

Obituaries



James Robert "Bob" Martin
John Robert "Bob" Martin, age 85 of Nashville, Ark., passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026. He was born on March 29, 1941, in Nashville to the late R.G. and Pearl Martin.

During the 1950s, Mr. Martin was a star athlete at Nashville High School and excelled in track and football. Later, he earned a scholarship to Henderson State University where he was a multi-time 100-yard dash champion and an "anchor leg" on AIC mile relay record holders. He held this record for over 30 years.

After college, Bob moved to Hawthorne, Calif., where he married and had two children. He had a long career for American Airlines before moving home to Nashville, Ark., where he raised his boys. In Nashville, he worked in several places, including Tyson Foods, Inc., operated Hart Poultry and kept books for D&J Supply. He was well known to everyone for his selling vegetables on the corner of Sunset where he formed many relationships. He was a family man who loved hunting, fishing, Scrapper Football, and all things Razorbaks!

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by the love of his life, Ruth Smithson Cooper; his brother and sister-in-law, James and Emogene Martin and one son, Steven Martin.

Those left to cherish his memory include a son and daughter-in-law, David Martin and Kayla; five grandchildren, Whitney Evans, Nicole Martin, Amber Martin, Adison Williams and Asher Williams; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.



Reginald 'Reggie' Frances Gathright
Reginald "Reggie" Frances Gathright, age 70 of Nashville, Ark., passed away on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026 at his home surrounded by his family. He was born in Fort Riley, Kan., on Jan. 4, 1956, to Elizabeth Gathright and the late Pete Gathright.

Mr. Gathright was a member of the First Baptist Church in Nashville. He retired from CertainTeed Gypsum in 2015 after several years of employment.

Reggie was an avid fan of all things athletic. He loved

to watch football, basketball, golf and all of other sports. He was a State Champion in Tennis his senior year at Nashville High School in 1974. He loved hunting, fishing, camping and spending time with his family and friends. He enjoyed riding motorcycles and going on trips with his dad.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a sister, Stacey Gathright and his stepmother, Ann Gathright.

Those left to cherish his memory include his loving wife of 30 years, Kay Gathright; his mother, Elizabeth Gathright; a sister, Stephanie Griggs; a step-sister, Rhonda Moses and her husband, Gerald; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. until the service begins on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Funeral services will begin at 3 p.m. in the Latimer Funeral Chapel with Rev. Wade Eggers, Larry Frohnappel and Jay Strasner officiating. Interment will follow in County Line Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made the the Nashville Global Methodist Church, Building Fund, P.O. Box 1571, Nashville, AR 71852.

Jeanette Crosslin Deloney

Jeanette was born June 21, 1943, to the union of Dock Crossline and Rosie Mae Brown Crosslin.

She departed this life on Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, at home with her daughter by her side.

Jeanette was a 1961 graduate of Howard County School in Tollett, Ark. At an early age she gave her heart to the Lord and joined Mt. Zion Baptist Church in White Cliffs, Ark.

In 1961, Jeanette met the love of her life, and on Dec. 23, 1962, she married M. D. Deloney. To this union one daughter Jacqueline "Cookie" Deloney was born. Jeanette was Cookie's biggest fan, best friend, and always up for an adventure with Cookie. Where you saw one you saw the other. Their joy and laughter together was infectious, reaching everyone around them.

For over 60 years Jeanette worked for the S. A. Westbrook family. She was so much more than an employee. The Deloney and Westbrook clans were and always will be family. Jeanette listened, advised, laughed, and cried with the Westbrook children. She was a second mother and grandmother, imparting her wisdom, training, and words of Godly encouragement to three generations.

In her free time, she enjoyed watching Lifetime and Lifetime Movie Network, and didn't want anyone to change the channel.

In 2018, Jeanette joined Frontline Christian Ministries in Nashville, Ark. She was a faithful member until her health began to decline.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, M. D. Deloney, her parents Dock and Rosie Mae Brown Crosslin, four brothers: L. C. Crosslin, Sylvester Crosslin, Levester Crosslin,

Augusta Crosslin and one sister, Margaret Phillips.

She leaves to cherish her memory her daughter Jacqueline "Cookie" Deloney of Lockesburg, Ark., two brothers-in-law Franklin (Marva) Booker of Goodyear, Ariz., and Charles Booker of Tacoma, Wash., her God Granddaughter Charity Nelson of Ashdown, Ark., bonus daughter Lynn Westbrook Dyer of Nashville, Ark., and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Visitation will be Sept. 5, 2026, at 10 a.m. followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m. at Roland-Piggee Memorial Church, Lockesburg, Ark. The church is located on Hwy. 27S, west of Mineral Springs.

Services by Hamilton-Davis Funeral Home, Stamps, Ark.



Billy Wayne McKee
Billy Wayne McKee, husband, father, grandfather, -grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully on Aug. 27, 2026, at the age of 92 surrounded by his family and loved ones.

He was born on Fe. 23,1934, in Wilm, Ark., as the second son of Edward (Bud) McKee and Hester Morris McKee.

Growing up in the close-knit community of Wilmot, Bill's life was grounded in the values of hard work and family. He left school to proudly serve his country in the US Navy in the Korean Conflict and was honorably discharged in 1955. After his first tour of duty in Korea, he returned to Arkansas and proposed to the love of his life, Volene. He promised if she would marry him, he would finish high school, earn a college degree and provide a good life for them. Always keeping his promises, he earned his bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry from Arkansas A&M in Monticello, Ark., (now University of Arkansas at Monticello).

Bill's professional journey began as a high school math and science teacher in England, Ark., from 1959 to 1963. After teaching 4 years, he was employed by Dierks Forest Industries Briar Plant (later Weyerhaeuser) in Nashville, Ark., where he remained until he retired in 1991. In addition to his Weyerhaeuser responsibilities, he also had a life-long love of farming. He raised cattle and poultry. He remained in Nashville until 2022 when they moved to Conway to be closer to family.

Bill was an active member of the boards of the Jan-Eze Corporation of Nashville and Farm Credit in Russellville. He was also an active member of his Men's Sunday School Class at the First Baptist Church of Nashville.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 72 years, Volene McKee, their three children including Gary and wife Taleda, Connie, Allen and wife Jana. He also leaves behind seven grandchildren

and 11 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister-in-law Eula Jean McKee, her daughter Lorri Ann Graham and husband Jim along with an abundance of nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents Edward (Bud) and Hester McKee, a brother Edward (Bud) McKee Jr. and his son John Logan McKee.

The family extends their sincere gratitude and appreciation to family, friends and Baptist Health in Conway for the exceptional care and compassion.

The family will receive visitors at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church Nashville, Ark., with funeral services immediately following at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Operation Christmas Child. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church OCC and send to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 339, Nashville, AR 71852.

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



Sharon Brock Ackley
Sharon Brock Ackley, age 80, of Nashville, Ark., passed away peacefully on A. 29, 2026, in Texarkana, Texas, surrounded by her family. She was born on Feb. 21, 1946, in Nashville, Ark., and was the beloved daughter of Herman and Effie (Reed) Brock of Dierks, Ark.

Sharon is survived by her husband and the love of her life of 45 years, Rodney Ackley; their two daughters, Stephanie Ray of Nashville, Ark., and Susan Jackson of Nashville, Ark.; her precious grandchildren, Mathew Myrick and wife Shelby of Nashville, Jessica Schroader and husband Brandon of Nashville, Crystal Leyva and husband Serigo of Nashville, and Ethan Ray and wife Stephanie of Elkins, Ark.; and her 13 wonderful great-grandchildren. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, extended family members, and many loving friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Effie Brock, her sister Glenda Hogden all of Dierks, Ark., and her great-grandson, Jordan Myrick of Nashville, Ark.

Sharon worked for many years at the Briar Plant, where she taught those who worked around her the importance of a strong work ethic. She would praise you when you deserved it, but she also wasn't afraid to let you know when you needed to do better. That was a lesson her family knew well, too.

In retirement, Sharon found her greatest joy in being "Grannie." She loved her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren with her entire heart. Her love for them was fierce, protective, and unconditional, and there was nothing she would not do for her family. She played an irreplaceable role in helping raise many of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and her influence can be seen in

the lives of those she helped shape. She was a devoted wife, mother, Grannie, and great-grandmother who could always be counted on when her family needed her.

Sharon loved hummingbirds, and in years past, she made sure her feeders stayed full so she could sit and watch the many hummingbirds they attracted. She also loved to travel, and she and Rodney shared many adventures together over the years.

She was incredibly talented with her hands and enjoyed crocheting, quilting, sewing, and needlepoint. One of the most special gifts she left her family was a handmade baby blanket for each of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also shared her love of crocheting with her grandchildren, passing down not only a skill but something that will forever remind them of their Grannie.

Sharon was also a fiercely competitive card player, especially when playing with the Ackley family. A family card game was never just a card game when Sharon was at the table, and anyone who played with her knew she intended to win.

She was loving, giving, sassy, stubborn, and fierce. Sharon would help anyone she could, but if you made her mad, you definitely knew it. She didn't mince words, and you never had to wonder what she was thinking. You didn't ask Sharon a question unless you were prepared to hear the truth, because she was going to tell you exactly like it was.

In so many ways, Sharon was both a lover and a fighter. She loved her family with everything she had, and she fought just as fiercely for the people and things that mattered to her. That same

strength carried her through the last year of her life as she fought through her illness with determination and courage.

Sharon leaves behind far more than memories. She leaves handmade blankets and treasures, family traditions, stories from travels and competitive card games, lessons taught, and a little bit of her strength and sass in the many lives she helped shape.

Her passing leaves a void in her family's hearts that can never truly be filled, but they are thankful that she is no longer in pain. They take comfort in knowing that she has been reunited with the loved ones who went before her and in the belief that they will see her again someday.

Until then, Grannie will be missed fiercely—just as fiercely as she loved.

Honoring Sharon as pall bears will be Adam Ackley, David Ackley, Randy Gannous, Sergio Leyva, Brandon Schroader, and David Wolf.

Visitation will be 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 2, at Latimer Funeral Home, with Michael Howard officiating, burial will follow at County Line Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home In Nashville.

Catherine Thomas
Catherine Thomas, 94, of Tollette, died Aug. 22, 2026.

She was former mayor of the City of Tollette and was a business owner.

The visitation/wake will be 5-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, at Tollette First Church of God.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, at Tollette First Church of God.

Arrangements by Hicks Funeral Home, Hope.

Tiebreaker needed to determine contest winner

The tiebreaker was needed to determine the winner of the first week of the newspaper's football contest.

Willie Trimble and Tim Dean each missed on only two of the 10 games. Trimble predicted a 14-point margin of victory by Nashville over Bismarck, a little closer than Dean's prediction. Nashville beat Bismarck by a margin of 24 points.

Trimble wins a \$15 gift certificate from Starz Family

Restaurant.

Scores in the contest:
Mineral Springs 52, Jes-sieville 36
Dierks 22, Hackett 0
Centerpoint 24, Murfrees-boro 16
Camden Fairview 40, Arka-delphia 18
Warren 38, Malvern 21
Prescott 46, Hope 0
Atlanta, TX, 36, Ashdown 8
Fouke 56, Horatio 12
Gurdon 32, Magnet Cove 16
Nashville 49, Bismarck 25

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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



Nashville Lumber Company. Located east side of South Mill St. Burned in 1914 and not rebuilt. (Photo from the Howard County Historical Society)

134 years ago: September 1892

Notice: For the year 1892, I will be at Nashville, Ark. on Wednesday of each week. Persons desiring my professional services will find me at the office of Jas. F. Smith, Old Town or Jon. P. Cowling, New Town. Those owing me for services will find me without trouble. R. G. Shaver, Attorney at Law.

(Adv.) Castoria for infants and children. Castoria is well adapted for children. Castoria cures colic, constipation, sour stomach, diarrhea, kills worms. The Centaur Company, Murry Street, N. Y.

124 years ago: September 1902

A small cyclone did considerable damage at the farm of Billy Jones, two miles south of this city last Monday night. A barn was blown down and one cow that was in the building died and another was seriously injured. A mowing machine, hay rake and other implements stored in the barn were wrecked. No damage

is reported from the storm at other points.

Mr. Womack, proprietor of the De Queen Telephone Exchange, is now engaged in erecting a telephone line from Lockesburg to Centre Point to connect with the Nashville Company’s line at that point, which will give us direct communication with Lockesburg.

H. C. Withrow, of the local company, informed us that Nashville will have direct phone connection with Saratoga by the later part of next week.

64 years ago: September 1962

Young Johnny Goodson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Goodson of near Nashville, exhibited the champion fat calf in the junior beef division at the Howard County fair last week. He received the top \$150 premium prize in the show.

The condition of Kermit Glasgow of the local highway maintenance division was reported good Thursday morning. Mr. Glasgow suffered a skull fracture and

injuries about the eyes in a freak accident on the Hope Highway Friday. He was taken to Arkansas Baptist Hospital in Little Rock.

According to a relative, Mr. Glasgow was struck by a cable, either through a break or slack in use by a wrecker. He was directing traffic around a mishap. He is 52 years of age and is in charge of Arkansas State Highway Maintenance Division located in South Nashville near the basket factory.

44 years ago: September 1982

A 24-year-old Cove man is being held in connection with a shooting death last week in the northern reaches of the county. Johnny J. Hulsey will probably be formally charged Tuesday in the shotgun death of George Smalley, 57, described as a Polk County drifter by Howard County Sheriff Dick Wakefield. At the time of the shooting Smalley was living in a small mobile trailer barely in Howard County at the Possum Creek Crossing on the Cossatot River.

Subpoena orders psychologist to explain evaluations in case

A psychologist with the State Health Department has been subpoenaed to appear here December 9 to explain mental evaluations for a defendant who has been in jail here for several months.

The defendant, Keshawn Jefferson, 37, black male, Nashville, was charged in February of 2026 with possession of controlled substance and with criminal trespass after he appeared unresponsive and refused to leave a driveway at a motel here.

The psychologist’s evaluation was apparently confusing, so the court has ordered the appearance.

Howard County Sheriff Bryan McJunkins told the newspaper that the state system for mental patients is overburdened and the county frequently has one or more inmates held here until they are ruled fit to partici-

pate in their court defense.

Pair are sentenced

Two other defendants entered “nolo contendere” or no contest pleas during their court appearances.

Londell Trotter, 37, black male, Nashville, was charged with aggravated assault, a class D felony. A no contest plea has the same result as a guilty plea. He was sentenced to a \$2,000 fine plus five years suspension of sentence.

A no contest plea was also given by Holly Watts, 34, white female, Nashville, who was charged with drug possession, felony and misdemeanor; furnishing prohibited articles; and some misdemeanors. She was also sentenced to a \$2,000 fine and five years suspended imposition of sentence.

On the bench last Wednesday for the county’s regular day of criminal court was Judge Bryan Chesshir.

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Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.



Howard Memorial medical clinics

AFTER HOURS CLINIC

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

HMH After Hours Clinic is a brand new service focused on providing the best possible care to our patients. This clinic is available to patients who need minor care, but not an emergency room visit.

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Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Arkansas, courthouse during the period Aug. 20-26, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses

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

Aug. 20. Treyvon Dewan Porter,19, Ozan, and Natalie Nicol Soto, 18, Nashville.

Civil Court

CV26-157, Aug. 20. Jefferson Capital Systems vs. Donna Furr. Debt.

CV26-158, Aug. 20. Capital One vs. Douglas Woodruff. Contract.

CV26-159, Aug. 24. Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration vs. Dion Hawthorne. Register Arkansas judgment.

CV26-160, Aug. 26. Credit Corp Solutions vs. Ashanti Burris. Debt.

CV26-161, Aug. 25. LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Darryl Jordan. Debt.

Domestic

Relations Court

DR26-79, Aug. 21. Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. James A. Wright. Support.

DR26-80, Aug. 21. Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Jose Bocanegra. Support.

DR26-81, Aug. 21. Billy Rex Mooror vs. Glenda Sipes. Divorce.

DR26-82, Aug. 21. Hunter Young vs. Alexis Young. Divorce.

DR26-83, Aug. 21. Amanda Sullivan vs. Sarah Harwell. Divorce.

Criminal Court

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

No new Criminal Court cases filed since CR26-60, Aug. 17.

Land Transactions

Quitclaim Deed

Aug. 21. Betty Piggee, deceased, and Freddie Piggee; to Freddy L. Piggee Living Trust; property in S17 T11S R27W.

Aug. 21. Freddy L. Piggee and wife, Betty L. Piggee, deceased; to Freddy L. Piggee, Trustee of the Freddy L. Piggee Living Trust; aggregate 15 ac. in S8/S10/S17 T11S R27W.

Aug. 21. Maria G. Del Carmen and husband Amador Mendoza and Emanuel Mendoza; to Amador Mendoza and wife Maria G. Del Carmen; Lot 6 and part of Lots 7-8, Block 8, SREDC Addition, Town of Nashville.

Mortgage/Trust Deed

Aug. 21. Farmers Bank and Trust; to Jack Davis; property description is “R2002-01326.”

Warranty Deed

Aug. 20. Santos Hernandez; to Francisco Hernandez; Lots 5-6, Block 5, Toland Heights Subdivision, Nashville.

Aug. 21. Elida Ojendiz-Carrilo; to Juan Hernandez and wife Margarita Hernandez; 1 ac. in S15 T10S R27W. \$24,000.

Aug. 21. Dennis L. Delinger; to Haley Magueyual-Perez; Lots 1-2-3, Block 40, City of Nashville. \$73,000.

Aug. 21. (Correction) Martha Ruchalski; to Martha Ruchalski as Trustee of the Martha Ruchalski Revocable Living Trust; tracts in S2 T10S R27W, and Lot 10, Block 51, McCullough’s Addition, Town of Mineral Springs.

Aug. 25. Roberto Campos and Ana Maria Campos; to Misty Wilson and Addison Wilson, Joint Tenants; properties in S23 T9S R27W. \$0.00.

Aug. 26. Trustees of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3955, et al; to Loyd Woodruff and wife Denise Woodruff; 4 ac. with exceptions in S24 T9S R27W. \$220,000.

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HAPPY LABOR DAY!



First State Bank

will be closed

Monday, Sept 7th

in observance of Labor Day



First State Bank of Nashville
First State Bank of Dierks
First State Bank of Pike County



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

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 95th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 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.
- (2) The General Assembly shall establish by law the types of photographic

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(B) Enclose a copy of valid photographic identification with his or her ballot when voting by absentee ballot.

~~(f)(g)~~ A voter meeting the requirements of this section also shall comply with all additional laws regulating elections necessary for his or her vote to be counted.

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

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



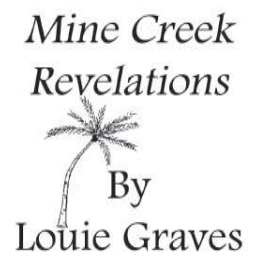
COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

Point of view

Time to confess

Someone must be at fault for this awful Sahara spell

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and it hasn't been all that many years since a guy who had some 'juice' in this town phoned the newspaper and suggested that we call a public meeting to discuss a serious problem. He said it was pretty obvious even to an idiot like myself that someone in our community was NOT LIVING RIGHT. There is no other way to explain how cool breezes NEVER come our way anymore. Nor is there any sort of rational way to explain how if we're in a burn ban ALL PASSING THUNDERSTORMS part around us like the Red Sea once they reach the county line. Going to places that do not need rain. Like the space directly over the City Lake or the parking lot at Walsmart. Take the residents of Athens for instance. Just the other day they had a quarter inch of blessed rain AND a cool breeze. Someone is living right. But everybody else from West Burg to North Saratoga should show up if they know what's good for them and their families. If this sounds like a threat it's because it is.



There's a good chance that at this public meeting 'we' are going to point some fingers and we expect to get some believable explanations and/or confessions, the juicier the better. The Official Lacka Rainfall Investigation Committee will not hesitate to invent some juicy confessions if needed. Some confessions may be sent to the newspaper for publication. This newspaper helpfully suggests that 'we' hold this meeting on Main Street at the corner of the former Regions Bank building. Regions will never know if we're using their front steps, and won't care should anyone rat us out.

Our town's armed and anxious Downtown J-Turn Enforcement Officer can direct traffic and hand out tickets to non-hotties. He'll be on the lookout for anyone on a side street that cowardly attempts to slink away. Bring your lawnchairs, and no coolers, please. After all, there is an armed and anxious officer present, and public consumption of margaritas no matter how refreshing is still against the law. Fireworks --- if you just MUST shoot 'em off --- are nixed for 90 minutes after the meeting since the burn ban hasn't been lifted. If we all pull together we can get to the bottom of who is at fault. If that happens we just might get a good shower within 24 hours. It could happen!

Well, that's all the newspaper can do at this point --- except to report that a guy from Hooks, Texas, was arrested here after he sneaked into a local citizen's yard and filled a plastic milk jug with water purloined from a patio faucet. The only reason he got caught was the homeowner who was sound asleep inside and under the noisy influence of a CPAP machine was awakened by the loud crunch of the dead grass underfoot as the water thief attempted to get away into the night.

● ---- ● --- ●

AND SOMETHING ELSE I have learned:

1. The Universal Law of Probability. The probability of being watched is in direct proportion to the stupidity of your act. I always warned my daughter: "No matter where you are there's always someone watching who knows who you are."
2. The Universal Law of Random Numbers. If you 'dial' a wrong number you never get a busy signal, and someone always answers. Especially if it's a long-distance call. Remember long-distance calls?
3. The Universal Law of Mechanical Repair. After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to run, your telephone will ring, and you'll have to pee. The call will be a telemarketer.
4. The Universal Law of Gravity. Any tool, nut, bolt, nail or screw when dropped will roll to the least accessible corner of the room or under the refrigerator. Likewise a piece of toast when dropped will always land jelly side down.

● ---- ● --- ●

SOMEONE'S SHAME. For the second time someone who disagrees with me has torn down my Elect Hallie Shofner yard sign. At least they left it nearby and I was able to put it back. Those Hallie signs might be popular and hard to get. As usual I plan to split my General Election ballot in November between Independents, Libertarians, Republicans and Democrats. I call your attention to this Opinion Page where EVERY WEEK we print columns by state and national Republican officeholders.

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HE SAID: "For every minute you remain angry, you give up sixty seconds of peace of mind." Ralph Waldo Emerson, American poet and philosopher

● ---- ● --- ●

SHE SAID: "When I wake up, I expect things to be good. If they're not, then I try to set about trying to make them as good as I can 'cause I know I'm gonna have to live that day anyway. So why not try to make the most of it if you can? Some days, they pan out a little better than others, but you still gotta always just try." Dolly Parton, American singer, actress and philanthropist

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SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Nashville News-Leader

◆
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◆
You may contact us at
Nashville News-Leader
418 N. Main
P.O. Box 205
Nashville, AR 71852
◆
Phone 870-845-0600

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Space exploration offers opportunities for state

By State Rep. Dolly Henley
When we think about NASA and space exploration, it can be easy to assume that work happens far away from Arkansas. But a recent legislative meeting showed there may be significant opportunities for our state in America's next chapter of space exploration. This week, the House and Senate Education committees and the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology heard from Joel Graham, associate administrator for NASA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. The discussion focused on NASA's plans for a sustained presence on the moon and how Arkansas businesses, universities, researchers, and students could contribute. NASA representatives empha-

sized that building a presence on the moon will require expertise from many different industries. Think of building a house. You need electrical systems, plumbing, communications, power, materials and technology. NASA will need many of those same capabilities, only in a far more challenging environment. Arkansas is already contributing. Three companies in our state currently support the Artemis mission. NASA representatives also discussed supply chain challenges and said Arkansas businesses could help fill critical needs. There are opportunities for our students as well. Several interns from Arkansas have worked with NASA, and the agency expects continued demand for engineers, computer engineers, and expertise

in areas such as nuclear technology. There may be a student sitting in an Arkansas classroom today who has never considered that a career in the space industry could be within reach. What NASA learns by living and working on the moon can lead to technologies that benefit us here on Earth. And the work required to get there can create opportunities here at home. Arkansas has the talent, businesses, universities, and workforce to be part of that effort. If you are interested in learning how your business can support the mission, we have posted a link at arkansas-house.org. The next giant leap may happen on the moon, but Arkansas can help make it possible.

Arkansas begins implementation of new requirements for Medicaid

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey
Arkansas has begun the gradual rollout of its new welfare-to-work requirement for certain Medicaid beneficiaries, launching a soft start of the program on July 1 before full implementation arrives on January 1, 2027. The policy applies to healthy adults ages nineteen through sixty-four who are enrolled in the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me program, commonly known as ARHOME. Participants must work, attend school, or volunteer at least 80 hours each month unless they qualify for an exemption. Exempt groups include pregnant and postpartum women, disabled veterans, caregivers of young children, and individuals with significant medical needs. State officials say about 210,000 Arkansans were enrolled in ARHOME as of May. The new requirement stems from federal directives in the One, Big, Beautiful Bill, which mandates that Medicaid expansion states establish work and community engagement programs by the start of 2027. Arkansans who are not exempt and do not comply will face suspension or denial of Medicaid

coverage beginning January 1 of that year. Even with the upcoming changes to Medicaid expansion in Arkansas, officials are moving forward with this plan to stay in line with federal guidelines. During the soft launch, the Department of Human Services is running automated checks to determine whether beneficiaries are meeting the requirement or fall into an exemption category. No penalties will be imposed in 2026, but beneficiaries will receive notices informing them of their status so they can prepare for full enforcement the following year. Beginning January 1, 2027, those who are not in compliance will have 30 days to demonstrate that they meet the requirement before coverage is suspended. Before the soft launch, DHS held five town halls across the state, including a virtual option, to explain the upcoming changes. Beginning July 1, the agency followed up with mailers, emails, and text messages to ensure beneficiaries were aware of the timeline and expectations. Officials say the revised program maintains the original goal of supporting Medicaid recipients in achieving economic independence

while meeting federal requirements. Beneficiaries can track their status or report work activities online through Access Arkansas, by phone, or by visiting a local DHS office. For those needing assistance finding work or training, Goodwill Industries of Arkansas offers career services statewide. National estimates predict the new work requirement will reduce federal spending on Medicaid by three hundred twenty-six billion dollars over the next decade. State leaders emphasize that the transition period is designed to help beneficiaries understand what is expected well before any coverage changes occur. They encourage Arkansans to keep their contact information updated and to ask questions early if they are unsure about their exemption status or how to document their activities. DHS officials say they will continue outreach efforts throughout the year to reduce confusion and ensure that recipients have access to the tools and resources needed to comply. The agency notes that the goal is not to remove people from coverage, but to support long-term stability and improved health outcomes.

Fighting against overdose crisis

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman
Every life lost to an overdose is a tragedy, but every life saved is a reason to keep fighting. August was Overdose Awareness Month, which is an opportunity to remember the Arkansans and Americans we have lost to the overdose crisis while recognizing the progress we are making to prevent future tragedies. Overdose deaths are declining nationally, signaling that our efforts to address this crisis are working thanks to innovative steps being taken by communities nationwide, including our own. But we cannot mistake progress for victory. Fentanyl and other opioids continue to threaten families and communities, and we must remain committed to prevention, treatment, education and holding those who traffic these deadly drugs accountable. Our state is seeing encouraging signs. The state recorded 371 drug overdose deaths in 2025, down from 390 in 2024. Still, each of these tragic fatalities represents a life lost and a family forever changed. The decline demonstrates that efforts to combat the influx of dangerous drugs, embrace more treatment methods and increase the availability of lifesaving resources can make a difference. We should build on this success

and continue looking for ways to save more lives. Arkansans are also taking meaningful steps to make sure help is available when it is needed most. Arkansas State University recently placed 130 opioid rescue kits across its campus, including one in every building, giving students and staff immediate access to Narcan which can reverse an overdose, as well as a breathing mask and step-by-step instructions to follow while waiting for first responders. This is especially important for young Arkansans, with 19 people under the age of 25 dying from drug overdoses last year and about 20 percent of college-age students misusing some sort of opioid, according to data cited by the university. Having the tools to respond quickly can mean the difference between life and death, and similar efforts among many campuses and communities reveal a commitment to preventing more lives lost to substance abuse. At the federal level, we must continue doing our part to stop these deadly drugs from reaching our communities in the first place. That is why I was proud to support the HALT Fentanyl Act, which was signed into law last year. This legislation permanently designates fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, giving law en-

forcement additional tools to hold accountable those who traffic this poison. While no single policy will solve the overdose crisis, this law helps protect Arkansas families. The fight against the overdose crisis extends far beyond Washington, D.C. Coaches, teachers, parents, healthcare providers, first responders and community organizations all have an important role to play. The High School Broyles Award's Coaches vs. Overdoses initiative is helping equip adults with the knowledge and strategies to bring fentanyl awareness and prevention efforts into Arkansas schools. This initiative is another good example of proactive, evolving approaches to keep young people safe. Staying vigilant is and will remain critical. This awareness month invites us to remember the lives taken and the devastating aftermath of overdoses, while recommitting ourselves to continue the fight. Working together, we can support those struggling with addiction, equip our communities with life-saving resources and hold drug traffickers accountable. I will continue working with my colleagues and Arkansans across our state to save lives and protect our communities from fentanyl and other dangerous drugs.



"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.



Jakhari Starr (1) scores in the Scrappers' win over Bismarck Friday, Aug. 28.

Game

Continued from page 1A

came close to doing. The Scrappers drew one penalty on defense, a face mask call. “I’m very pleased with our discipline on defense. We had no offsides penalties. We played the run well. I worried about the Bismarck quarterback all week. He completed two big plays.” The Scrappers did allow “too many explosive plays of 20 yards or more,” Chesshir said. Nashville defenders forced three turnovers, including two fumble recoveries and an interception. Trendon Northcross was



Coach Brad Chesshir before last week's game

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

Dakotas

Continued from page 1A

According to an encyclopedia, “Badlands are a type of dry, rugged terrain where soft sedimentary rock and clay-rich soil have been heavily eroded by wind and water. The Badlands feature steep slopes, sharp ridges, canyons, and a lack of plant life.” That’s an understatement. To an Arkie, it looks like you stepped off the edge of the planet. Heading south from the Badlands of North Dakota along the western edge of the state and into South Dakota again, you’ll see prairie, prairie, and a little more prairie. Then, in the distance, you’ll see mountains with—what could that be? TREES! An outlying subrange of the Rockies, the Black Hills were so named because as you approach them across the desolate plains, the trees make the mountains look black in the distance. Loaded with scenic drives, ponderosa pines, and granite spires, the Black Hills of South Dakota are impressive. Look closely and you’ll find one mountain with the faces of four presidents

On Saturday, September 5, the Old Washington Farmers’ Market will host an official watermelon weigh-off site for the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth in Washington.

The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth provides official venues for growers to weigh several varieties of fruit and vegetables, including watermelons, across the country. They then give prizes for the largest weighed item of its type across the country. This official weigh off event will be for watermelons only. Prizes will be given out for the top three largest watermelons. First Place -



Jaree and Don Hall of Nashville recently visited the Badlands of North and South Dakota.

carved into the rock. More about that in a future article. The Dakotas are truly fascinating. Wide open prairie, big sky, and towns that are few and far apart. North and South Dakota together have three times the amount of land that’s in Arkansas and less than half the population. There are more people in the greater Little Rock area than in both Dakotas combined. And when you’re trav-

Watermelon weigh-off set Sept. 5 at Washington

For more information on the weigh-off contact Josh Williams at 870-703-8256 or at joshuawilliams14@hotmail.com. The weighoff is sponsored by Holiday Inn Express and Hampton Inn & Suites of Hope, Lagrone Williams Hardware of Hope, Michelli Scales of Bossier City, Giant Watermelon Growers Club, and City of Washington Tourism. In addition to the Watermelon Weigh-Off, the Farmers’ Market encourages other area farmers to come and sell any produce they may have. For more information to register as a vendor contact

the market at oldwashingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com or site manager Joseph Barry at 870-331-5857.

Assistant coach at NJHS resigns from staff

The Nashville School Board accepted the resignation of junior high assistant football coach Jacob Greenfield during a special meeting Monday, Aug. 31. Superintendent Doug Graham said Greenfield’s lawyer submitted the resignation to the school Friday, Aug. 28.

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; (2)(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 (3)(4) “Infrastructure” means: (A) Land acquisition; (B) Site preparation; (C) Road and highway improvements; (D) Rail spur, railroad, and airport construction; (E) Water service; (F) Wastewater treatment; (G) Employee training which may include equipment for such purpose; and (H) Environmental mitigation or reclamation. (d) The General Assembly, by a three-fourths vote of each house, may amend the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section so long as the amendments are germane to this section and consistent with its policy and purposes.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Article 16, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Property taxed according to value — Procedures for valuation — Tax exemptions. (a) All real and tangible personal property subject to taxation shall be taxed according to its value, that value to be ascertained in such manner as the General Assembly shall direct, making the same equal and uniform throughout the State. No one species of property for which a tax may be collected shall be taxed higher than another species of property of equal value, except as provided and authorized in Section 15 of this Article, and except as authorized in Section 14 of this Article. The General Assembly, upon the approval thereof by a vote of not less than three-fourths (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 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.

2026 Howard County Fair Exhibit Winners

Adult Clothing/Needlework: Laura Dupree
Youth Clothing/Needlework: Delannie Waldrop
Adult Food Preservation: Amanda Cox
Youth Food Preservation: Rustin Bagley
Adult Household Art: Shawn Dale
Youth Household Art: Ember Boyce
Adult Baked Goods: Joy Barr
Youth Baked Goods: Grant Boyce
Adult Art: Renata Vilar
Youth Art: Darlene Salazar
Adult Horticulture: Kelly Cogburn
Youth Horticulture: Julianne Mishler
Adult Quilting: Dana Newberg
Youth Quilting: Lily Trombley
Adult Photography: Gayle Castleberry
Youth Photography: Kody O'Brien
Adult Cut Flowers: Edith Deloney
Youth Cut Flowers: Julianne Mishler
Educational Booths:
EHC: EHC Council
4-H: 4-H Community Club

Girl, 4, dies from injuries; suspect charged in Hempstead County

Three days after the Hempstead County Sheriff's Office announced the arrest of James Ivey, 33, of Emmet following a serious and disturbing investigation involving the alleged abuse of a four-year-old female child, the victim has died.

On Aug. 26, the child was brought to Southwest Arkansas Regional Hospital following a reported drowning.

What initially appeared to be a drowning incident quickly became the subject of a much more serious criminal investigation. Hempstead County Sheriff's Office Investigators, working closely with Special Agents of the Arkansas State Police, immediately began examining the circumstances surrounding the child's injuries.

Through the course of their investigation, investigators uncovered evidence indicating that the child had been severely abused.

The child was transported by Pafford EMS to Arkansas Children's Hospital, where she remained in critical condition until her death on Aug. 31.

As a result of the investigation, Ivey was arrested by Hempstead County Investigators and charged with, capitol rape, first-degree domestic battery, unlawful female mutilation of a minor and first-degree terroristic threatening. Other charges may arise against Ivey after the child's death.

Ivey is currently being held in the Hempstead County Detention Center pending his first appearance in court.

Sheriff's Statement

Hempstead County Sheriff James A. Singleton stated about the case:

"There is nothing more important to us than protecting the children of Hempstead County. The allegations uncovered during this investigation are extremely disturbing, and our investigators have worked diligently to determine exactly what happened to this innocent child.

"Our investigators, along with the Arkansas State Police, will continue to pursue every piece of evidence in this case. When a child is allegedly subjected to this type of violence and abuse, we will not look the other way, and we will not stop until we have done everything within the law to hold those responsible accountable.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with this young child and her family as she fights for her life. We ask the citizens of Hempstead County and surrounding communities to keep this child in their prayers.

This investigation remains active and ongoing. Investigators will continue working with the Arkansas State Police and other appropriate agencies as additional evidence is examined. Additional charges may be filed as the investigation continues.

2.29-CARAT DIAMOND.

Barry G. Smith, of Germantown, Tenn., recently visited Arkansas's Crater of Diamonds State Park, where he discovered a canary yellow diamond in the park's ancient volcanic soil. Smith arrived at the park on Aug. 16 with his wife and two granddaughters, Sage and Juniper. About 30 minutes after checking in, Smith spotted something glimmering in the East Drain of the park's 37.5-acre diamond search area. Staff later confirmed that Smith had found a 2.29-carat yellow diamond, which was named the Sage Juniper Diamond.

By what names do you call your...
...Grandmother and Grandfather?

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Celebrating Grandparents!

Grandma

Grandpa

Read the clues below to fill in both crosswords with activities I love to do with my Grandpa and my Grandma:

1. _____ broken items around the house
2. _____ bulbs in the garden
3. _____ a story aloud
4. _____ lunch
5. _____ at the alley
6. _____ his favorite T.V. show
7. _____ the dog
8. _____ the bird feeders with seeds
9. _____ at board games
10. _____ and glue model cars
11. _____ off the bridge
12. _____ songs at the top of our voices
13. _____ horseshoes in the park
14. _____ up our mini-golf scores

1. _____ in the park
2. _____ squares for quilts
3. _____ the birds at the feeder
4. _____ up to go to see a play
5. _____ greeting cards
6. _____ to swimming lessons
7. _____ bikes
8. _____ the porch and steps
9. _____ for groceries
10. _____ cards
11. _____ photos for scrapbooks
12. _____ at a new restaurant
13. _____ before I go to sleep
14. _____ cookies

Family Tree

There are many things you can do, learn, make or collect to help preserve your family history!

Fill in the missing vowels to see what kinds of things you can learn about your family or do with them:

1. S _ _ NGs
2. L _ _ NG _ _ G _
3. D _ _ NC _ _ S
4. C _ _ K _ _ NG
5. ST _ _ R _ _ S
6. PH _ _ T _ _ S
7. R _ _ N _ _ NS
8. MAKE A ST _ _ RYB _ _ K
9. F _ _ M _ _ LY TR _ _
10. P _ _ CN _ _ CS

Grandpa and I started a family scrapbook. Help us get this photo into our album.

Family Memories

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BIG TURNOUT FOR TEA. The Nashville Chamber of Commerce hosted Tea with Miss Arkansas Teen Presley Bennett on Aug. 24 at Midtown Social with the event attended by dozens. The event’s hostesses were (at left) NCC board members Tina Ward and Susan Berruquin.

Operation Hope locates 8 children during multi-agency Arkansas effort

The Arkansas State Police (ASP), working alongside state, federal, and local partners, safely recovered or located eight missing and endangered children during Operation HOPE, a multi-day coordinated effort centered on children reported missing from foster care and other high-risk circumstances.

The operation began Tuesday, Aug. 18, and involved ASP; the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS); the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families; the HHS Office of Inspector General; and other law enforcement and child-welfare partners.

At the start of Operation HOPE, four Arkansas children in foster care had been reported missing. Three of those children were safely recovered on the first day of the operation. During the four-day effort, investigators also responded to six additional missing or endangered child cases that emerged across the state.

In all, Operation HOPE involved 10 missing or endangered children. Eight were recovered or safely located.

Of the eight children recovered or located safely, seven were in DCFS care. Two were foster children reported missing from Colorado who were located in Arkansas. The cases included children missing from foster and residential placements, an alleged child abduction, and cases involving indicators of possible human trafficking.

Two Arkansas children in foster care remain missing. ASP Special Agents and partner agencies continue investigative efforts to locate them safely.

“Every missing child case demands an immediate, coordinated response,” said Sgt. Matt Foster, Arkansas Human Trafficking Coordinator. “Operation HOPE brought together the expertise and resources of law enforcement, child welfare professionals, and federal partners to locate vulnerable children, investigate the circumstances surrounding their disappearance, and ensure they receive the support they need once they are found.”

Operation HOPE builds upon Arkansas’ VALOR initiative, a statewide partnership of law enforcement, child welfare professionals, advocates, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and state and federal agencies committed to improving the response to missing and endangered children.

When VALOR officially launched in January 2024, Arkansas had 184 active cases involving individuals reported missing before reaching age 18, including an average of approximately 40 to 50 children missing from foster care.

As of Aug. 21, 2026, Arkansas has 80 active missing-person cases involving individuals reported missing before turning 18.

Thirty of those individuals are currently younger than 18. Only two Arkansas children in foster care are currently reported missing.

Attend Church This Sunday!

HOLY MASS
St. Martin’s Catholic Church
1011 W. Leslie •Nashville
Saturday (Spanish) - 6:30 p.m.
Sunday (Bi-lingual) - 8 a.m.
Fr. Martin Siebold, Pastor
Welcome • Bienvenidos

LOCKESBURG FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ 11:00 A.M.
& MT. CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 12:15 P.M.
TOMMY HALSELL, PASTOR
Everyone is always welcome!

You are invited to worship with us at...
Center Point Missionary Baptist Church
211 Church St. • Center Point
Pastor: Jaron Tipton
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 5:00 p.m.

-- Non-Denomination --
New Life in Jesus Christ Church
913 South Main St. • Nashville, AR
Sunday Morning Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.
Pastors: Lankford & Mary Alice Moore

EBENEZER UMC
318 West Dodson • Nashville
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”
Scott Memorial (Paraloma Community)
First & Third Sundays Monthly
Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.
Pastor: Ellis Ray Floyd

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THE ISRAELITES AND THE RED SEA
THE ISRAELITES WERE DRIVEN OUT OF EGYPT INTO THE DESERT BY THE EGYPTIANS THROUGH GREAT FEAR THAT ALL OF EGYPT WOULD SUFFER THE FATE OF THE FIRST-BORN OF THE LAND (EX. 12:29-33). MOSES LED HIS PEOPLE THROUGH THE WILDERNESS, AFTER TALKING TO THE LORD, UNTIL THEY ENCAMPED BY THE SEA AT PI-HAHIROTH.

HOW THEN SHALL WE CROSS THE SEA, MOSES?
THE LORD WILL GUIDE US, FEAR NOT!
BUT BACK AT PHARAOH'S PALACE...
FOLLOW AFTER ME, EVERY CHARIOT!
AND SIX HUNDRED CHARIOTS THUNDER AFTER PHARAOH, BENT ON RECAPTURING THE ISRAELITES AND RETURNING THEM TO SLAVERY!
229 SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

First Baptist Church
415 N. Main • Nashville
Come Worship With Us!
Sunday school 9 a.m.
Morning worship 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
Evening worship 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Kevin Sartin

HOLLY CREEK Missionary Baptist Church
705 Main St. • Dierks • 286-2010
Sun. School 10:00 a.m.
Sun. Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.
Sun. Evening 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday WOW 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Bro. Brian Finn
Radio Program: 9:45 Sunday Morning • B99.5 FM
Visit us at: www.hollycreekmbc.net

Unity Baptist Church
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Pastor:
Bro. David Cassady
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Prayer Meeting - Wed. 6:30 p.m.
Jim Henderson, Pastor

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First Church of God
Community Oriented & Christ Centered
946 MLK, Hwy 355, Tollette, AR
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. • Youth 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday evening service 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Charles Green, Pastor

Be our Guest at Cross Point Cowboy Church

Sunday Services 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study for all ages at 6:30 p.m.
Hwy 371 W. of Nashville
“Pointing People to the Cross”
Pastor Don Jones

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

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1403 W. Sunset St. • Nashville
870-845-3030
nashvillefumc.org
Pastor: Pam Estes
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Worship 10:50 a.m.
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Sunday Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.

Howard County District Court

Aug. 27, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited
Howard County
Beene, Zoe, 24, Nashville, \$235 BF, glass container in prohibited area
Coker, Amanda Owens, 49, Little Rock, \$210 BF, expired vehicle tags/no tags
Colorado Barcenas, Felipe, 40, Texarkana, \$195 BF, no driver’s license/expired license
Crussoll, Jessica R., 22, Ashdown, \$240 BF, speeding
Esquivel, Javier Rojas, 49, Wickes, \$230 BF, speeding
Ester, Corliyah C., 23, Ozan, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$507 balance
Green, Nevaeh, 21, Dierks, guilty of careless or prohibited driving
Hill, Daniel W., 28, Delight, \$445 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license
Hipp, Jessie, 42, Dierks, \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Morgan, Elnora, 52, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$760 balance; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260
Navarro, Randy, 41, Hot Springs, \$260 BF, speeding
Rosenbaum, Kollin, 21, Mineral Springs, \$15 BF, non-payment of fines
Smith, Patricia, 32, Lockesburg, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260
Stewart, Jamarcus, 33, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, committed to jail for 30 days; \$7,691 balance
Stuart, Nicholas C., 33, Nashville, guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$210; guilty of speeding, fined \$305
Swain, Colton Walker, 32, Ashdown, \$215 BF, improper or prohibited passing
Taylor, Jonmark C., 40, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Thorne, Nicolas, 26, Dierks, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of expired vehicle tags/no tags, fined \$195
Valles, Jayden D., 19, Wickes, \$250 BF, speeding
Waldrop, Christopher, 27, Nashville, \$460 BF, cruelty to animals
Whitmore, Porsha R., 37, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, committed to jail-suspended conditions; \$465 balance
Wilson, Michelle Marie, 59, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445
City of Nashville
Alexander, Andrew Laray, 20, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, committed to jail for 30 days; \$4,522 balance
Aragon, Angel D., 17, Horatio, \$230 BF, speeding
Brandon, Anniesha E., 27, Hope, \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Chambers, William Earl III, 37, Nashville, guilty of third-degree battery, fined \$660; guilty of second-degree terroristic threatening, fined \$510
Cortez, Emily, 18, North Little Rock, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345
Davis, Princeton J., 38, Nashville, \$195 BF, careless or prohibited driving
Edwards, Yvette, 58, Dayton, Ohio, guilty of failure to vacate upon notice, fined \$1,810; guilty of non-payment of fines; \$2,650 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
Lee, Brianne Marie, 42, Houston, Texas, \$250 BF, speeding
Luna, Pedro, 18, Washington, \$195 BF, no driver’s license/expired license
Martin, Michael Paul, 38, Texarkana, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445
Martinez, Alan, 24, Nashville, guilty of no driver’s license/expired license, fined \$195
Mendoza Bustamante, Jose, 15, Nashville, \$195 BF, no driver’s license/expired license
Mondragon, Miriam, 27, McCaskill, guilty of non-payment of fines; \$1,165 balance; guilty of no driver’s license/expired license fined \$195; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
Morales, Wesley, 28, Mineral Springs, \$195 BF, no driver’s license/expired license; \$50 BF, failure to present insurance
Ponce, Omar, 19, Hope, \$195 BF, running stop sign or light
Record, Brenda, 55, Nashville, guilty of no driver’s license/expired license, fined \$195
Rhodes, Mark D., 74, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, committed to jail; \$1,175 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
Tatum, Felicia T., 22, Nashville, guilty of third-degree domestic battery, fined \$710
Thompson, Ebony D., 34, Nashville, guilty of fictitious vehicle tags/license, fined \$245; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$445; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345; guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months
Vasquez-Vasquez, Adan, 19, Nashville, \$240 BF, speeding
Wilson, Joanna, 22, Nashville, \$445 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license; \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$445 BF, driving on suspended or revoked license
Wilson, Michelle Marie, 59, Nashville, guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
City of Dierks
Campbell, Titus D., 22, Texarkana, Texas, \$285 BF, speeding; \$230 BF, improper or prohibited passing; \$245 BF, failure to appear
Creekmore, Jerry, 49, no address listed, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$460; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$360; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$260
Ward, Ethan Gene, 21, Dierks, \$345 BF, no proof of liability insurance
City of Mineral Springs
Hopkins, Christopher Dale, 20, Nashville, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months
King, Marquise D., 33, third-degree domestic battery, under advisement to dismiss
Bench Trials
Howard County
Solomon, Dejuan R., 38, Ashdown, guilty of no driver’s license/expired license, fined \$210; guilty of speeding, fined \$255; guilty of speeding, fined \$245; guilty of driving on suspended license, fined \$625 and sentenced to 10 days in jail
City of Nashville
Hockaday, William Fred, 60, Nashville, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,125, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course
Jordan, Rosie, 48, Yuma, Ariz., guilty of no driver’s license/expired license, fined \$115



Photo Courtesy of MFD

MONDAY FIRE NEAR MURFREESBORO. A wildfire, apparently started by a dozer ripping land to plant trees, was reported in the area between Swaha Marina and Old Cowhide Cove near Lake Greeson Monday afternoon, according to Murfreesboro Fire Chief Ricky Branch. Firefighters from Murfreesboro and Kirby, along with three dozers and two air tankers from the Arkansas Forestry Service battled the blaze. The fire consumed approximately 50 acres.

Ouachita, Ozark–St. Francis national forests urge public caution as wildfire risk increases

The Ouachita and Ozark–St. Francis National Forests are experiencing heightened wildfire activity due to a combination of persistent triple-digit heat and lack of recent precipitation. These factors have created ideal conditions for active fire behavior across both forests. Firefighter and public safety remains the highest priority. Residents and visitors may see increased firefighter presence and firefighting equipment across forest roads, recreation sites, and nearby communities as crews monitor conditions, respond to new starts, and work to suppress active wildfires. According to the National Interagency Fire Center’s Predictive Services, above-normal significant fire potential is expected to continue to develop across the region reflecting rapidly drying vegetation and increasing wildfire susceptibility. As fuels continue to dry out, even small ignition sources can have serious consequences. Fires that may have been routine a month ago can now ignite easily, spread faster, and require more resources to contain. The public is encouraged to help reduce the likelihood of accidental wildfire starts.



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Kelly Windham
for
Nashville Mayor

‘Bring Back the Hometown Feeling’

‘Bring Back the Hometown Feeling’ means more than remembering the Nashville we grew up loving. It means working together to build the Nashville we want for the future. Our city officials, departments, businesses, schools and community leaders should be pulling in the same direction, not working against one another. We accomplish more when we communicate, collaborate, and put Nashville first. We’ve seen firsthand what the loss of a major employer like Husqvarna can mean to our community. As Mayor, I will work proactively with our existing businesses to keep jobs in Nashville, while building strong partnerships with state and regional leaders to recruit new industries and create new opportunities.

Working Together. Keeping Jobs Here. Bringing New Opportunities Home. That’s what ‘Bring Back the Hometown Feeling’ means to me.

Political Ad Paid for By Kelly Windham

First Baptist Church

415 N. Main
Nashville, Arkansas

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

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Regular Meeting of the Housing Authority of the County of Howard’s Board of Commissioners has been called.

The meeting will be held as follows:

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF HOWARD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026 @ 12:00 p.m.
Bobby Keaster Community Center
1010 S. Pope St., Nashville, AR 71852



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Home&Heart

Labor Day Weekend Safety: Simple Tips for a Fun, Healthy Holiday

By Abby Gray
Howard County EA
Family & Consumer Science

Labor Day weekend is often considered the unofficial end of summer. Families and friends gather for cookouts, road trips, lake outings, camping adventures, and outdoor celebrations. While the holiday provides an opportunity to relax and make memories, safety experts recommend taking a few precautions to help ensure the weekend is enjoyable for everyone.

Plan Ahead for Safe Travel
Labor Day is one of the busiest travel weekends of the year, making roadway safety especially important. The American Red Cross and Texas Health recommend wearing seat belts at all times, obeying speed limits, and following traffic laws. Drivers should avoid distractions such as cell phones and give their full attention to the road.

Experts also stress the importance of never driving under the influence of alcohol and arranging for a designated driver when needed. Travelers should be well-rested, take breaks during long trips, and carry emergency supplies such as water, food, flashlights, and a first aid kit. Sharing travel plans with a family member or friend is another smart safety measure.

Protect Yourself from Heat
Although summer may be winding down, hot temperatures can still pose a serious risk during Labor Day activities. Safety specialists recommend drinking plenty of water throughout the day and limiting beverages containing alcohol or caffeine, which can contribute to dehydration. Wearing lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing can help keep the body cool. Taking frequent breaks in the shade or indoors and avoiding strenuous activity during the hottest part of the day can also reduce the risk of heat exhaustion and heat-related illnesses. Sunscreen, hats, and umbrellas can provide additional protection from the sun.

Stay Safe Around Water
Many families spend Labor Day weekend at pools, lakes, rivers, or beaches. Water safety should always be a priority. The American Red Cross advises swimming only in designated swimming areas and, when possible, at locations staffed by lifeguards. Swimmers should always use the buddy system and avoid entering the water alone. Texas Health also recommends closely supervising children around water and ensuring everyone understands water depths and potential hazards. Weak swimmers and children should wear properly fitted life jackets, especially when boating or visiting lakes. Divers should use caution because underwater hazards may not be visible.

Enjoy the Outdoors Responsibly
Camping, hiking, and other outdoor activities are popular during Labor Day weekend. The American Red Cross encourages outdoor enthusiasts to know the skill levels of everyone in their group, plan accordingly, and prepare for common risks such as dehydration, falls, and sprains. Visitors should carry a first aid kit that in-

cludes sunscreen, insect repellent, and personal medications. Before leaving home, it is also wise to provide someone with your travel plans and expected return time in case of an emergency.

Keep Gatherings Healthy
Indiana University's safety guidance encourages people to stay home if they feel sick and to avoid exposing others when ill. Outdoor gatherings are generally preferable when possible and having hand sanitizer available can help promote good hygiene. Whether gathering with family, traveling, or enjoying recreational activities, being mindful of personal health and safety can help ensure the holiday remains enjoyable from beginning to end.

Be Prepared for Emergencies
One of the most important safety tips is to be prepared before an emergency occurs. The Red Cross recommends learning basic first aid and CPR skills and carrying a first aid kit during travel and outdoor activities. Knowing where emergency assistance is available and having a plan can make a significant difference when unexpected situations arise.

With a little preparation, Labor Day weekend can be a fun-filled opportunity to celebrate the end of summer while staying safe and healthy.

Recipe Corner: Bok Choy Wrappers
Looking for a fresh and flavorful dish for your Labor Day gathering? These Bok Choy Wrappers combine brown rice, chicken, pineapple, and bok choy in crisp romaine lettuce leaves for a unique meal option.

Bok Choy Wrappers
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 1 hour 15 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour 30 minutes
Servings: 6
Ingredients
1½ cups long-grain brown rice, dry
1¾ cups fresh bok choy, sliced
1¾ cups canned pineapple tidbits in 100% juice, drained
3 cups cooked chicken strips
¾ cup sweet and sour sauce
1 teaspoon low-sodium soy sauce
12 outer leaves of fresh romaine lettuce
Directions
Preheat oven to 350°F.
Combine brown rice and ¾ cups water in a large pot. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover, and cook until water is absorbed, about 30 to 40 minutes. Fluff with a fork.
In a medium bowl, combine cooked rice, bok choy, pineapple, chicken, sweet and sour sauce, and soy sauce.
Transfer the mixture to a nonstick 8-inch by 8-inch baking pan coated with cooking spray. Bake for 30 minutes, or until the mixture reaches an internal temperature of 165°F for at least 15 seconds. Use a food thermometer to check.
Place two romaine leaves on a plate and top each with about ¾ cup of filling.
Fold lettuce leaves around the filling like a burrito and serve warm. Optional garnish: diced red peppers.



News-Leader photos/NIKKI FIELDS
PEP RALLY FUN.
Dierks Outlaw senior Johnny Kirby (above) gets airborne after being tossed by his teammates during the Outlaws' football pep rally last week which also included senior high cheerleaders Savannah Tedford and Izzy Semmler.

Stavely and Associates



#25043481 - Spacious brick home in the Heart of Murfreesboro, with-in walking distance to schools, offers over 2000 sq ft of living space. 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths, living room, kitchen with electric stove, new dishwasher, new disposal and refrigerator to convey. Dining area with built-in cabinets and display shelving, sewing closet, den with fireplace, currently w/gas logs, and bonus room currently a dark room for photography work. Double garage with built in storage and access to backyard, detached garage/shop with electricity, fully fenced backyard w/wood privacy fence, and a oversized covered patio, great for enjoying the private yard. For more details or to schedule a showing, contact our office. **NEW ADVERTISED PRICE \$158,500.**

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NASHVILLE NEWS-LEADER CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS SERVICES

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

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Featured LISTING!

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1532 sq ft home sitting on a corner lot in the heart of Nashville. This home offers 3 bedrooms, 1.5 upgraded bathrooms and a large bonus room. Galley kitchen has been upgraded with granite countertops and a beautiful glass backsplash. The living room has a ton of natural light coming in from the double door that leads out to concrete patio. This home is a must see to fully appreciate. **PRICE \$165,000.**

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John Anderson, 870-557-4062

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY,
ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF: IVORY J. JOHNSON

31 PR-26-67

NOTICE OF PROBATE-INTESTATE

Last known address of decedent: 9 Dartwood Street, Nashville, Howard County, Arkansas
Date of death: June 6, 2026
Denise Taylor was appointed the Administratrix of the Estate of Ivory J. Johnson, by order dated August 25, 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 2nd day of September, 2026.

Denise Taylor, Administratrix, by
Aaron R. Brasel, ABN 2009138
Post Office Box 813
Nashville AR 71852
(870) 845-4100 – Telephone
(AB: 11, 12)



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HOWARD COUNTY LIVESTOCK BEAUTY PAGEANT FUN. Sevier County Extension Agent Rex Herring was the special judge during this year’s event. From left is Herring with winners in the poultry division Easton Marshall (Soccer), Delannie Waldrop (KFC) and Lilah Faulkner (Honey); Avery Mascarenas (Lottie); Herring with rabbit winners Darcey Reed (Sir Nibbles) and Josie Reed (Spider Web); (below from left) sheep winners Julianne Stanley (Charlene) and Khloe Brewer (Earl); and Herring with Gauge Graham (Cheeseburger).



See Next Week’s
Nashville News-Leader
for Results from
the Howard County
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Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon,
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Friday, closed on Wednesday afternoons.
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Student Council members Lucy Hagler, Taviley Hughes and Lucas Pennington are set for the sportsmanship presentation with Bismarck before the game.

Season begins at Scrapper Stadium

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Scrapper cheerleaders sing the NHS Alma Mater before the season opener against Bismarck Friday, Aug. 28, at Scrapper Stadium. Nashville took an early 7-0 lead and went on to defeat the Lions 49-25 in the non-conference contest. The Scrappers will travel to Magnolia Friday, Sept. 4, for a 7 p.m. kickoff against the Panthers.



The Scrapper band performs at halftime of Nashville's season opener.



Scrappers gather around Coach Brad Chesshir following their victory over Bismarck Friday, Aug. 28. Nashville is 1-0 for the first time since 2019.



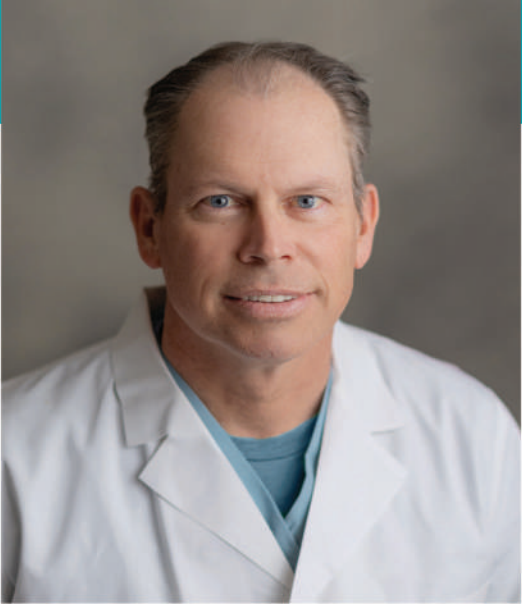
Team captains DJ Jefferson, Bryce Perrin, Luke Lacie, Zavion Vaughn and Jailyn Staggers await the coin toss before last week's season opener at Scrapper Stadium.

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Scrappers, Panthers to meet Friday

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

The Nashville Scrappers will visit Magnolia Friday, Sept. 4, to take on the Class 5A Panthers.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

The Scrappers enter the game off a 49-25 win over Bismarck Aug. 28 in the season opener.

Magnolia fell to El Dorado 23-16 last week to start the season.

In order to run their record to 2-0, the Scrappers “will have to step it up a notch in practice and preparation,” Coach Brad Chesshir said. “This is a Class 5A team with more depth, more size and speed. We have to have a really good week and build on what we did well. We’ll have to mix up our looks to run our offensive plays.”

The Scrapper offense will see “a different scheme this week” from the Magnolia defense compared to what the players faced against Bismarck, Chesshir said. “Our guys have seen this in practice quite a bit. Magnolia will do a really good job on the run. They have 11 guys that swarm to the ball and play extremely hard.”

The Panther offense is based out of the double wing, Chesshir said. “This is the second year they’ve used it. They’re a whole lot better in the second year.”

Magnolia has three returning offensive linemen. The Panthers are “very physical up front. They have three slotbacks that can go. They rotate two fullbacks and hit you in the gut. If the slotbacks get in space, you won’t catch them. Our defense has to be very sound in our alignment. We have to play physical up front.”

The Panthers’ loss to Class 6A El Dorado last week came “in a very close game. Magnolia led 8-7” at one point.

In the second half, the contest was tied at 16-16 before the Wildcats scored late for the win.

Magnolia had every opportunity, Chesshir said.

Nashville traveled to Magnolia last season for a Week Zero game and will visit Columbia County again Friday night.

With the addition of Hope to Class 4A, the Scrappers needed a Week One game for Sept. 4, a game that would be played on the road as it would have been if the Bobcats had filled that spot.

The result is a traditional five home and five away game regular-season schedule for Nashville.

Chesshir encourages Scrapper fans to make the trip to Magnolia.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Coach Brad Chesshir speaks to the Nashville Rotary Club Aug. 26, two days before the first Scrapper game. Nashville is “the best place on earth. You don’t understand until you leave. We were 41-2 when I was in school” playing for the Scrappers. “When I went to college, we lost more in two weeks” than in his entire Scrapper career.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Fans join the Scrapper band in “The Star-Spangled Banner” before the Scrappers’ first game of the season Friday, Aug. 28, a 49-25 home win over Bismarck.

Linksters compete at De Gray

The Scrapper and Scrapperette golf teams competed against five other schools at DeGray last week.

The girls came out as champions, and the boys finished tied for second.

Results include:

Scrapperettes

Molly Marion- Medalist

Kinley Martin- 2nd

Emma Gunter- 4th

Kaylee Pizarro- 7th

Scrappers

Colton Brown- 4th

Luke Wallis- 6th

Andrew Reese and Gunner Davis - tied for 10th

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



Layla Simon

Netters split matches to open District 7-4A against De Queen

Nashville tennis teams opened District 7-4A competition Tuesday, Aug. 25, on their home court at Nashville High School

The Scrappers and Scrapperettes “battled hard to earn a 2-2 split overall,” according to Coach Maddie McRae. “Massive shoutout to L. Cooley and H. Webb for showing pure grit. Down 2-5, their mental toughness was put to the test. Winning five straight games is no easy feat, but they dug deep, mounted an incredible comeback, and brought home the W 7-5.”

Complete results include the following:

Scrappers

Singles 1:Aiden Reid (L 0-6)

Singles 2:Carson Clifton (L 0-6)

Doubles 1:Bush / E. Cooley (W 6-0)

Doubles 2:L. Cooley / H. Webb (W 7-5)

Scrapperettes

Singles 1:Ayden Howard (L 0-6)

Singles 2:Katelyn Bailey (L 0-6)

Doubles 1:L. Sirmon / E. Wescott (W 6-1)

Doubles 2:E. Aguilar / A. Sartin (W 6-1)

Abigail Bailey won an extra match 4-0.

Nashville will play at Hope Thursday, Sept. 3, at 4 p.m.

The Scrappers and Scrapperettes will host Hope Thursday, Sept. 10, at 4 p.m.



Emily Wescott

Junior Scrappers shut out Lions

BISMARCK - The Nashville Junior High Scrappers won their season opener on the road Thursday, Aug. 27, by shutting out Bismarck 35-0.

Quarterback Lucas Lowery completed six of seven passes for 85 yards. Hank Bell was three of three passing for 29 yards.

Five Scrappers scored against the Lions, including Caleb Mounts, Kallen Horn, Lowery, Jaylon Thomas and Jaylen Shephard.

Bryan Cervantes was good on five of five PATs.

Horn was the leading receiver for Nashville with five catches for 86 yards.

Carter Reeves had one reception for 21 yards. Austin Lockhart made one reception for 10 yards.

Gage Kinkade and Kaden Jones had one catch each for two yards and one yard, respectively.

Thomas was the leading rusher with three carries for 68 yards.

Lowery ran the ball twice for 52 yards.

Jahce Curry had five carries for 46 yards.

Bell carried the ball three times for 31 yards.

Mounts ran once for 18 yards. Jagger White had one carry for one yard. Shephard carried once for two yards.

The junior Scrappers are 1-0 on the season.

Nashville will host Magnolia Thursday, Sept. 3. The seventh grade game will start at 5 p.m., followed by eighth grade at 6 and varsity at 7.

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Coca-Cola Nashville is hiring CDL drivers.

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Coca Cola office,
1301 S. 4th St. , Nashville

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

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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

ISSUE NO. 2

Popular Name

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

Ballot Title

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) The citizens of this State shall have the right to keep and bear arms; for;

(1) their ~~Their~~ common defense;

(2) Lawful hunting and recreational use; and

(3) Any other lawful purpose.

(b) The right to keep and bear arms under subsection (a) of this section includes without limitation the possession and use of:

(1) Ammunition;

(2) Firearm accessories; and

(3) Firearm components.

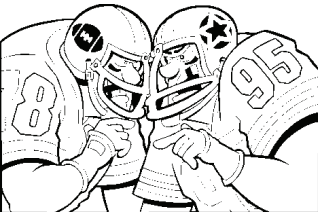
(c) The right to keep and bear arms under subsection (a) of this section is a natural, fundamental, and individual right that shall not be infringed.

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

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

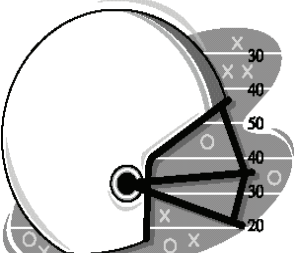


COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS



The News-Leader's 2026

PIGSKIN PREDICTIONS



This week's top games

Bearden at Mineral Springs
Dierks at Horatio
Murfreesboro at Danville
Hot Springs at Arkadelphia
Prescott at Ashdown
Arkansas State at Memphis
Baylor at Auburn
Clemson at LSU
North Alabama at Arkansas
Nashville at Magnolia

John R. Schirmer (60%)

MSprings
Dierks
Danville
Arkadelphia
Prescott
Arkansas St.
Auburn
LSU
Arkansas
Nashville

Louie Graves (70%)

MSprings
Dierks
Murfreesboro
Arkadelphia
Prescott
Arkansas St.
Auburn
LSU
NAlabama
Nashville

Eddie Cobb (80%)

MSprings
Dierks
Danville
Arkadelphia
Prescott
Memphis
Auburn
LSU
Arkansas
Nashville



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Gauge Applegate (11) runs the ball for a big gain in Nashville's 49-25 win over Bismarck Friday night, Aug. 28, at Scrapper Stadium. The Scrappers will travel to Magnolia Friday, Sept. 4.



NASHVILLE NEWS-LEADER FOOTBALL CONTEST

Circle the teams you think will win in the entry below. Deadline for entries is Friday at 2 p.m. You can drop entry in box in front of the Leader office, or email screenshot of newspaper entry to tracy@nashvilleleader.com or mail your entry form to PO Box 205, Nashville, AR 71852 (must be postmarked by Friday). Only one entry per person per week. No copies please.

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2026 Murfreesboro High School Rattlers

MHS looks to rebound after missing playoffs

By PJ Tracy
Murfreesboro Diamond

According to Murfreesboro Rattlers head coach Jay Turley, the 2026 football version of the Rattlers has a “chance to have a really good team.”

Last year the Rattlers finished 5-5 overall and 3-4 in conference play, as injuries saw them fade down the stretch and miss the playoffs. “I’m looking forward to this year ... I think we could be really good -- a lot of that depends on them and how hard they want to work at it. We won’t be the most athletic team every week, so we have to compete by doing things right, playing smart, physical and disciplined football. I thought we had way too many penalties last year, so we are trying to clean that up too.”

Turley said there were areas of improvement following the scrimmage against Prescott on Aug. 18, but that it was nothing that couldn’t be accomplished.

“Prescott is a traditional 3-A powerhouse, and is going to make a run at a state championship every year ... I knew what we’d be getting into with that. I told our kids that I just wanted to face some speed and physicality. That’s what we are going to see when we face Gurdon, Junction City and Mineral Springs.”

Turley said the heat indexes in pre-season camp kept a lid on what they could do, and going into the scrimmage they were simply out of shape.

“We’re not in game shape yet -- I’ve been trying to go by the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) standards and protocols on the wet bulb. The scrimmage was the first time they had really experienced the heat for an extended period of time. I think it got to them -- and they realize that.”

He said the team didn’t give their best effort in the scrimmage games versus the Curley Wolves.

“I don’t think we competed really well -- we just got tired. My college coach said ‘fatigue will make a coward out of anyone.’ He’s right -- you get tired it’s hard to compete and you kinda want to lay down a little bit.”

Turley said the student athletes understood the issue of being out of shape, with one admitting “it was just easier to stay blocked.”

“Now that we know that, we can fix it. Be honest with yourself and trust your coaches -- we’ll take you there if you let us.”

Turley said the practices ahead of the Centerpoint game were “really good -- maybe some of the best practice since I’ve been back. Really good effort, intensity -- it was hot and they fought through. We gave them a lot of breaks, but when they were on the field they were going hard. We have some guys stepping up and taking leadership roles.”

“They are really stepping up -- it is good for them to see that they were hurting in the game because of their conditioning. So, they can now take ownership of it and ramp up the intensity in practice. You can run and run and run them, but if there’s no intensity in it, you are not really getting a whole lot out of it, in my opinion.”

Turley said the team will have to replace some talent in outgoing seniors from 2026, including Kale Burns, Logan Burrus and Jackson Hawkins.

“Our kids have stepped up -- the addition of Jarrin Burgess has really helped, sophomore Keith Wilkinson has really stepped up, had a good scrimmage. Having Cale Humphry back from injury [last year] has made a tremendous difference in our practices for sure. He’s a guy we can go to.”

Turley said Aiden “Bubba” Stinson seemed to also be much healthier this year, “knock on wood”.

Alex Parker dislocated his elbow in the scrimmage

game, and will be out “a few weeks.”

“He still has some season left in him.”

Turley said Drake Eoff was also injured in the scrimmage game, with a sprained ankle.

“I told him he won’t play until he’s completely healthy -- we need him back by the Gurdon game (September 25 to open conference play). We don’t need his ankle to be bothered all year.”

Turley feels the defensive line will be amongst the team’s strong points, with only Burris not returning from the 2025 squad.

“We can fit in Isaac Smith and Jaxson Crabtree where he was -- two really good athletes that play a lot like Logan did, fast and with a big motor.”

The return of senior Kooper Caldwell at quarterback will help buoy the team after having 33 touchdowns last year.

“Teams will be prepared for that, I think, so our run game has to be better, to set up Kooper throwing the ball. We can’t be pass happy every down, and of course a lot of that last year was predicated on our injuries. In the Mineral Springs game, a game we had to win, after an injury in the first quarter we became a one hundred percent pass team. And Mineral pinned their ears back and came after us.”

This year the 3-2A conference could see a lot of parity.

“I think it is -- everyone is closer together than they were last year. Any given week, anybody can beat anybody. Junction City is still the head of the class, no doubt, because of the athletes they have. However, they did lose a lot of kids, but have a trunch coming back. It will all depend how much their senior class steps up and leads this year. You just have to expect they will be physical and athletic, and we have to match their physicality by being disciplined and counteracting their overag-



RATTLER COACHING STAFF.
Head Coach Jay Turley, Drake Staggs, Kevin Bright and Jonathan Bennett.

gressiveness.”

Turley said the game against Junction City would also depend on his coaching better.

“I’ll do a better job in that game this year -- shortening the game down, we don’t want them to have a whole lot of possessions. We have to figure out how to get first downs and move the chains and keep the ball out of their hands.”

Turley expects the pre-conference matchups to be meaningful, with all three -- Centerpoint, Danville and Genoa Central -- being larger schools than MHS.

“That’s done by design, I don’t want a pansy opponent at the first of the year. I want to see us strain a little, get us in shape both physically and mentally, and ready for our touch conference. It will be tougher top to bottom this year.”

After watching the Out-

laws in their scrimmage, Turley said that Dierks “looked good ... a more physical bunch, looks like a run heavy bunch.”

Turley also suggested that Mineral Springs will be good, and Foreman is “really gelling with their new coach -- they’ll be more of spread team this year, and that’s dangerous with kids who can get into space and can go.”

The summer was good for the Rattlers, according to Turley.

“I’m proud of them -- they competed hard. Now, I’m not a big 7-on-7 guy -- I love that you can get repetitions and teach kids the offense, but I’m not changing the offense for 7-on-7. We’re not going to have a 7-on-7 offense or defense. We are going to run our stuff, and try to get better with what we do, and that’s the stuff we are going to do on Friday

nights. If that’s effective in 7-on-7, so be it, and if not ...”

Turley said the team won a few games in the 7-on-7 competitions, which was better than last summer’s performances.

“We competed in every game, which we did not last year. So, I was very pleased. We had kids out -- for various reasons -- so I don’t know that we ever took the same bunch. I was pleased with the effort and competitive spirit.”

Coming up this week will be a game at Danville.

“I don’t know a whole lot about them, other than



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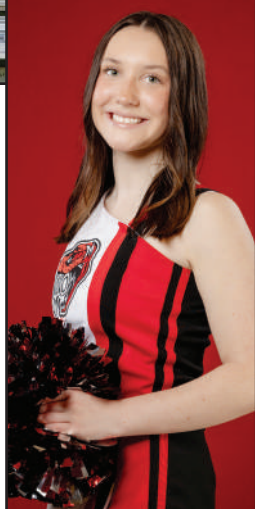




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2026 Murfreesboro High School Rattler Football Roster

1 Jarrin Burgess, WR/S, 11th

2 Keith Wilkinson, WR/DB, 10th

3 Isaac Smith, DE, 11th

4 CD Morrow, RB/LB, 10th

5 Cooper Lowery, WR/OLB, 11th

6 Cayden Ballard, WR/OLB, 12th

7 Drake Eoff, WR/OLB, 12th

8 Mason Bruce, OLB, 10th

9 Curtis Marcum, WR/DB, 12th

10 Kooper Caldwell, QB/OLB, 12th

11 Tyler Brewer, WR/DB, 10th

13 Gage Harper, WR/LB, 10th

17 Ross Spradlin, WR/DB, 12th

20 Colton Tidwell, WR/DB, 12th

24 Cale Humphry, WR/LB, 11th

25 Aden Stinson, RB/LB, 12th

32 Caanan Parker, RB/LB, 10th

34 Alex Parker, RB/OLB, 12th

50 Kaden Epperly, OL/DL, 12th

51 Jaxson Crabtree, OL/DL, 10th

52 Hayden Gibson, LB, 11th

54 Garrett Lamb, OL/DL, 12th

55 Mason Wilkins, OL/DL, 12th

56 Cameron Braden, OL/DL, 12th

60 Cole McKnight, OL/DL, 12th

64 Jonathan Martinez, OL/LB, 11th

65 Colt Plyler, OL/DL, 10th

66 Corbin Hoover, OL/DL, 12th

70 Hadley Cox, OL/DL, 11th

79 Benjamin Brewer, OL/DL, 10th



their junior high team allowed six points all year long. Many of those guys are in tenth grade now -- they will be young, but they will be talented. Coach [D.J.] Crane admitted that much to me -- we have known each other a while and have always talked about playing each other. I wanted to get away from Fouke on the schedule, and it just worked out for everybody."

The next week will see the Rattlers travel to Genoa Central.

"They are a 4-A school, and I think they are a little bit better than they've been. They've actually had some stability in their coaching staff, and that's going to help them. Against them it's a numbers game ... they have a lot more kids than we do, and it's at their place. So two road games to get us ready right off the bat."

The team will then open conference play at Gurdon.

"So, it's away, away, away at Centerpoint."

However, Turley doesn't not feel like road games are a big impediment for his squad.

"I find it indifferent. I think our kids played well on the road last year, and will this year. We do a good job of taking care of them -- now that Danville trip is early and will still be hot, so I do worry a bit there, a two hour trip. That's a concern, obviously, but it's non-conference. I think we'll play well and be okay."

Ultimately, success this season could depend on availability.

"Probably just keeping kids healthy," said Turley. "Last year we lost a starter the quality of Cale Humphry, our best tackler and one of our best receivers, and then you go into Junction City and lose two starters in that game that you don't have the next week against Spring Hill. Now you have three starters out, all three of them two-way players, so then we are playing with backups. They did a great job [in replacement] but we couldn't get Spring Hill off the field. Without Logan Burrus, that hurt us. He was our best defensive player. So we have to stay healthy.

Turley also said that better leadership would go a long way to helping the Rattlers improve in 2026.

"I think the tools are there -- we have 13 seniors, that's helps. They know this is their last hurrah, and we've had guys step up. We formed a leadership council, to where if they have an issue going on, they handle it. If they can't handle it, they bring it to me, and we work on it. If they have concerns about what we are doing, or would like to try something different, I'll consider it. At least they have a voice then. We are trying to make leaders out of these young men, and get them ready for life, really. That's what it's about. I tell the kids, you can win sometimes when you lose, cause winning is about getting up and doing it again. You are going to fail in life, and it's going to kick you in the butt sometimes, but you have to keep going. You will be responsible as

a man to keep going. You might have a family to take care of, perhaps some kind of hardship, you've got to figure it out. That's facing adversity and overcoming. That's what it meant to me when I played, though I didn't know it at the time. I didn't have a clue then, but I do now. Looking back, if I can get through what I went through, I can get through anything. When I was going to college, coach was trying to kill me," Turley said with a laugh. "I want the kids to know the same thing -- they can get through anything. Life is tough, life is hard, and it's not fair. It's never going to be fair, and bad things happen to good people. It's life."

Turley is also looking forward to the community support that the area brings to the team.

"I'm looking forward to the season and the fans in the stands. It's always a big high for me, I still get the goosebumps, when I walk out just before the game. I think the kids do too -- this bunch isn't the most excitable group in the world, but I still think [raucous Rattler fans] means something to them."

"I do think we have more enthusiasm than we had last year -- and you can play the game hard without outward enthusiasm. I told the kids early I'd like to see them celebrate each other, if something good happens on the football field, booty bump or high five or something ... get excited about when somebody else does something good. It's a team sport -- if somebody else is doing something good, then we are succeeding."



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11/6	**MINERAL SPRINGS**	Home	RETRO



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RATTLER SENIOR CLASS. (Front from left) Cole McKnight, Mason Wilkins, Garrett Lamb, Aden Stinson, Alex Parker, Curtis Marcum; (back) Cameron Braden, Corbin Hoover, Drake Eoff, Ross Spradlin, Cooper Caldwell, Kaden Epperly, Cayden Ballard.

Junior Rattler Schedule
(All games start at 7 p.m.)
9/3 Fouke
9/17 at Mineral Springs
9/24 Gurdon
10/1 at Foreman
10/8 Dierks
10/15 at Mountain Pine
10/22 Junction City
10/29 at Spring Hill

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KNIGHTS & RATTLERS. Murfreesboro Rattler Cale Humphry works to get away from a Centerpoint Knight defender Friday night at Rattler Stadium.

Rattlers drop opener; headed to Danville Friday

The Murfreesboro Rattlers opened the 2026 season with a 24-16 loss to the in-county foe Centerpoint Knights.

Centerpoint opened the scoring in the second quarter with a touchdown and two point conversion to take an 8-0 lead into the halftime break.

Centerpoint would extend the lead to 16-0 early in the third quarter.

Murfreesboro would fight back to even the score in the remainder of the third quarter on a pair of Aiden “Bubba” Stinson scores.

Keith Wilkinson and Cale Humphry would catch 2 point conversion passes after the air of score by Stinson to tie the game at 16.

Centerpoint completed a 14-yard pass in the fourth quarter to take the final lead of 24-16.

Stinson would lead the Rattlers with 44 yards receiving and 19 yards rushing.

Quarterback Kade Caldwell was 8/20 for 130 yards, with a long completion of 34 yards.

Caldwell also added 36 yards rushing on eight carries.

Cale Humphry would gain 17 yards of rushing on four carries and catch 2 passes for nine yards.

Keith Wilkinson had 40 yards on three receptions, while Jarrin Burgess added 37 yards on two receptions.

Centerpoint would control the ballgame with 65 plays to Murfreesboro’s 48, and accrued 285 offensive yards to the Rattlers’ 204. Centerpoint tallied 16 first downs to MHS’ 10.

Centerpoint was 9-15 of third down conversions (60%) and 2-4 (50%) on fourth down attempts. The Rattlers were 5-10 (50%) and 1-2 (50%) on third and fourth down conversions.

Murfreesboro would

turn the ball over multiple times, with two fumbles and an interception. The Knights would lose a fumble.

Rattler head coach Jay Turley said that the team executed well on defense, but “didn’t execute well at all offensively ... just the fact that we dropped balls, holding calls and other penalties.”

“I’d like to play them again, Turley said sardonically. “That’s not a knock on them, they did a great job. Coach Carey Rodgers does a great job and those kids played hard. But, we can’t play them again, so hats off to them.”

Turley said the plan was to be more fundamental and disciplined in practice ... we can’t make stupid mistakes. Effort mistakes are fine -- it’s the stupid stuff, the un-sportsmanlike stuff, keeping drives alive, stuff like that.”

He said penalties and dropped balls cost the team two chances to score in the red zone to open the game with the score still 0-0.

“We dropped five balls that hit us in the hands. We can’t have that.”

For as much as he disliked the offensive performance, he was equally as pleased with the effort on the defensive side of the ball.

“We came out early and took it to them -- they only scored eight in the first half. If we didn’t keep their drives alive with unsportsmanlike penalties.”

Turley felt both teams were tiring heavily by the end of the game, but that benefitted Centerpoint’s favor in this particular game.

“We only had 48 offensive plays, and we averaged about 70 per game last year. When a team can do that to you, you have to be efficient offensively, you can’t drop balls and make mistakes. You have to score when you get your opportunities.

It reminded me a lot of the Spring Hill game last year, they just kept the ball away from us late in the game. It’s frustrating, but I think we’ll learn from it.”

Turley said there was intent evident in Monday’s practice on behalf of the players.

He added that the injury bug was rearing it’s ugly head after both the scrimmage and first game.

“We just have to get some kids well, some got some sprained ankles and pulled hamstrings.

This Friday the Rattlers will travel to Danville to face the Little Johns. Danville defeated Cossatot River 56-6 to open the season last week.

“They are a much better team [than last year],” Turley said of Danville. They were 3-7 last year, and the quarterback is the coach’s son. He’s a junior this year, and is probably a better runner than a passer, but he does throw it efficiently. He wants to run.”

Turley said it was a doubled edged sword of the two teams (Danville and Murfreesboro) running a very similar styles that will allow for defensive familiarity on both sides.

“They runs some of the same schemes. They look to be a gap scheme team, powers, isos, counters, quick screens and a lot of jet sweeps. They have two or three kids that can run pretty good. Good size -- we are going to have our hands full.”

While Turley admits that Danville looked good against Cossatot River, the latter’s first competitive game in years, he admits they dominated the game as they should have.

“They also played Dardinnelle, Class 4-A state runner up last year, to a pretty good scrimmage to open this season,” he said.

MS Hornets open season with 52-36 win over Lions

Bearden Bears coming to MS Friday

The Mineral Springs Hornet offense clicked for much of the season opener Friday night in Jessieville and resulted in the Howard County Hornets bringing home a 52-36.

The win was part of second-year Head Coach Jarrod Jackson’s goal to start this season off a strong performance.

“I felt like we did a really good job moving the ball around and attacking the entire field,” Jackson said about the Friday’s game.

Sophomore Jamerian Staten led the MS offense with 20 carries for 235 yards and two touchdowns and four two-point play conversions while junior Cortney Thomas added 13 carries for 87 yards and one TD.

Sophomore Hornet quarterback Braxton Keester completed 7/12 passes for 128 yards and connected for touchdowns with Staten and senior Keiandrian Nunnally.

The Hornets finished the night with 470 total yards

of offense.

“There are still some details we need to clean up and a few areas where we can improve, but overall I was pleased with out offensive performance,” Jackson added.

Jackson said Hornet sophomore Carter Steward “was all over the field” in Jessieville, recording 22 total tackles, a tackle for loss, a sack and a forced fumble.

Senior Bryce Thomas added seven totoal tackles and Cortney Thomas and senior Christian Stewart each had six tackles with Stewart also collecting a QB sack.

Senior Damoney Nolan made a big impact in the Hornet secondary, according to his coach.

The Hornets will be at home this Friday night and will face the Bearden Bears.

“They are traditionally one of the stronger programs in 2A football and are a playoff contender year after year,” Jackson said. “They feature size on both

the offensive and defensive lines and have speed across the field.”

The coach’s defensive key for Friday night will be continuing to do a job job “fitting the run and communicating at a high level.”

Jackson said Friday’s game in Jessieville provided the team and staff with “some valuable film.”

“We identified several corrections that need to be made and emphasized throughout practice this week,” he said. “I believe our players are capable of making those adjustments, and I think they’re ready for the challenge.”

Jackson noted that Bearden played Mount Ida, currently ranked No. 1 in Class 2A, to open the season and keep the game within one score for most of the ballgame.

“That tells us they’re a quality football team and should provide a good measuring stick for where we are as a program at this point in the season.”

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Outlaws knock down Hackett in abbreviated game

Headed to Horatio Friday

The Dierks Outlaws opened the season on the road Friday in Hackett where they picked up a 22-0 win in a game that was ended early by an injury to a Hackett player.

The game was called in the third quarter following the injury that saw the player airlifted from the scene to Arkansas Children's Hospital. The player was released from the hospital the next morning with "positive news," according to the Dierks School District.

The win was the first for new Head Coach Lantz Castleman, and was also the first game for assistant coach Marcus Wright, who is the first Black coach in Dierks history.

"I was proud of the way our guys competed Friday night," said Coach Castleman. "Anytime you can go on the road and come away with a result like that - it says a lot about the effort and discipline of your team."

The Outlaws will be back on the road again this week to face the 3A Horatio Lions for a non-conference game.

Against Hackett, the offensive line of Rhett Simmons, Cooper Smith, Tristen Godwin, Braxton Ward, Treven Hill, Asa Hooper, Gauge Graham and Brayden Mathis helped over power the Yellow Jacket offense.

Jason Bailey led the defense with 10 tackles at halftime and a quarterback sack that earned him Shelter Insurance Player of the Game. Maxton Greene and Griffin Shankles shored up the tackle chart with five stops each.

Hackett was held to just 80 yards of offense.

Junior QB Maclane Smith hit 5/10 passes for 98 yards while Madden Hill led the team in receiving with three catches for 60 yards. Smith also led the rushing game with 90 yards.



OUTLAWS VS. YELLOW JACKETS. These Outlaws (above) Gavin House, Maxton Greene, Eligah Hawthorne and Brayden Mathis displayed high energy at the start of Friday night's game. Outlaw lineman Cooper Smith (below) bring down the Yellow Jacket quarterback during the 22-0 win.



THE FIRST OFFICIAL GAME
at Dierks High School's renovated stadium
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when the Junior High Outlaws take on Horatio.

Schools can now apply for AGFC regional competitions

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has opened its application portal to the 2026 Generation Conservation Pre-Summit and Regional competitions, and interested schools have until Sept. 21 to register for the first round of competitions.

This year's Pre-Summit and Regional competitions feature challenges ranging from cooking wild game and quiz bowls, to debate and designing nature center exhibits, magazine spreads and action plans focused on improving their school's conservation footprint.

According to Larami Burge, Generation Conservation coordinator for the AGFC's Education Division, the competition is open to public, private, charter and homeschool students in three divisions: Elementary (Kindergarten-fifth grade), Middle School / Junior High (sixth-eighth grade) and High School (ninth-12th grade). There are no entry or registration fees, but teachers must register as a school.

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The Countdown is over

Scrappers kick off season with 49-25 home win over Bismarck

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



The Scrappers take the field for the first game of the season Friday night, Aug. 28, at Scrapper Stadium. Nashville defeated Bismarck 49-25 to get off to the first 1-0 start since 2019.



Gauge Applegate (11) and Jacoby Hopson (2) celebrate after one of Hopson's five touchdowns Friday night.



DJ Jefferson (8) sets up a pass as Bo Dean (12), Jakhari Starr (1) and Jace Wright (54) keep the Bismarck defenders at bay. Jefferson completed 13 of 21 passes for 237 yards and three touchdowns.



Lions and Scrappers battle Aug. 28 at Scrapper Stadium in the first game of the season. Nashville will travel to Magnolia Friday night, Sept. 4, for a non-conference game against the Panthers. Kickoff will be at 7 p.m.



Jacob Teague (10) and Bo Dean (12) stop the Bismarck ball carrier in the Scrappers' victory over the Lions.

Jakhari Starr (1) runs the ball as Bryce Perrin (7) helps clear the way Aug. 28 at Scrapper Stadium. Starr ran the ball seven times for 127 yards and a touchdown in the non-conference game to open the season.



Bay Nolte (13) holds as Byron Murillo kicks the PAT against Bismarck. Murillo was 7 of 7 on extra point attempts.



Bryce Perrin goes out for a pass reception in the win over Bismarck. Perrin had four catches for 105 yards and a touchdown.

Scrappers @ Magnolia
7 p.m. Sept. 4.

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SPORTS LEADERS

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Jacoby Hopson, Nashville

Jacoby, a Scrapper junior, had 13 carries for 147 yards and three touchdowns Aug. 28 against Bismarck. He also caught four passes for 68 yards and two TDs in Nashville's 49-25 win.

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