar syrup for breakfast or packed in lunches with applesauce or fruit.

Ingredients

2 cups pancake mix (just-add-water variety)
½ cup shredded carrots
½ cup shredded zucchini, summer squash or winter squash
1 cup water
1 to 2 tablespoons packed light brown sugar or another sweetener such as maple syrup, agave or stevia (optional)
1 teaspoon vanilla (optional)
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice (optional)

Instructions

Wash hands with soap and water.
Shred vegetables and place them in a colander. Squeeze out excess water

and set aside. You can also place vegetables between layers of a clean cotton towel and squeeze out moisture.

Measure pancake mix into a medium bowl. Add sweetener, if using, and stir.

Pour water into the dry ingredients and stir until just moistened. Do not overmix, as this can make pancakes tough.

Fold in the vegetables and mix until combined.

Heat a nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and add 1 tablespoon of oil.

When the skillet is hot, pour about ¼ cup batter into the skillet for each pancake. Leave room between pancakes for turning.

When bubbles form on the surface, flip the pancakes and cook for 1 to 2 minutes longer.

Keep finished pancakes warm on a cookie sheet in a 250 degree F. oven. Place them on a rack for a crispier texture if desired.

Serve with nut butter and low-sugar syrup, canned fruit or applesauce.

About This Information

This article was developed using educational materials from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service's "Back to School Lunches: Tips and Ideas" fact sheet, Kansas State University Extension's food safety guidance for packing school lunches, and the Mississippi State University Extension Service article "Tips to Make Back-to-School Lunches Easy."

Howard County's Sales and Use Tax Distribution for June 2026	
RECEIPTS	HOWARD CO.
Deposit	\$617,442.50
State service charge.....	18,523.28
Interest earned	1,714.02
Vending decals	340.54
Amount distributed	\$600,973.78
HOWARD COUNTY DISTRIBUTION	
Dierks City Treasurer #1	\$15,657.33
Dierks City Treasurer #2	3,914.33
Mineral Springs City Treasurer #1	18,546.07
Mineral Springs City Treasurer #2	4,636.52
Nashville City Treasurer #1	70,987.85
Nashville City Treasurer #2	17,746.96
Tollette City Treasurer #1	3,162.23
Tollette City Treasurer #2	790.56
Howard County (Jail)	54,633.98
Cossatot Community College UofA	54,633.98
Howard County Road	77,127.71
Howard County Landfill	33,043.73
Howard County General fund	27,545.61
Howard Memorial Hospital	11,018.24
Economic Development	11,018.24
Total Distributed	\$600,973.78
SOURCE: Howard County Deputy Treasurer Taylor Stone	

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Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.
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THE SPITEFUL KING!
KING NAHASH OF THE AMMONITES, SHORTLY AFTER SAUL HAD BEEN MADE KING OVER ISRAEL, CAME UP AND BESIEGED THE TOWN OF JABESH-GILEAD. THE MEN OF JABESH, WANTING NO WAR, OFFERED TO SURRENDER THE TOWN TO NAHASH AND SERVE THIS AMMONITE KING! (I SAM. 11:1) OBVIOUSLY, NAHASH WAS A SPITEFUL MAN, FOR HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL UNLESS EVERY MAN IN TOWN CONSENTED TO LOSE HIS RIGHT EYE! PROBABLY KING NAHASH WANTED TO INSULT THE ISRAELITES, IN THIS MANNER, BECAUSE IN THE DAYS OF MOSES THE AMMONITES WERE FORBIDDEN BY LAW TO EVER ENTER INTO THE CONGREGATION OF THE LORD! THE ELDERS OF JABESH RECEIVED A WEEK'S RESPITE IN WHICH TO SEEK HELP. WHEN THE MESSENGERS OF THE TOWN REACHED GIBEAH, WHERE KING SAUL LIVED, THE PEOPLE WERE HORRIFIED AT THE NEWS! KING SAUL WAS SO ANGERED THAT HE KILLED A YOKE OF OXEN AND SENT PIECES OF THE SLAIN ANIMALS THROUGHOUT ISRAEL WITH THE MESSAGE THAT ANY MAN WHO DID NOT JOIN HIM TO FIGHT KING NAHASH WOULD LOSE HIS OWN OXEN IN THE SAME WAY! (I SAM. 11:7) NATURALLY THE RESPONSE WAS TREMENDOUS -- THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN ANSWERED THE CALL! SO SPITEFUL KING NAHASH DIDN'T HAVE HIS WAY WITH THE MEN OF JABESH-GILEAD, FOR KING SAUL AND THE ARMY OF ISRAELITES ROUNDLY DEFEATED THE AMMONITES!



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Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Minister: Jim Pinson

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Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.

Pike County’s municipal candidates file in

As the filing period for municipal elections in Pike County wanes, a handful of people have registered for election. The process will close on Wednesday, Aug. 5 at noon. Positions up for election during the November General Election on November 3 are listed below with the current office holder:

In the Towns of Antoine and Daisy, there have been no filings as of the writing of this story.

Delight has seen filings of Lee Gatliff for mayor, Dana Hightower for recorder/treasurer, Rhonda Abbott for alderman position one, Ty Sherrod for alderman position two, Ronnie cox for alderman position 4 and Chris Goodson for alderman position 5.

Incumbent Glenwood Mayor Billy Plyler has registered for election along with Johnny Cox for alderman of North Ward position two.

With Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O’Neal having declared he will not seek reelection, Jack Bonds and Mary Jean Barbre have filed for the position. In addition, Mark Barnes has filed for North Ward position one, Joan Hooper for North Ward position two, Lewis Gills for South Ward position

one, Jane Fugitt for South Ward position two and two candidates -- Patrick May and Doris Scoggins -- for West Ward position one.

Current incumbents in positions currently up for election in November 2026 include:

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

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

TOWN OF DELIGHT
Mayor - Lee Gatliff
Recorder/Treasurer - Dana Hightower
Alderman Position 1 - Rhonda Abbott
Alderman Position 2 - Ty Sherrod
Alderman Position 3 - Brandi “Rowton” Martin
Alderman Position 4 - Ronnie Cox
Alderman Position 5 - Keith Woods

CITY OF GLENWOOD
Mayor - Billy Plyler
Alderman North Ward Position 2 - Johnny Cox
Alderman South Ward Position 2 - Chase Pope

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VERNON JAY PINKERTON, deceased31PR-25-67

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND FILING OF CLAIMS

Estate of VERNON JAY PINKERTON, deceased
Address of decedent: 596 Parsons Road, Newhope, Howard County, Arkansas 71959
Date of Death: JUNE 23, 2025

The undersigned person was appointed Executrix of the estate of the above-named decedent on the 28th day of July, 2026.

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

This notice first published the 5th day of August, 2026.

Phylliss Parsons
Administratrix
P.O. Box 810,
De Queen, AR 71832
Mailing Address

Prepared by:
Erin Hunter
Attorney at Law
(EH: 7, 8)

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Melinda Bennett 870-451-2226

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND INTENTION TO SELL

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **August 26, 2026, at or about 10:00 AM**, the subject real property described herein below will be sold **at the main entrance to the Howard County Courthouse, 421 North Main Street, Nashville, AR 71852** to the highest bidder for cash. The sale will extinguish all interests, including those of existing lien holders or previous owners in the property. THE TERMS OF SALE ARE CASH THE DAY OF SALE AND ALL TRANSFER TAXES WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PURCHASER.

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

Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE 1/4 NW 1/4) of Section Twenty-Six (26), Township Nine (9) South, Range Twenty-Seven (27) West, Nashville, Howard County, Arkansas, described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of said SE 1/4 NW 1/4 and running North 60 feet, thence East 16.4 feet for the point of beginning, thence North 220 feet, thence East 115 feet, thence South 220 feet, to the North line of Clark Street, thence West along the North line of Clark Street 115 feet to the point of beginning.

Street Address: 624 West Clark Street, Nashville, AR 71852

WHEREAS on September 11, 2006, Charles R. Archer and Patrenda Archer, his wife executed a Mortgage in favor of CTX Mortgage Company, LLC, which was recorded on September 18, 2006 in Book 2006, Page 8526, in the real estate records of Howard County, Arkansas. The beneficial interest of said Mortgage has been assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, which is the party initiating foreclosure. The party initiating foreclosure is Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee for the Soundview Home Loan Trust 2007-NS1 Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-NS1 and can be contacted at or in care of its servicer initiating foreclosure at: Nationstar Mortgage LLC, PO Box 619080, Dallas, TX 75261, at Telephone Number 214-756-2432 ; and

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

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

WITNESS my hand this June 17, 2026.

TIMOTHY D. PADGETT, P.A.
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE FOR DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2007-NS1 ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-NS1

Renee Price
Timothy D. Padgett, P.A.
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(850) 422-2520
18-004514
(PNA: 7 - 10)

PUBLIC NOTICE

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(BD: 7)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: DOVIE ARLENE AYERS 31 PR-25-61

NOTICE OF PROBATE-INTESTATE

Last known address of decedent: 606 Herman Ave, Dierks, Howard County, Arkansas
Date of death: September 2, 2025

David Armer was appointed the Administrator of the Estate of Dovie Arlene Ayers, by order dated August 3, 2026. All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published the 5th day of August, 2026.

David Armer, Administrator, by
Aaron R. Basel, ABN 2009138
Post Office Box 813
Nashville AR 71852
(870) 845-4100 – Telephone
(AB: 7, 8)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! for READING & SUPPORTING Your Hometown Newspaper - *The Nashville News-Leader Staff*

Food boxes to be delivered in Murfreesboro Aug. 19

Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, Aug. 19 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed.

Recipients must come inside the Municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in. Check-In starts at 7:00. Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along 2nd Ave & Owens St. towards First United Methodist Church. Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the Municipal building. The next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to 1 box per household and 2 households per vehicle. Vehicles start lining up early, so we recommend you get there early.

Pike County women facing drug charges after traffic stop

Two Pike County women have been charged with felony drug offenses following a July traffic stop in Glenwood.

They include Tonya D. Hamilton, 46, of Murfreesboro, charged with furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles (delivering a prohibited article), possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia; and Teri G. Dean, 54, who has a Murfreesboro address but resides in Glenwood, charged with possession of methamphetamine with the purpose to deliver, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Both ladies made court appearances Monday where they entered pleas of not guilty and an Oct. 5 pretrial date was set for both cases.

Hamilton and Dean were arrested on July 22 after being pulled over by an Arkansas State trooper for possible fictitious tags. Hamilton was behind the wheel and advised the trooper she had a search waiver on file. A check of passenger Dean also determined she had a search waiver on file and the vehicle was searched.

A glass smoking device was found and the two were taken into custody with neither claiming ownership of the pipe. At the Pike County jail for booking, Hamilton was found to be in possession of suspected meth and another smoking pipe that she reportedly had hidden inside her body right before the traffic stop.

The two bags of suspected meth had a weight of 5.4 grams.

Dean was then transported to her residence in Glenwood and a search was conducted. Four bags of suspected meth were located along with seven smoking pipes and one psilocybin mushrooms.

The four bags of meth found had a weight of 17 grams.

On July 31, Neftali Lugo, Jr., 34, of Murfreesboro, was charged with aggravated

assault on a family or household member, terroristic threatening, false imprisonment, interference with emergency communications and third-degree domestic battery.

Lugo failed to show up for his court date Monday and a warrant has been issued for this arrest.

According to case information, Lugo was arrested the night of July 1 at a home on Evans Street in Murfreesboro. Lugo's alleged victim told law officials that she had bonded Lugo out of the Pike County jail on June 26 and on June 28 she said Lugo strangled her. From that date

until July 1, Lugo has reportedly restrained his victim inside the house by threat and took her phone. Lugo then barricaded the doors and allegedly abused his victim at one point brandishing a machete, a hammer and kitchen knife.

The victim said she escaped when Lugo was taking a shower. Forced entry was made into he house and Lugo was taken into custody without incident.

A query of Lugo's criminal history showed on April 16, 2024 Lugo was convicted in Harris County, Texas of assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

Four defendants sentenced Monday in Pike County court

Four defendants were sentenced during the Monday session of Pike County Circuit Court.

Ronnie Rusher, 63, of Hope, pleaded guilty to internet stalking and electronic facilitation of child sexual abuse; sentenced to 20 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with high years suspended.

Gregory Pierce, 30, of Mineral Springs, pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance and

tampering with evidence; sentenced to a total of 10 years in the ADC with five years suspended.

Kyraim Hodges, 36, of Milwaukee, Wis., pleaded guilty to theft by receiving; sentenced to six years of probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs.

John McMurry, 44, of Conway, pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance; sentenced to six years of probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs.

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Nashville's City Sales and Use Tax

For June 2026

Deposits.....	\$144,249.05
State Service Charge	4,327.47
Interest Earned (Act 513 of 1983)	400.00
Vending Decals Sold	79.56
Total Distributed	\$140,401.58

SOURCE: City Finance Officer Kimberly Green

Pike County District Court

July 21, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

Pike County
Abernathy, Richard D., 58, Story, \$382 BF, overweight
Baucom, Sean, 31, Manteca, Calif., possession of a controlled substance, under advisement for one year to dismiss, fined \$1,090
Couch, Christopher Ryan, 37, Amity, guilty of DWI #2, fined \$2,620, sentenced to seven days in jail, license suspended and. Must complete DWI educational course; guilty of reckless driving, fined \$445 and sentenced to five days in jail; guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months
Howell, Andrew B., 31, Hot Spring, \$235 BF, public intoxication

Bench Trials
Pike County
Howell, Andrew B., 31, Hot Springs, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330; guilty of no driver's license, fined \$125
Reid, William D., 40, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay; \$710 balance
Summit, Nicholas E., 41, Alexander, guilty of failure to pay; 44,420 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$220

City of Murfreesboro
Wilkerson, Teresa K., 54, Delight, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125; guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$125

City of Glenwood
Summitt, Nicholas E., 41, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,685 balance

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

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The 95th General Assembly refers the following question to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 4. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this question. This question is Act 578 of the Regular 2025 Session by Senator Hester.

ISSUE NO. 4
Ballot Title
Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities Financing Act of 2025.

Ballot Question
Shall the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission be authorized to issue general obligation bonds under the

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

bonds shall be secured by a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State of Arkansas?

___ FOR Issuance of State of Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities general obligation bonds.

___ AGAINST Issuance of State of Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities general obligation bonds.

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

COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

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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