THE NASHVILLE News-LEADER

Preserving Southwest Arkansas's Heritage While Leading Through the 21st Century

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026 ◆ Vol. 25, Issue 20 ◆ 16 pages, 2 sections ◆ $1

‘Stadium voice,’ 1996 state champs honored Oct. 30 before Scrappers claimed district title

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

The Nashville Scrappers wrapped up the District 7-4A championship and secured home field advantage in the state Class 4A playoffs with a 46-28 victory over Malvern Friday night, Oct. 30, at Scrapper Stadium.

The win capped off a night filled with special events, including recognition for stadium announcer Johnny Wilson, Senior Night and a reunion for the 1996 state championship team.

“We had a lot going on, good things,” Coach Brad Chesshir said.

Wilson has been the stadium “Voice of the Scrappers” for 55 seasons. “Honoring him this way was phenomenal,” Chesshir said.

Family and friends gathered across from the field house before the game to visit Wilson and look back on his seasons at the stadium.

He was honorary team captain for the coin toss before the game. With Wilson on the field, the Scrappers won the coin toss. “This is only the second coin toss we’ve won all year. We’ve not been very good,” according to Chesshir.

“He’s not retiring,” Chesshir said. “You won’t find a man who’s put in the effort that Johnny Wilson has. I appreciate what he does.”

The 1996 state championship team attended the pre-game event for Wilson, then went to the field house to meet the Scrappers before the game.

After the session with the current team, the state champions led the Scrappers up the Hill and onto the field.

“That was extra special for me,” Chesshir said. “As a kid, I looked up to them and wanted to be just like them. That was a special moment to hear them address the team.”

The current players and staff “are following in the footsteps of that team and a legend like Coach Billy Laird,” Chesshir said. “Now, I’m leading a team that was once led by a legendary coach. Meeting the 1996 team was special. Our kids enjoyed it. It was special for our team to be led by the 1996 players.”

Overall, “It was a neat experience, good for the community and players. We enjoyed seeing the 1996 team. I hope they continue to find their way back to the Hill. The

See **Win** • Page 5A



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

STEAKS FOR ‘MR. WILSON.’ Johnny Wilson (center) holds up one of the rib-eye steaks he received from Superintendent Doug Graham and Assistant Superintendent Tate Gordon during an event in Wilson’s honor Oct. 30. Wilson was recognized for serving as the stadium ‘Voice of the Scrappers’ for 55 seasons. To be clear, friends and family were told that he is not retiring. (More pictures, page 1B.)



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

FAMILIAR STEPS. Members of the 1996 state championship Scrappers lead the 2026 team up the Hill from the field house before their win over Malvern Oct. 30. The ’96 Scrappers walked the same route in their playing days at Nashville. They were introduced during a 30-year reunion at the stadium.



GRANT RECEIVED. SWA Paws received a $1,000 grant from the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund Saturday, Oct. 31. The group includes Nikki Ray, Leah Hainen, Deb Young, Linda Stiver, Gayle Castleberry, Terry Young, Regina Ray, Lynn Wrinkle, Brenda Watson and Sheila Kreul.

Weyerhaeuser awards grant to SWA Paws

Members of SWA Paws (Southwest Arkansas Paws) celebrated during their Halloween fund-raiser on Saturday night because they have received a $1,000 grant from the Weyerhauser Giving Fund to support their Spay and Neuter Program.

Deb Young, president of SWA Paws, said the funds will be used to continue paying for medical supplies for monthly spay and neuter clinics, as well as helping pay spay and neuter fees for animals adopted at Nashville Animal Control.

SWA Paws also pays for supplies for foster families to foster animals to send to various rescue groups.

“Funds like this grant enable us to cut down on the number of unwanted animals by making spay and neuter fees more affordable,”

See **SWA Paws** • Page 5A



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

GETTING READY FOR VETERANS DAY. The Mine Creek Paraclifta Daughters of the American Revolution recently cleaned up the flower bed in front of the war memorial at the Howard County Courthouse and planted new flowers in preparation for Veterans Day Nov. 11. The group includes Elizabeth Overton, Latre Richards, Deb Tackett, Christopher Davis and Fran Strawn. The Veterans Day ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. (See related story on this page.)

Leader Board

www.swarkansasnews.com

OPINION | 4A
The latest update from Mine Creek Revelations

Veterans Day breakfast set Nov. 11 at UA-Cossatot

The Nashville campus of UA-Cossatot will host a Veterans Day appreciation breakfast Wednesday, Nov. 11.

The event begins at 9 a.m. in Room 101-102.

The college’s event is to honor those who served in the nation’s military forces.

DAR plans Veterans Day event Nov. 11 at courthouse

The Mine Creek Paraclifta DAR will host a Veterans Day ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. at the Howard County Courthouse in Nashville.

Following the event, veterans and their families will be honored with lunch and a special program at the Carter Day Center in Nashville.

The speaker will be Jason Newton, with music by the Nashville Elementary School choir.

Nashville Junior High FCCLA members will serve the veterans and guests.

11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month

Collection for OCC to be held Nov. 16-23

Operation Christmas Child Collection Week will be Nov. 16-23.

Volunteers have been filling empty shoeboxes with gifts of toys, school supplies, hygiene products and other items for children worldwide.

The local drop-off site will be First Baptist Church of Nashville.

Since 1993, more than 244 million children in more than 175 countries and territories have received a shoebox gift.

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Obituaries



Martha Suzanne Peebles

Martha Suzanne Peebles 74 of Nashville, Ark., passed away Oct. 26, 2026, in Nashville. She was born Dec. 22, 1951, in Shreveport, La., to James D. Jones and Martha L. Reese Jones.

Suzanne was a devoted member of Blue Bayou Church of Christ, where she loved inviting others to worship and share in her faith. Her favorite scripture was Romans 12:1. She worked many years as a registered nurse, dedicating her time and compassion to caring for others. In her spare time, Suzanne enjoyed painting with gel pens, a hobby which she excelled. She was especially proud to have won a prize at the fair for her artwork for the past two years.

Suzanne was proceeded in death by her parents; her daughter, Amy Peebles Quinney; her grandson, Andrew Jones Peebles; and brothers J.D. Jones Jr. and Jimmy Ray Jones.

She leaves behind her loving husband of 56 years, Dr. Sam Peebles; two sons Damon (Michelle) Peebles of Hope, Ark., and Samuel (Amanda) of Spokane, Wash.; grandchildren Kaden Alexandria Peebles, Breanna Reese Peebles, and Anatasia (Johnathon) Rauch.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Arkansas Children's Hospital Hematology/Oncology unit or your favorite charity.

Services were 2 p.m. Saturday Oct. 31, 2026, at Blue Bayou Church of Christ.



Willie Mae Stone

Willie Mae Stone, age 98, of Nashville, Ark., passed away Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026. She was born Feb. 20, 1928, in Center Point, Ark., to the late Martha Finley (Moore) and Benjamin Edgar Allen.

She was a chicken grower for Tyson, and was a cattle farmer. She was strong and dearly loved.

She is preceded in death by 12 brothers and sisters; husband Robert Vaughn Stone; sons Bobby and Billy Stone; daughter Patricia Elders; and great-great-granddaughter Reign Ann Culwell.

She is survived by granddaughters Pam Elders of North Little Rock, Ark., and Heather Stone of Pearcy, Ark.; great-granddaughter Grace Culwell, great-great-granddaughter Promise Culwell, great-great-grandson Stone Culwell all of Missouri; son-in-law Jim Elders of North Little Rock, Ark.; and daughter-in-law Jerlyn Stone of Nashville, Ark., as well as several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Lakewood Health & Rehab in North Little Rock, Ark., and Gentiva Hospice for their care and support. And a very special thank you to her roommate, Linda, for watching out for her "Momma Stone" and loving her like her own.

Visitation will be Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, at 10 a.m. with a Celebration of Life at 11 ,a.m. at Latimer Funeral Home, 115 E. Hempstead, Nashville, Ark., with Charles M. Barnes officiating. Burial will follow at Corinth Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Embassy Church, PO Box 17070, North Little Rock, AR 72117.

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



Vickie Toland Gill

Vickie Toland Gill, 78, of Little Rock, passed away peacefully on Oct. 30, 2026, at UAMS in Little Rock, Ark.

Vickie was born Jan. 28, 1948, in Nashville, Ark., to Jay Van Toland Jr. and Mary Atha Toland. She grew up in Nashville and graduated from Nashville High School, where she was a proud Scrapper, cheering with the Scrapper Belles pep squad and playing basketball. She went on to graduate from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, where she made many lifelong friends, whom she stayed close to throughout her life.

Though trained as a speech therapist, Vickie chose to devote herself to raising her three sons, Jason, Matthew and Ryan, whose father is Thomas Gill. She was a constant presence at their games and school events, always their biggest supporter. She later went to work at The Full Moon gift shop in Little Rock, where she met so many wonderful people, and in later years she managed the UAMS Cancer Institute Gift Shop.

After losing her father to cancer, Vickie became a hospice volunteer and gave her time and compassion to patients and their families for many years.

Vickie and Larry Wooldridge first met each other as students at Ouachita, and life brought them back together in 2011. Larry became her longtime partner and love. Together they loved to travel, and they spent many happy days in Hot Springs, cheering on the horses at Oaklawn and gathering at Lake Ouachita with their close circle of friends.

Vickie was a member of Pulaski Heights Baptist Church in Little Rock, where she was active in the Young at Heart and S.A.L.T. groups and formed many cherished friendships that enriched her life. Among her favorite memories was a train trip across the Canadian Rockies that she and Larry took with their church group.

Vickie had a gift for beautiful handwork. She loved to cross stitch and was an excellent calligrapher. But nothing brought her more joy than her family. To her grandchildren she was "Gigi," and she adored every one of them. They were the great joy of her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her dear sister, Jayne McClure.

She is survived by her longtime partner and love, Larry Wooldridge; her sons, Jason Gill and his wife, Kristen, of Fayetteville, Matthew Gill of Fayetteville, and Ryan Gill of Little Rock and his girlfriend, Georgia Wooten, of Jonesboro; her grandchildren, Kayla Crockett and her husband, Chandler, of Springdale, Lydia Gill of Fayetteville, Sarah Gill and her fiancé, Jon Lance, of Springdale, and Ford Gill and Everett Gill and their mother, Anne Cartwright of Little Rock; her great-granddaughter, Collins Crockett; and her brother-in-law, Mike McClure of Fayetteville.

The family would like to extend special thanks to the wonderful caregivers who helped her at home.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2026, at 12 p.m. in Pulaski Heights Baptist Church, 2200 Kavanaugh Blvd, Little Rock, Ark. 72205. Arrangements are under the direction of RuebelFuneralHome.com.

Peggy Lewallen

Peggy (Lee) Lewallen, 77, of Hope died Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026.

She was born May 20, 1949, in Delight, the daughter of the late Orville and Glendora Lee.

She worked 26 years in the Public Defender's Office.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Danny Lewallen; two sisters, Virginia House and Wanda Puryear.

Survivors include: her son, Waylon Lewallen; her brother, Sonny Lee; also grandchildren.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at Delight Cemetery under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

Online at www.latimerfuneralhome.com.



Rachael Marie Hendrick Koester

Rachael Marie Hendrick Koester, a beautiful person inside and out, passed away in her sleep on Oct. 29, 2026. She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Richard Koester; sons, Payton King (Cheryl) of Charlotte, N.C., and Brennan King of Little Rock; three grandchildren, Hunter King of Charlotte, Dylan King of Charlotte, and Breanna King of Little Rock; and one brother, Vincent Webb (Minda) of Houston, Texas.

Rachael was predeceased by her parents, Randolph and Madell (Dell) Webb, as well as a brother, Jimmy, who passed away when Rachael was about eight. She was born in Nashville, Ark., and attended school at Saratoga. Following Saratoga, she went to Henderson State and graduated with a degree in art. She later got her master's in education from U of A.

After teaching for several years, she jumped into insurance, starting with American Fidelity. She liked it and was good at it, so she applied for a State Farm agency and had 22 great years with them, making friends from all walks of life as well as a bond with her State Farm buddies that still lives on. She loved her policy holders and went above and beyond to help them when they deserved it.

She loved to work in her yard, decorate, cook and throw a party. She was a star at them all. Her Super Bowl gumbo will be missed. Her decorating was of a professional level, and her garden was a showplace. She also loved animals and they loved her. She definitely will be reuniting with her past fur babies. When she retired, she built a studio onto the house where she created some beautiful paintings, many of which are hung in her house. When she needed a break, look around the slot machines in any casino. She loved them.

A highlight in her later years was a Japanese pen pal from her youth tracked her down from information in her mother's obituary, sent a letter to the funeral home and they reconnected. Masahiko Shimizu and Rachael kept in touch until she couldn't work on the computer. Thank you, Mr. Shimizu. You made her very happy.

She was spunky and her position was clearly known. She said her dad called her a hornet growing up and she earned every bit of it. However, she had a heart of gold, a work ethic unmatched and a determination like no other. She went out just like she lived her life, on her terms. Rachael, you will be missed by many. You were a great mother and supporter for your sons, a great wife and confidant to your husband, and a great friend to many. Rest in peace my friend. We love you.

At Rachael's request, there will be no service. Arrangements under the direction of Roller-Owens Funeral Home in North Little Rock.

You're Welcome! *We're glad to provide the nice fall weather for your Garage Sale at no extra charge. Don't delay, though. Put your Garage Sale ad in the News-Leader.*
Reserve space by calling 870-845-9600.

Halloween Trick or Treat Trail attracts 3,500 to the Nashville City Park



TRICKSTERS FROM MINERAL SPRINGS. From left, Kennedi Heard, 6, Jaxton Thurman, 5, and Kaliyah Stewart, 7. City Parks and Recreation Director Meghan Floyd estimated attendance at 3,500.



AT THE PARK. Chris Hallmark brought daughter Kaylee, 7, to the Nashville City Park, Thursday evening for the City's annual Trick or Treat Trail.

Nashville church to observe 150th anniversary, Sunday

Ebenezer United Methodist Church will observe its 150th church anniversary Sunday.

The church is located "in the curve" at 318 W. Dodson St., Nashville, and the pastor is Rev. Ellis Ray Floyd.

The anniversary event will feature special guests, Friendship Church of God of Nashville, and the featured speaker will be Rev. Juanita Jackson.

Because of the anniversary observance, there will be no afternoon or evening service.

The public is welcome.

Football contest pickers faced problems from upset games

Not a single football contest participant picked the Mineral Springs upset of Dierks in that spirited rivalry, last week.

In addition, many pickers also missed on Murfreesboro's win over Spring Hill.

The winner was Tim Dean, a previous winner. He gets a gift certificate from Starz Family Restaurant.

Scores of the games in the contest:

Mineral Springs 48, Dierks 30
Murfreesboro 38, Spring Hill 6
Gurdon 57, Foreman 34
Ashdown 39, Fouke 26
Ole Miss 45, Auburn 15
Georgia 27, Florida 8
South Carolina 42, Oklahoma 25
Texas 31, Mississippi State 3
Missouri 34, Arkansas 10
Nashville 46, Malvern 28

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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



Courtesy photo/HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Okay ClubHouse, Okay, Arkansas, circa 1929

134 years ago: 1892

Mr. H. C. Johnson of Vernon, Texas is here with a quilting attachment for sewing machines which is very simple and convenient.

A teamster named Castleberry, from near Lockesburg, put up at Levi's wagon lot and went out into town. When he got back he found that a keg of whiskey was missing. The whiskey belonged to parties in Lockesburg. As far as we know, no clue has been found to lead to the thieves.

Notice: We will sell oil to all merchants who had none in the last carload shipped to this place. Cost will be ten cents per gallon until further notice is given. Waters-Pierce Oil Nashville.

(Adv.) To cure La Grippe. Move the bowels well with Epsom Salts, or any good liver pill, and take a teaspoonful of Grove's Tasteless Chill tonic every 3 hours for 24 hours. Price 50¢.

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124 years ago: 1902

The little 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Griffith, who reside on the Murfreesboro Road, near Sweet Home, died at 6 o'clock Sunday morning from the effects of burns received late Saturday afternoon.

The child was left alone in the house by its mother for a few minutes until she went to the well, which is located outside the yard, for a bucket of water. She heard the child scream and rushing to the house the mother found the little boy enveloped in flames, his dress having caught fire from the fireplace.

The child died in great agony Sunday morning. Mrs. Griffin's hands and arms were badly burned in her efforts to save her child from the deadly flames.

At Murfreesboro Pat Horton was struck on the back of the head with a wagon spoke by Rosco Strawn yesterday afternoon and is in a critical condition. The men had a misunderstanding earlier in the day which led to the attack.

Horton is a painter by trade and is 56 years of age, while Strawn is but 20.

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64 years ago: 1962

A proposed 1-mill library tax will be presented to Howard County voters a second time in the general election on November 6th. This tax, which has the support of the Howard County Library Board was almost passed in the 1960 general election, losing by a count of 1,097 to 1,016.

If approved it will provide the operation of the library and improvements of its facilities and services.

The Library Board members are Chairman Rex Ramsay of Nashville, Vice Chairman Nolan Copeland of Mineral Springs, Mrs. Archie Cothren of Dierks, Fletcher Pinkerton of Umpire and Mrs. Jake Holland of Okay-Saratoga .

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44 years ago: 1982

Carrol D. Tollett, son of Carrol D. and Mary L. Tollett of Route 1, Ozan, received practical work in military leadership at the Army ROTC advanced camp at Fort Riley, Kansas. Tollett is a student at Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia.

Six sentenced in criminal court

Six defendants received sentences from Judge Tom Cooper last Wednesday, Oct. 28, after pleading guilty or true to felony charges on the regular day of criminal court in Howard County.

The guilty pleas were from:

--- David Bentley, 61, white male, Nashville, charged with drug possession and drug paraphernalia possession, both class D felonies. He was sentenced to five years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC). Bentley also pleaded true to failure to meet the terms of his probation on a previous conviction.

--- Lucky Cole Larson, 29, white male, Nashville, was charged with filing false reports with a law enforcement agency, and also with defrauding a secured creditor, both class D felonies. The state declined to pursue the second charge. On the first charge he was sentenced to 120 days in a regional punishment facility to begin Jan. 1. The state did not pursue similar charges against Bobbi Larson, 30 white female, Nashville.

--- Michael Markham, 45, white male, Nashville, was charged with a pair of class D drug felonies. He was sentenced to three years in the ADC.

--- Brandon Bruno, 40, white male, Nashville was charged in August 2025 with weapons possession during a controlled substance offense; drug possession; resisting arrest; and a drug misdemeanor. After some charges were reduced he was sentenced to a $1,000 fine and a one year suspended imposition of sentence.

--- Xavier Jones, 31, black male, Mineral Springs, entered a guilty plea to new charges of drug possession and domestic battery, and also pleaded true to failure to meet probation terms on a previous conviction. He was sentenced to a combined six years in the ADC.

Dates are set

Trial dates and dates for pretrial motions were set for three defendants who pleaded not guilty.

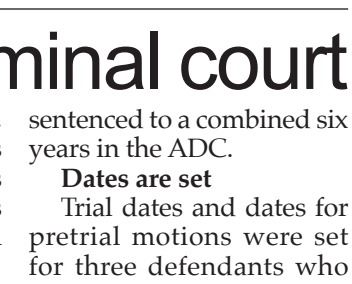
--- Omar Navarrate, 38, Hispanic male, Nashville, charged with first degree terroristic threatening, a class D felony. Motions will be heard Dec. 2. The court noted that an interpreter may be needed.

--- Kanyon Guarisco, 19, white male, Nashville is charged with several drug felonies. Motions will be heard March 3, 2027.

--- Deontrel Armstrong, 33, black male, Nashville is charged with a drug felony and with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Motions will be heard March 3.

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After the storm:



• When venturing outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical electrical hazard. Assume any dangling wires you encounter are energized and dangerous. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

• If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utlility. Also, when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.

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Public Record of Howard County

Items or documents that were filed, issued or recorded at the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period from Thursday, Oct. 22 -- Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026, unless noted otherwise, included the following:

Marriage Licenses

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

Oct. 23. Brayden Lane Townes, 21, Mineral Springs,and Emma Jane Dowdy, 20, Mineral Springs.

Oct. 26. Aiden Robert Alan Watts, 21, and Hailie Marie Vennard, 19, Nashville.

Oct. 27. Ricky Don Cheek, 57, Dierks, and Brenda Louise Claborn, 63, Dierks.

Civil Court

CV26-209, Oct. 26. LVNV Funding, LLS, vs. Dianne Barger. Debt.

Domestic Relations Court

DR26-99, Oct. 22. Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Maurice Anderson. Support.

DR26-100, Oct. 23. Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement vs. Demetryun Hunter. Support.

DR26-101, Oct. 28. Carolyn Ogden vs. Kejuan Swift. Order of protection.

Criminal Court

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

No new Criminal Court cases filed since CR26-71, Oct. 21.

Land Transactions

Quitclaim Deed

Oct. 23. John Bowden, his interest in the estate of Fern Bowden; to Jean Flaherty and Jerry Tollett Bowden; Lots 4-5, Block 4, Original Town of Nashville.

Oct. 26. Kevin Jones; to Rachel Michelle Jones; property in S19 T9S R28W.

Oct. 26. Paul Conway and wife Cathy Conway; to Channing Harris; part of Block 37, Original Townsite of Mineral Springs.

Oct. 26. Amanda Willis; to Jacob Eudy and wife Kelsey Eudy; Lots 1 thru 5, Block 2, R.L. Hayes Addition, town of Nashville.

Trustee's Gift Deed

Oct. 27. Patricia Gale Bolland, individually and as Trustee of the Patricia Gale Bolland Living Trust; to Patricia Gale Bolland, Kammy Lanette Hailey; property in S19 T7S R28W.

Oct. 27. Patricia Gale Bolland, individually and as Trustee of the Patricia Gale Bolland Living Trust; to Kammy Lanette Bailey, trustee of the Kammy Bailey Trust; properties in S19/S29/S30/S31 T7S R28W; part of Block 9, Murray's First Addition, Town of Dierks; Lots 1-2-3, Block 10, Original Town of Dierks.

Oct. 27. Patricia Gale Bolland, individually and as Trustee of the Patricia Gale Bolland Living Trust; to Jackie Don Bolland, Trustee of the Jackie Don and Becki Kay Bolland Trust; 2 tracts in S19/S30 T7S R28W, and Lots 9-10, part of Lot 11, Block 4, Original Town of Dierks.

Executor's Deed

Oct. 23. William David Hicks, et al; to David E. Ward and Lisa M. Ward, husband and wife; 2 tracts, aggregate 10.06 ac. in S4 T8S R28W. $57,000.

Heir's Deed

Oct. 26. Austia Golden, et al; to Dorothea Mays, Hunter Mays, Colton Mays, Joint Tenants; 1.7 ac. in S36 T5S R28W.

Beneficiary Deed

Oct. 26. Katrina L. McAlister; to Aimee Sutton; 20.669 ac. in S26 T10S R28W.

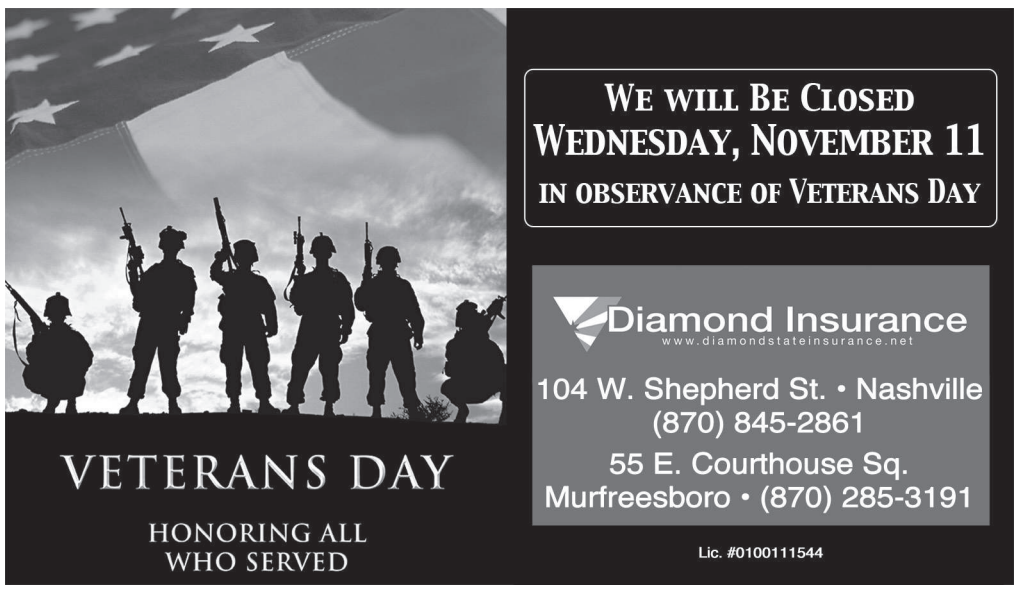
Warranty Deed

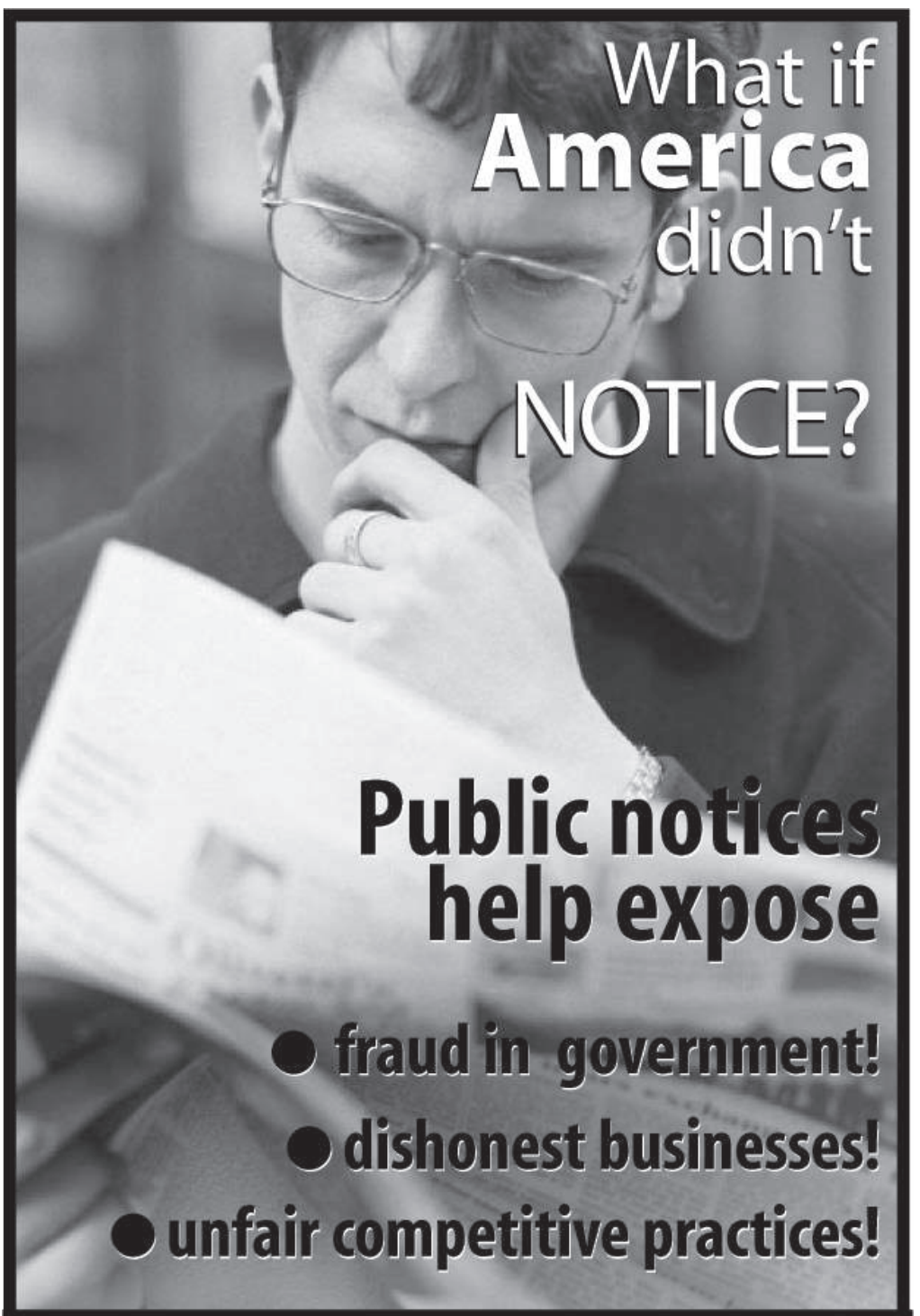
Oct. 23. Connie Neal, et al; to Kyle Stephens and wife Aubrie Lance; property in S24 T9S R27W. $230,000.

Oct. 23. Benjamin Witherspoon and wife Brittany Witherspoon; to Kirby Bishop Adcock and wife Kaylea Brooke Adcock; Lot 7, Stone Lake Estates, Howard County. $305,000.

Oct. 26. Sandra J. Revels, Trustee of the Revels Family Trust; to Holly Creek Apartments, LLC; 0.76 ac. in S31 T7S R28W.

Oct. 28. James N. Davis III and wife Lorna M. Davis; to Marshall Counts; 5 ac. in S10 T6S R28W. $45,000.





Point of view

Missing signs?

J-Turns are not okay, and fast bicycles still banned

Mine Creek Revelations

By Louie Graves

YES, I AM STILL HERE peeking out my window on Main Street, and I almost can't tell you how frustrated I am about our rainfall --- not only because we've just had a mere light dusting of moisture in October and November, and our lawns and landscape plants and hay pastures, creekbeds, etc., are all dying, dead or dry as a bone.

NO! The real reason I'm frustrated is because Saturday's rain DID NOT hang around long enough to discourage Trick-or-Treaters.

There were in my neighborhood --- I do not exaggerate --- 70 or 100 cars, and maybe several hundred costumed youngsters dashing across streets in front of those cars.

They were gone before midnight this year.

When it comes to Halloween I am a "Bah Humbug" kind of guy. Back decades ago when I observed Halloween, my wife and I spent far, far too much money on treats for the streams of Little Darlings that would ring our doorbell.

I even saved "It's Boy / It's a Girl" cigars from proud pappas during the year. I would sneak those a cigar into a trick-or-treat bag along with a Tootsie Roll Pop or two.

That lasted until my wife found out and shamed me into ceasing.

Lots of my neighbors really get into the spirit of Halloween. One brought me a cigar.

● ---- ● --- ●

THANK GOODNESS. Last week's celebration of Johnny Wilson's century of Scrapper Pressbox volunteerism reminds me of how glad I am that he doesn't announce every Scrapper First Down with "It's another Nashville Scrapper First Down!"

It's just one of those things that makes our town classier.

It happens everywhere in OTHER stadiums. Even when some weak team is behind by 50 points and a penalty nets them a First Down. The pressbox announcer enthusiastically cranks up the tired old phrase.

Up in Fayetteville when the Hogs were getting their usual thumping by Missouri, the announcer joyfully shouted that First Down message both times our lousy team accomplished that 10-yard milestone in the second half.

The Arkansas Athletic Director, football coaches and players are vastly overpaid in my opinion., and should be tarred and feathered and run out of town.

Let the practice squad suit up.

● ---- ● --- ●

GONE BUT NOT forgotten.

A sharp-eyed citizen has informed me that the "No J-Turns" signs in our town's Central Business District have been taken down.

Fearlessly, I asked our mayor about it.

Yes, he answered fearlessly, adding "But they're going back up."

The signs were removed, His Honor explained, because the city had received some complaints that placement of the signs blocked the view of oncoming traffic thereby creating a traffic hazard.

His Honor told me that as soon as someone figgered out a better place for the signs they'd be put up again.

Same for the "No Speeding Bicycles on Sidewalks" sign.

I admitted that I was extremely lucky --- in my hellion days of youth --- never to have run over an unfortunate senior citizen emerging from a store laden with packages.

Me, too, His Honor admitted after I promised him that the Statute of Limitations had expired for most bicycle offenses.

In the meantime --- until the signs are restored --- the Unofficial Downtown J-Turn Enforcement Officer should feel free to shoot at J-Turn offenders and bicyclists on the Main Street sidewalks.

My words, not his.

● ---- ● --- ●

CAME ACROSS an article recently about Bullies and Bullying.

The article in "LifeScience" said that about half of sixth graders say they have been bullied at school.

The science site had some suggestions for parents: Turn off the TV and the cell phone. Put away video games. Read to young children; let the older ones read aloud to you; take outings together; eat meals together seated around the table.

One of the problems is that Joe and Judy SchoolPatron are reluctant to believe their own precious child might be the bully.

Our schools take steps to stop bullying, and I congratulate them for it.

I have one other suggestion: Do not let your child forget what the inside of a church looks like.

That suggestion is ironic because most of my playground fights were because I was a different religious denomination than most kids.

● ---- ● --- ●

THINGS I LEARNED from opening email: Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.

● ---- ● --- ●

HE SAID: "A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject." Sir Winston Churchill, a witty UK statesman and WWII hero.

● ---- ● --- ●

SHE SAID: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead, anthropologist and author.

● ---- ● --- ●

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Nashville News-Leader

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Legislators prepare for 2027 Regular Session

By State Rep. Dolly Henley

With the 2027 Regular Session just a few months away, members of the General Assembly spent another busy week at the Capitol reviewing state agency budgets and examining ways to address prison overcrowding. Pre-Session Budget Hearings continued with a closer look at where agencies are requesting additional funding and why.

Education was a major focus this week. State officials reported that many Arkansas public school districts are experiencing declining enrollment, creating financial challenges as funding is tied in part to student numbers. To help those districts adjust, the Department of Education is requesting $52 million annually in declining enrollment assistance. That's a $28 million increase over the previous funding level.

The department is also requesting an additional $70 million for the Educational Freedom Account program, bringing proposed funding to $379.4 million.

The Department of Human Services also presented its budget requests. The Division of Children and Family Services, which oversees child protective services, foster care, and adoption programs, is seeking $330 million in spending authority, an increase of $14.2 million over the current fiscal year. The Division of Youth Services, which provides rehabilitation and support services for young people involved in the juvenile justice system, requested $84.3 million, an increase of $1.1 million. Members authorized drafting appropriation bills for both divisions, along with the appropriation for Medicaid, which would maintain its current spending authority.

Budget hearings will continue November 6 with a review of the Governor's balanced budget proposal.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate Judiciary Committees met to discuss another pressing issue: prison overcrowding. Arkansas has more than 19,000 state inmates, including over 2,300 being held in county jails while awaiting space in state prisons. Operating the prison system cost taxpayers more than $450 million last fiscal year.

Members heard about programs aimed at reducing repeat offenses while protecting public safety. One example was Smart Justice Services, which helps connect individuals involved in the court system with employment, housing, transportation, and treatment services.

The committees also discussed four draft bills addressing supervised housing, probation and parole, criminal record sealing, and potential release options for certain older inmates. These proposals remain under consideration.

From education funding to prison overcrowding, these discussions are helping members better understand the challenges facing our state and the decisions ahead. The work happening now will help shape the legislation and budget priorities considered when the General Assembly convenes in January.

Arkansas presents Gem Awards to schools for high student growth

By State Sen. Jimmy Hickey

The Arkansas Department of Education has announced the 2026 Arkansas Gem Schools, recognizing 167 public and public charter schools for strong academic achievement, notable student growth, and steady improvement over multiple years. The program, which serves as the state's Rewards and Recognition initiative, will distribute nearly $7 million to schools that rank among the highest performers statewide.

The Gem Schools program highlights campuses that show exceptional results in core academic areas and demonstrate consistent progress. Designations are based on data from the state's assessment and accountability system, which measures how well students perform, how much they grow academically from year to year, and whether schools are improving across multiple indicators. The program aims to acknowledge schools that are helping students succeed and to spotlight educators and leaders who are contributing to those gains.

This year's funding will go to schools that place in the top 10 percent statewide for overall achievement and overall student growth. State officials emphasized that strong academic outcomes typically reflect sustained effort from teachers, school leaders, families, and students. They noted that the schools recognized through the Gem program are helping set a high bar for academic performance across Arkansas.

A total of 167 schools earned at least one Gem designation. Schools may receive recognition in several categories:

Achievement of All — awarded to schools ranking in the top 10 percent statewide within their grade span on the overall achievement indicator. These schools may receive up to $100 per student.

Growth of All — awarded to schools ranking in the top 10 percent statewide within their grade span on the overall growth indicator. These schools may also receive up to $100 per student.

Achievement by Content Area — recognition for schools ranking in the top 10 percent statewide in English language arts, mathematics, or science achievement.

Growth by Content Area — recognition for schools ranking in the top 10 percent statewide in growth in English language arts, mathematics, or science.

Sustained Improvement — recognition for schools that show increases in multiple indicators for three consecutive years.

Schools receiving financial awards may use the funds for staff bonuses, instructional materials, educational equipment, or temporary personnel who support continued academic improvement. Local committees made up of school leaders, teachers, and parents will decide how the funds are used to best support students.

The Arkansas Department of Education describes the Gem Schools program as part of a broader effort to encourage continuous improvement and highlight schools that are helping students reach higher levels of achievement. Officials say the program is intended to reinforce the importance of strong instruction, effective school leadership, and community support.

The full list of 2026 Gem Schools and award amounts is available on the Arkansas Gem Schools webpage.

Families and community members can review which schools earned recognition and explore how the designations reflect statewide academic trends.

Making sure that veterans find help

By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

Our nation's commitment to the men and women who serve in uniform does not end when they take it off. We have a responsibility to ensure they can access the care and benefits they have earned through their service, including accounting for the diverse challenges these heroes face.

Veteran suicide remains one of the most pressing and persistent struggles to confront.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released the 2026 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report on September 30. The report found 6,488 veteran suicide deaths in 2024, including 92 in Arkansas, for an average of almost 18 per day. Behind these statistics are countless families, friends and communities impacted by that tragic reality.

The report also highlights the fact that most veterans who died by suicide had not received VA healthcare in the year of their death or the preceding year. This further underscores the importance of programs dedicated to reaching out to veterans in their communities and connecting them with resources before a crisis arises.

One key initiative bridging that gap is the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program that I crafted with bipartisan support in 2020.

The Fox Grant Program provides funding to community-based organizations that address mental and social health outside clinical settings. Grantees play a vital role in facilitating engagement between veterans and the VA while offering services such as peer-to-peer engagement, faith-based initiatives and other innovative approaches. Since its creation, the program has awarded more than $300 million to 218 organizations, including two in Arkansas.

These groups recognize something crucial in the fight against veteran suicide: sometimes the most effective way to reach someone in need is through a trusted neighbor, a fellow veteran or a local organization. The Fox Grant Program further empowers them, serving as a force multiplier to help turn the tide.

Another critical resource is the Veterans Crisis Line, which provides free, confidential assistance around the clock by connecting veterans with a live individual who can support them in a moment of need. By dialing 988 and pressing 1, veterans and their families can speak directly with trained responders ready to offer guidance and direct them to helpful resources.

These conversations can be lifesaving, and we must also recognize the dedicated individuals who answer those calls, day and night.

That is why I recently joined Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) in introducing bipartisan legislation to strengthen the Veterans Crisis Line and better support its workforce.

Our legislation would improve mental health counseling and peer support programs, as well as strengthen workplace protections, to ensure the Veterans Crisis Line operates as efficiently as possible while providing appropriate care and services. Many of these employees are veterans themselves, so their firsthand experience and understanding are critical to the Crisis Line's operations. I am proud to work with my colleagues to ensure these men and women can be as effective as possible.

Preventing veteran suicide requires a sustained commitment from the VA, Congress and communities across the country. No single program, service or piece of legislation can address every challenge our veterans face daily, but each effort brings us closer to reaching someone who may be struggling.

Here in Arkansas, we are fortunate to have many hardworking folks supporting our veterans every day. Their efforts are a reminder that suicide prevention isn't just a federal responsibility. It begins in our communities, with neighbors looking out for one another and noticing when someone needs help. Our veterans answered the call to serve our country. We should make sure someone is there to answer their call.

"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.

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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.



News-Leader photo/JACEE MARTIN

DISTRICT CHAMPIONS. The Nashville Junior High Scrappers won the District 7-4A championship Thursday night, Oct. 29, with a 21-6 road victory over Malvern. The Scrappers were undefeated on the season with a 9-0 record. (Related photo, page 6B)

Win

Continued from page 1A

field house door is always open. It makes the culture stronger if we get the alumni involved," Chesshir said.

Also before the game, senior football players, cheerleaders and band members, along with their families, were introduced by NHS Assistant Principal Eric Perez, who served as stadium announcer until Wilson returned to the press box from the pre-game ceremonies.

The game itself held playoff implications for the Scrappers.

"It was a big game with the number one seed" in the playoffs at stake for Nashville.

By defeating the Leopards, the Scrappers ran their record to 9-0 overall, 6-0 in district.

They won the outright 7-4A championship, the district's top seed and home field advantage throughout the playoffs.

The win didn't come easily, however.

"Malvern did some good things," Chesshir said. "Their defense played disciplined football and took the run away. We could throw the ball but only had 172 yards rushing."

Jacoby Hopson accounted for 142 of those yards, running the ball 15 times and scoring a rushing touchdown.

"As hard as Malvern played the run, we threw the ball successfully," according to Chesshir.

DJ Jefferson completed 19 of 28 passes for 328 yards and five touchdowns.

Six different receivers had catches. "He threw to them effectively."

However, the Scrappers also had "self-inflicted wounds," Chesshir said, including a "big turnover. We were backed up on the one and gave them a short field" to score.

On the other side of the ball, "We didn't play as hard defensively. We showed our kids on film; that's not what it has been. We had 50 lopes versus Malvern. We weren't getting to the ball, and that led to missed tackles," Chesshir said.

"We have to be better moving forward with our effort and intensity."

The Scrappers "gave up some conversions on third down. They [Malvern] hit a big screen play. We lost containment on the quarterback and gave up yards to the quarterback," Chesshir said.

Nashville gave up 258 yards rushing against the Leopards. "That's not like us. We take pride in stopping the run. We have to be better. It comes down too effort and intensity."

Chesshir was "thrilled to win with as many self-inflicted wounds as we had. Overall, it's good to clinch that one seed. Week 10 will be an opportunity to continue to grow as we travel to Genoa."

The Scrappers will wrap up the regular season at Genoa Central Friday night, Nov. 6. The Dragons are 3-6 overall, 0-6 in District 7-4A.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

By earning the top seed from 7-4A, the Scrappers will have a bye for the first round of the playoffs Nov. 13.

They will be at home for round two Nov. 20.

Whether a bye week is good or bad "depends on the team and where you are," Chesshir said. "Sometimes it can hurt you. Sometimes it can be bad. I don't see any issues this year. It gives us a week of preparation" before returning to the field in the second week of the playoffs.

Nashville's opponent for the second round will be determined in games this Friday night and on Nov. 13.

Stats

Offensive stats in the win over Malvern include the following:

Jefferson completed 19 of 28 passes for 328 yards and five touchdowns. He also ran the ball five times for eight yards.

Hopson had 15 carries for 142 yards, along with four receptions for 69 yards. He scored two TDs.

Bryce Perry carried four times for 24 yards and caught five passes for 68 yards. He had one touchdown.

Gauge Applegate made four catches for 68 yards and a TD.

Jailyn Staggers had three receptions for 43 yards and a TD.

Al Green made two catches for 11 yards.

Zavion Vaughn had one reception for 54 yards and a TD.

The Scrappers had 500 yards total offense.

On defense, Blake Moody had 11 tackles, a tackle for a loss and a fumble recovery.

Staggers made nine tackles, had two TFLs and recorded a sack.

Jacob Teague had seven tackles.

Bo Dean made six tackles and recovered a fumble.

Khamari Canady and Milik Gilliam had six tackles each.

DeShawn Hawkins made four tackles and had a TFL.

Kiron Johnson, Skyler Ramsire and Trenton Northcross had four tackles each.

MJ Jefferson made three tackles and returned an interception for a touchdown.

Hayden Crabtree had two tackles. Drew Mitchell and Kishon Jefferson made one tackle each.



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

SENIOR NIGHT. Senior members of the Scrapper football team, band and cheerleaders were introduced before Nashville's win over Malvern Friday night at Scrapper Stadium. (More Senior Night pictures in the Nov. 11 issue)

SWA Paws

Continued from page 1A

Young said. "It also encourages more adoptions at Nashville Animal Control when adopters don't have to pay spay and neuter fees."

In both rural and urban settings, the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund supports hundreds of organizations and programs in the communities where they operate with funding, time, expertise and resources.

Weyerhaeuser made its first charitable donation in 1903 and has provided more than $276 million in grants through its formal giving program, which was established in 1948, according to organizers.

SWA Paws thanked those who came out to the Halloween fund-raiser and supported the group.

"A big thank you goes out to all of those who participated in the chili cookoff, worked the fund-raiser, donated supplies and provided resources," organizers said.

Agriculture is vital for state's residents

By Bruce Westerman
U.S. representative

Every corner of the Natural State has a different story to tell if you were to ask what agriculture means to them. From row crops and rice fields that proudly rank first in the nation for production to the cattle ranches, poultry farms, and deep-rooted timber industry, farming is our shared heritage.

These farmers all have different stories to tell, and their days all look a bit different. But no matter what the commodity they're working to produce, you'll be hard-pressed to find anyone else who works harder than an Arkansas farmer.

Representing a vast portion of the state, I have the privilege of knowing these farmers. Many of them have been working the land that their grandparents and great-grandparents worked to establish. In Arkansas, we take pride in Agriculture not just because it's something we're good at, but because it's been our way of life for generations.

Agriculture tells the story of Arkansas and our nation. Through the grit and determination of those who came before us, we have now established ourselves as a leading producer of several products shipped to every corner of the country and the world. To recognize the contribution our farming forefathers made, we must continue to steward this way of life well and invest in it so that future generations of Arkansas farmers can take up the mantle with pride.

Recently, we recognized National Farmers Day. Leading up to this day to recognize our farmers for their incredible contribution to our way of life, it was recently announced that our farmers would begin receiving roughly $1 billion in enhanced ARC/PLC farm safety net benefits this month – which is an increase of $381 million from the reconciliation package last year, aiming at providing some relief for our agriculture industry.

Farming families from every corner of Arkansas are the backbone of our economy – feeding, clothing, and fueling millions. I want them to know their concerns are being heard by me and in Congress. While I am certainly pleased to see this win for Arkansas farmers, the fight to secure more long-lasting certainty for their future is far from over, and I will continue working in Congress to ensure that our agriculturalists receive the help they need.

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Amy Davis, ARPN is the provider, pictured here with Carla Pumphrey, M.D.
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Pike County District Court

Oct. 20, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited
Pike County

Bush, James C., 33, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined $325 and sentenced to two days in jail-suspended conditions

Dejean, Gary, 60, Delight, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined $1,075 and license suspended for six months; guilty of drinking in public or on highway, fined $220; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $315; guilty of no seat belt, fined $45; guilty of driving left of center, fined $125; guilty of failure to stop or yield, fined $125

Horn, James Keith, 66, Glenwood, $45 BF, no seat belt; $205 BF, failure to appear

Oglesby, Hailey Brooke, 29, Murfreesboro, $325 BF, driving with suspended license; $205 BF, failure to appear

Ward, Natasha N., 35, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay; $1,290 balance

Wilson, David A., 52, Arkadelphia, guilty of failure to pay, committed to jail; $2,455 balance

City of Murfreesboro

Bailey, Charles M., 52, Delight, guilty of expired vehicle license/tags, fined $160; guilty of no driver's license, fined $160

Wilson, David A., 52, Arkadelphia, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $335; guilty of failure to appear, fined $225; guilty of failure to appear, fined $225

Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

Briggs, Justice R., 17, Texarkana, Texas, $620 BF, negligent operation of vessel

Chavez, Sergio A., 25, Los Fresnos, Texas, $170 BF, no wake zone; $205 BF, failure to appear

City of Glenwood

Kinard, Joseph Nathaniel, 34, Amity, guilty of defective equipment, fined $145

Martin, Kolton Lee, 19, Kirby, $350 BF, no proof of liability insurance; $630 BF, modified bumpers

Bench Trials
Pike County

Bailey, Jaiden Wyatt, 18, Barling, speeding, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss, fined $215

Culpepper, Kason Paul, 20, Kirby, guilty of disorderly conduct, fined $220

Hall, Jessica Denise, 36, De Queen, guilty of failure to present insurance, fined $70

Pullen, Cody J., 34, Delight, possession of drug paraphernalia, under advisement for one year to dismiss, fined $600

City of Murfreesboro

Baker, Kristen A., 27, Murfreesboro, third-degree assault, under advisement for six months to dismiss, fined $240; guilty of failure to appear, fined $240

Watson, Michael, 40, Murfreesboro, guilty of violation of city ordinance #260-dogs, fined $165

City of Glenwood

Galloway, Sawyer Lee, 17, Glenwood, guilty of modified bumpers, fined $365

Hancock, Lukas Landon, 19, Amity, guilty of modified bumpers, fined $365

Wilder, Matthew Dale, 23, Amity, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined $75

Commodities coming Nov. 4 at Murfreesboro Municipal Bldg.

Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute Food Boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed in Murfreesboro.

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

The next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Jan. 6, 2027.

Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.



Looking for diamonds at Crater of Diamonds State Park -State Park Photo

Lake Dardanelle top state park; Crater of Diamonds named finalist for historic growth, international appeal

Arkansas State Parks has announced Lake Dardanelle State Park as the 2026 Park of the Year, recognizing a year of exceptional achievement in tourism, education, outdoor recreation and financial stewardship. The award was presented alongside recognition of three other outstanding finalists: Crater of Diamonds State Park, DeGray Lake Resort State Park and Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

The four parks demonstrated exceptional achievement in visitor service, conservation, recreation, tourism development, community engagement and support of Arkansas' Natural State Initiative. Each park was selected for outstanding accomplishments that contributed to the growth and success of Arkansas' state park system during the past fiscal year.

Lake Dardanelle State Park was named the 2026 Park of the Year for its exceptional contributions to Arkansas tourism, outdoor recreation and conservation education. The park hosted 15 major fishing tournaments that generated more than $3.7 million in local economic impact and attracted over 1,600 anglers. Expanded interpretive programming reached more than 17,000 participants, while strong financial stewardship helped the park increase revenue by more than 10% while remaining under budget. These accomplishments, combined with the park's leadership in advancing outdoor recreation opportunities and supporting local communities, distinguished Lake Dardanelle as the top honor recipient among this year's finalists.

"Congratulations to Lake Dardanelle State Park on earning the distinction of 2026 Park of the Year," said Shea Lewis, Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. "This recognition reflects the dedication, creativity and commitment of the entire park team and the tremendous impact they have had on visitors and their community. Together, Lake Dardanelle, along with the finalists, showcase the diverse experiences, exceptional service and stewardship that make Arkansas State Parks the best place for outdoor recreation and exploration of all ages and abilities."

The annual Park of the Year program recognizes parks that demonstrate excellence across a wide range of operational and strategic goals, including resource stewardship, visitor experience, financial performance, community engagement, innovation and support of agency-wide initiatives.

Crater of Diamonds State Park earned recognition following a year of historic growth and international attention. Several high-profile diamond discoveries attracted worldwide media coverage and helped drive increases in visitation and revenue. The park welcomed more than 183,000 visitors and expanded educational programming while continuing its strong commitment to conservation, community partnerships and visitor engagement.

DeGray Lake Resort State Park was recognized for one of its most successful years on record. Strong performance at the golf course and increased group travel helped boost visitation and support business throughout the park's lodge, restaurant and recreational amenities. Staff members also demonstrated exceptional teamwork by assisting other Arkansas State Parks and completing major maintenance projects in-house to enhance park facilities and visitor experiences.

Pinnacle Mountain State Park was recognized for continued growth in visitation, accessibility and community involvement. The park welcomed more than 715,000 visitors during the fiscal year and celebrated the opening of the Owl Pass ADA shared-use path, expanding access to outdoor recreation for visitors of all abilities. Strong partnerships, volunteer support, conservation efforts and major outdoor events further contributed to a standout year.

Arkansas State Parks

Arkansas State Parks is a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. Arkansas state parks and museums cover 55,006 acres of forest, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation facilities, and unique historic and cultural resources.

Established in 1923, Arkansas State Parks preserve special places for future generations, provide quality recreation and education opportunities, enhance the state's economy through tourism and provide leadership in resource conservation.

Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism

The Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism protects and promotes our state's natural, cultural and historic assets, contributing to a thriving economy and high quality of life. It is made up of three divisions: Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas Heritage and Arkansas Tourism.

Veterans Day event at Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center

A Veterans Day celebration will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. in the Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center.

The Senior Center is located at 120 East Court Street in Murfresboro.

All Pike County and area military veterans are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served after the event.

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South Pike County looking at four-day school week

By PJ Tracy
Murfreesboro Diamond

South Pike County Schools Superintendent Tanya Wilcher told the school board that the district was investigating the possibility of moving to a four day school week beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

They are currently looking at calendar options to determine if the day off would be Friday or Monday.

Wilcher told the board she was open to having a question and answer forum if they decide to move forward.

She said the school day would be lengthened, starting at around 7:50 a.m. in the morning (currently 7:55) and going to 4:10-4:15 p.m. in the afternoon (currently 3:22).

A survey is out on each student's "rooms" program and about half the parents and students had participated by the time the school board meeting was held last week. She invited all parents and students to participate so the school could have the best view of the process.

She said the state had relinquished any objections to a four day week on the basis of lowered test scores, because the data simply did not back up the theory.

"There would be some changes -- but as a smaller district, I can't give extra salaries to our employees, but we can give them more time."

Wilcher added the the district had lost some students and educators to districts with four day week, noting that most of the school districts surrounding South Pike County had moved to four day weeks.

Whichever way the district decides to go, Wilcher said she hoped to have a final decision by December.

"There would be some hard decisions, but we can't make decisions based on one sport," Wilcher said about questions about loss of pep rallies if Friday was the day off. She added that football coaches preferred Fridays instead of Mondays, when the team would lose a day of practice, especially on the junior high level.

The next school board meeting is set for Thursday, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m.

The high school report cited Jordyn Nance for her Class 2A tennis championship, and noted that seniors were currently doing graduation checks. It was also noted that many scholarships would soon ramp up, and that any seniors looking to seek scholarships should visit with high school counselor Courtney Stone.

Rowan Gillard, a first grade student, was named the Murfreesboro Elementary School student of the month.

MES principal James Riley said that Gillard was a "great student that was an example for all ... she gets good grades, is polite and is very aware of things that looks after all," noting Gillard's protection of a student with a peanut allergy whenever snacks are had.

Elemetary school staff member of the month was Karen Terrell. The third grade science teacher was named for such student responses including "fun activities" and "the nicest teacher ever." Riley said she did everything he could ever ask of her.

The MES Fun Run raised over $10,000, which will allow some six to seven thousand dollars to help fund student field trips and activities.

Additionally, by going over $10,000, kindergarten student Holly Watson -- who was the leading fundraising student -- was to give Riley a haircut with clippers.

The board approved the move to a new school purchasing card with startup company Stowe that will work exclusively with school districts. The district currently uses Arvest Bank for purchases.

The board also approved a agreement with Ideal Impact that will work with the school on energy efficiency.

While Wilcher said the findings from the school's audit found them "pretty energy efficient," she said the 3-4 year project would help eliminate mold and mildew from the schools by focusing on humidity reduction. The contract will cost $79,000, with $70,000 projected savings in electrical use over the first three years of the agreement.

After calling the first year of paying football gate workers a success -- school workers were paid $75 a game for home dates -- the board approved rates for the basketball season. Workers will be paid $50 for nights with two games, $75 for nights with three games, and $100 for nights with four games.

The board approved holiday bonuses of $600 for school employees, which will appear in their November checks.

To close business for the month, the board approved replacing windows in the counseling building for $15,500, which will include 27 windows to be installed by Nashville Glass. Board member Carrie Tidwell abstained from the vote, citing the fact she works in the building.



RED RIBBON WEEK FUNDS. The Mineral Springs School District recently received a $1,000 Red Ribbon Grant from the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association, which was presented to Amy Westfall, the Mineral Springs K-12 district counselor, who wrote the grant, by Howard County Chief Deputy Joey Davis.

Howard County District Court

Oct. 29, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited
Howard County

Griffin, Romea Carlis, 21, Mineral Springs, $145 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Johnson, Jamarcus, 35, Mineral Springs, guilty of violation of ignition/interlock device, fined $345; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined $445 and sentence to 10 days in jail-suspended conditions; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $345

Keener, Payton B., 18, New Boston, Texas, $210 BF, speeding; $50 BF, failure to present insurance

Peacock, Ryan W., 24, Atlanta, Texas, $250 Bf, speeding; $245 BF, failure to appear

Pounds, David, 56, Kirby, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $145

Rogers, Christopher J., 41, White Hall, $210 BF, defective equipment on vehicle

City of Nashville

Graves, Rexanne L., 36, Fayetteville, $195 BF, expired vehicle tags/no vehicle tags

Pryor, Dariyona Rachelle, 21, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines; $1,495 balance

Sherwood, Rebecca, 43, Lawrenceville, Ga., $250 BF, speeding; $245 BF, failure to appear

Bench Trials

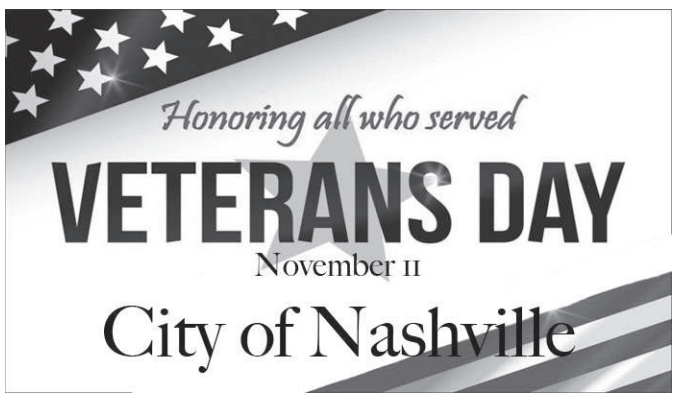
City of Nashville

Fizer, Special, 42, Nashville, guilty of obstructing government operations, fined $370; guilty of disorderly conduct, fined $270

City of Dierks

Kondoni, Jay, 21, Little Rock, $215 BF, improper or prohibited passing

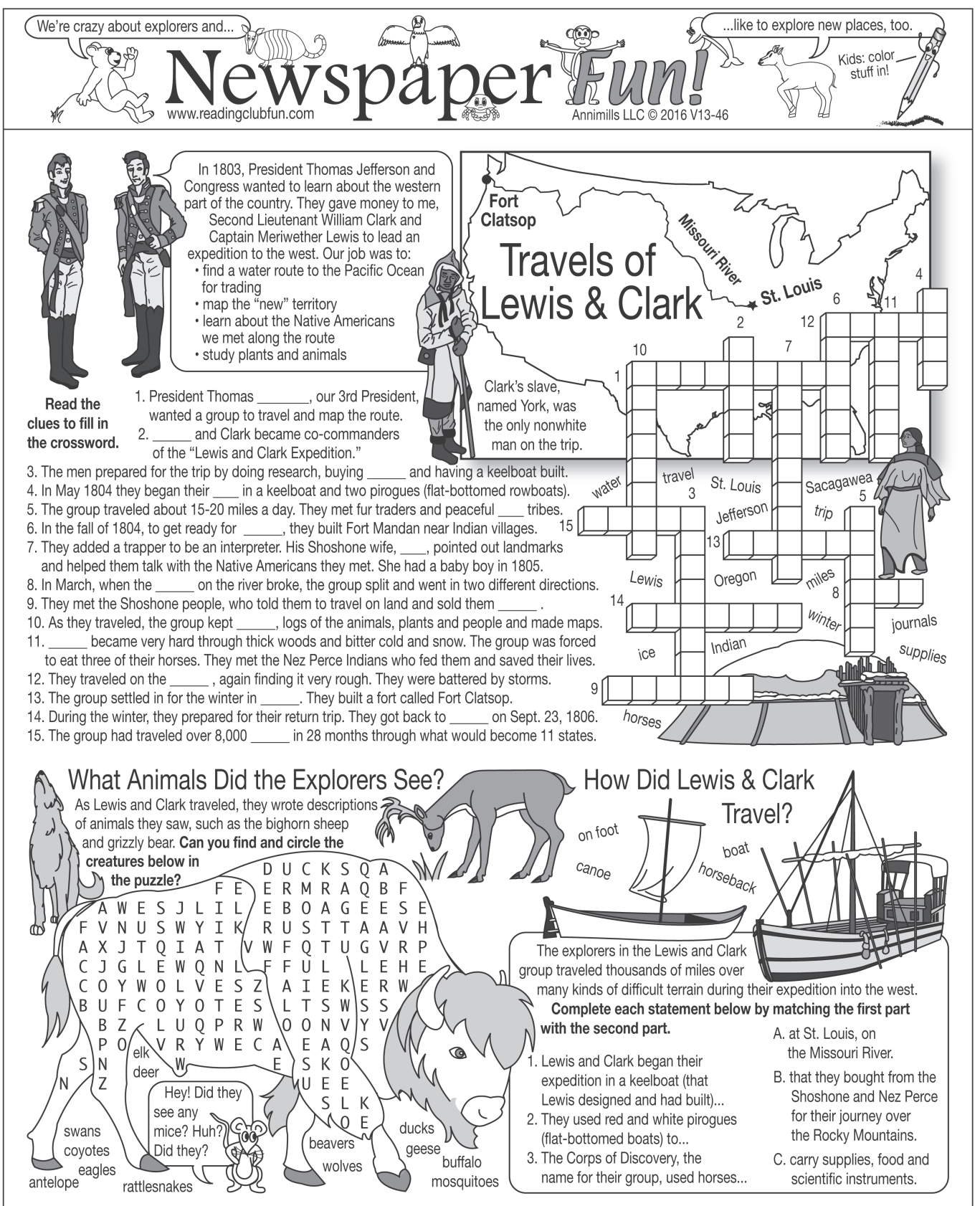
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Hunter in blind - AGFC Photo

AGFC opens applications for three beginner ladies-only deer camps

By Randy Zellers
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program will host three overnight camps this hunting season specifically designed to introduce women to deer hunting, and applications for the first two hunts are available now.

"The deer camps are for women who have never deer hunted as an adult," Lea White, BOW coordinator for the AGFC, said.

"We know there are some women who may have hunted with their family as a child, but never really learned how to hunt on their own. If this describes you, or if you've just never gone at all, these camps are exactly what you need to get started (or restarted) on the right foot. We also have a few spots dedicated to mobility-impaired women during the December hunt."

All camps will begin with an introduction to hunting safety and instructions on proper firearm handling and shooting. No previous shooting experience is required, and rifles and ammunition will be provided.

Once participants are familiar with the firearms they will use, they will learn about shot placement, deer habitat and deer management. From there, each woman will have the opportunity to hunt twice with a mentor during the weekend.

"We'll end each hunt with lessons on field-dressing, skinning and processing your deer to make the most out of your experience," White said. "This is a hands-on camp, so we'll be processing the deer participants harvest during their hunts. We want all participants to walk away from the weekend with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to get out in the woods on their own, and even introduce someone else to deer hunting."

Registration is $75 to cover meals; it is due only after applicants are selected.

To be considered for these hunts, please complete the Google form in the links below:

• Dec. 11-13 Women's Deer Hunt at C.A. Vines 4-H Center in Little Rock

Note: The spaces for mobility-impaired participants in this hunt are reserved for women who have a permanent physical disability requiring assistance from a wheelchair, braces, crutches or similar aids.

• Jan. 1-3 Women's Deer Hunt in Clinton, Arkansas

The third deer hunt will focus on late-season archery with a crossbow, and will be hosted Feb. 19-21 in Pine Bluff. Applications for this hunt will open in late December. Follow the AGFC's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman web page for updates.

State hunters, A-State aid deer management, fight food insecurity

By Randy Zellers
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

Arkansas State University joined Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry and Arkansas Farm Bureau on Wednesday to unveil the latest addition to its College of Agriculture Meat Market and Lab: a $750,000 improvement project designed to fight food insecurity with the help of deer hunters and processors statewide.

The expansion, funded through a grant from the Arkansas Office of Skills Development, focuses on producing shelf-stable venison snack sticks that AHFH uses to feed children from food-insecure families. The small packages of protein are much more than a convenient treat; in some cases, they are the only meat children receive on weekends when school meal programs are unavailable.

Ronnie Ritter, executive director of AHFH, said the organization distributes hundreds of thousands of servings of donated ground venison to food pantries across the state each year, and its new snack stick program has seen far greater demand than organizers originally anticipated. The snack sticks are placed into weekend backpack programs so students living in food-insecure homes have the nutrition they need on weekends and school holidays.

"I get a call nearly every week from a new school asking for these sticks to add to their backpack programs," Ritter said. "They can get cereals and canned goods, but shelf-stable meat is an extremely hard need to fill."

Ritter explained that while many processors produce snack sticks in Arkansas, he has struggled to find one capable of producing snack sticks that need no refrigeration at the volume the organization requires. Until ASU's expansion, Ritter relied on a facility in Missouri for the bulk of the processing.

Last year, AHFH provided 172,000 snack sticks, with the meat for 128,000 sourced directly from deer clubs enrolled in the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).

"We have the demand, we have a lot of hunters willing to donate deer, and we also have the biological need to harvest the deer and balance local deer herds," Jeremy Brown, coordinator for the AGFC's Deer Management Assistance Program, said. "Clubs that work with our biologists to manage their herds often need to harvest more does than their members want to process and keep. But to maintain a healthy, productive herd, they have to keep the buck-to-doe ratio close to a 1-to-1 balance."

Over the past few years, Brown and Ritter have coordinated with multiple DMAP clubs to host special hunts aimed at meeting the demand for the snack stick program.

"We're hoping to produce 200,000 this year, and we're already ahead of last year's deer club donations," Ritter said. "Now, the real limiting factor is the cost and capacity to process the sticks, and this expansion at A-State will help keep as much of that processing within the state as possible."

According to Corey Readnour, meat lab director at Arkansas State, the upgraded facility should be able to process nearly 200,000 shelf-stable snack sticks per year, provided there is sufficient storage capacity for the meat. Students working in the lab will process and package the venison, gaining hands-on vocational experience while providing a direct service to Arkansas communities. Liam McGregor, an A-State student working in the lab, said the initiative inspired him to take greater ownership of his education and work.

"Before I started my job here, Corey mentioned this program was getting started," McGregor said. "Knowing how much it would help the community and give back was a big reason I wanted to take the job. I didn't know all the specifics at first, but I knew it was a great cause, so I'm proud to be a part of it."

Visit www.arkansashunters.org for more information about Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry.

Hunters can make a donation to help pay processing fees for these snack sticks and other AHFH operations when they purchase their hunting license at www.agfc.com/licenses.

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Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.
Pastors: Lankford & Mary Alice Moore

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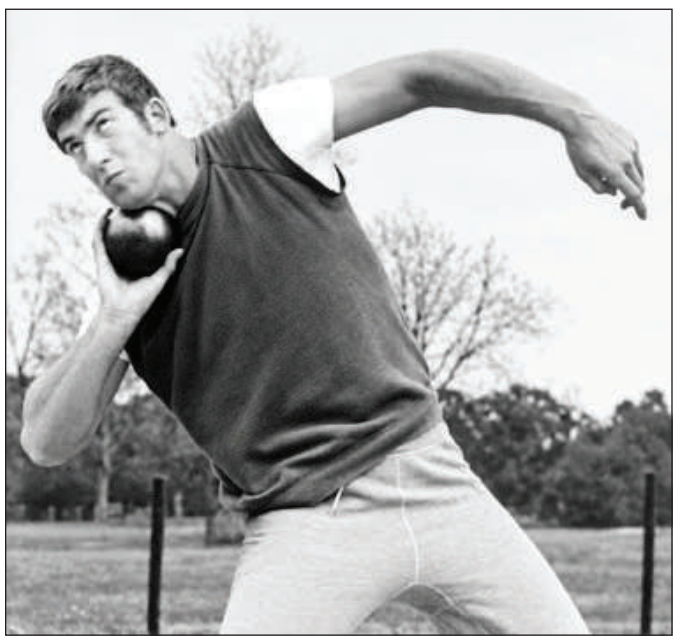
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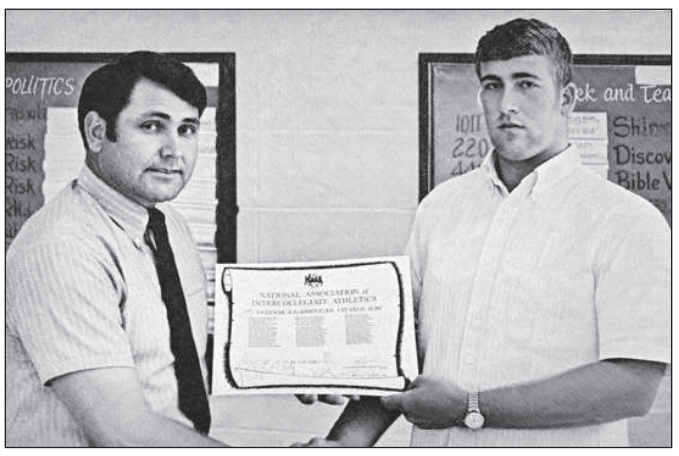
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Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Minister: Jim Pinson

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Wednesday Service: 6:00 p.m.





Photos Provided by Mary Ann Jones

THE LEGEND OF TOM JONES. He was an outdoor All-American in 1970. His shot put throw of 60'2" during the 1970 season remains the school record; Jones accepting his NAIA Indoor All-American citation from OBU's Bob Gravette; and title-winner with the discus.



Late Murfreesboro athlete to be in inducted into Ouachita Baptist University Hall of Fame

ARKADELPHIA – Ouachita Baptist University is set to induct nine new members into its athletics hall of fame on Friday, Nov. 6.

The 2026 induction class represents eight different sports and six decades of Tiger athletics.

The induction ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. on Nov. 6 at the Walker Conference Center on the Ouachita campus. The event is open to the public.

Tickets are $30 each. Tables of six are available for $160. Tickets can be purchased upon arrival or online at www.OBUtigers.com/HOFtickets.

TJ Bingham was a three-time First Team All-Gulf South Conference defensive lineman for the Tiger football team from 1998-2001 and made the CoSIDA All-America First Team as a senior. His senior season of 2001 was one of the best for an individual in program history, highlighted by an unofficial school record of 18 sacks and 26 tackles for loss. In addition to his career at Ouachita, Bingham also played professionally, signing as a free agent with the Kansas City Chiefs and later playing for two NFL Europe teams.

Bobby Cheatwood was a two-time All-Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference selection and two-time All-NAIA District 17 pitcher for the Tiger baseball team from 1968-1971. He was the AIC leader in wins in 1969 (8-3, 1.91 ERA). Cheatwood played on four AIC championship teams, three of which went on to win the NAIA district title.

Greg Freeman was a two-time NAIA All-American diver and a national champion in two events during his career at Ouachita from 1985-1989. He became Ouachita's first ever swimming & diving national champion with titles in the one-meter and three-meter diving events in the 1989 season. He was also named the National Diver of the Year by the College Swimming Coaches Association.

Rogers Gaines is one of the most decorated athletes in Ouachita history, registering 12 NAIA All-America track & field honors and six All-AIC selections during his career from 1987-1990. He excelled in multiple events, including the triple jump, long jump, and the 4x100-meter relay. His relay team won the NAIA national championship in 1990 with a time of 41.67 and finished second in 1987 with a time of 41.10, which remains the school record. His 1989 long jump distance of 25'5" also remains the school record. He was the AIC champion in the long jump in 1989 and triple jump in 1990.

Haley Hatcher Weaver set records for Ouachita women's soccer that may never be broken. In just three seasons (2013-2015), the three-time Great American Conference Offensive Player of the Year and two-time All-American scored 55 goals in only 56 games. She finished her career with 169 shots on goal, 324 total shots, 19 game-winning goals, and 118 points, all current school records. Among her lengthy list of accolades, she was Ouachita's nominee for NCAA Woman of the Year in 2016, the NCAA Division II Academic All-American of the Year in 2015, a three-time winner of Ouachita's Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year award, and a three-time winner of Ouachita's Outstanding Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year award.

Lynn (Sooter) Hickey was an All-American for the Ouachita women's basketball team during her playing career from 1969-1973, which laid the foundation for what ended up being a successful career in coaching and athletics administration. Hickey was the head women's basketball coach at Kansas State from 1979-1984 and led the Wildcats to five consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and 125 total wins during her tenure. She was also the head coach at Texas A&M from 1984-1994, leading the Aggies to their first ever NCAA tournament appearance. She accepted her first athletics director role in 1999 at UT-San Antonio, a position she held through 2017. She retired in 2023 as the athletics director at Eastern Washington. She was inducted into the Kansas State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2004, the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame in 2020, the Texas A&M Athletics Hall of Honor in 2023, and the NACDA Hall of Fame in 2024. She was named the NACWAA Division I-AAA Administrator of the Year in 2005, the NACDA Division I-AAA West Region Athletics Director of the Year in 2006, and the San Antonio Express-News Sports Woman of the Year in 2010. In 2007, she was elected to serve on the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee, becoming just the second female to do so.

Tom Jones, the only posthumous inductee in the 2026 class, was a multi-sport athlete for the Tigers from 1968-1971. He excelled most in track & field, where he won a combined six AIC individual titles, three each in shot put and discus. He earned NAIA All-America honors in indoor track in 1970 and 1971. He was an outdoor All-American in 1970. His shot put throw of 60'2" during the 1970 season remains the school record. Jones also played basketball for the Tigers, a tenure highlighted by one shot, a 38-foot buzzer-beater in the 1970 AIC championship game to beat Henderson State 71-69.

Jones, 72, of Murfreesboro, passed away on Dec. 2, 2020.

Dallas Smith was a four-time wrestling All-American and the 2015 national champion during his career at Ouachita from 2012-2015. He is the first wrestling athlete to be inducted into the Ouachita Athletics Hall of Fame. In Ouachita's second season of wrestling in 2011-12, Smith finished sixth at nationals in the 184-pound division. He was the national runner-up in 2013 and took third place in 2014. He culminated his career by winning it all in 2015, ending with a 4-3 win by decision over Maryville's Nick Burghardt in the finals. Smith began his coaching career at Ouachita as a graduate assistant before accepting a position at Lindenwood, where he later became head coach in 2021. After the program was discontinued in 2024, Smith became head coach at Webb City High School in Missouri.

Steve Smith was one of the key contributors to Ouachita baseball's success on the national stage during his career from 2005-2008. Smith shined the brightest in his final two seasons, going 8-2 on the mound with 59 strikeouts as a junior in 2007, and then turning in one the best single seasons in program history as a senior in 2008 with a 10-1 record, a 2.00 ERA, and 143 strikeouts. The Tigers were the NCAA Division II national runners-up that season, and Smith was named the College World Series Most Valuable Player. His career total of 26 wins is tied for the school record, and his 313 career strikeouts ranks second. He also holds school records for career innings pitched (342.1), single season innings pitched (130.1 in 2008), and single season strikeouts (143 in 2008).

Halftime Recognition

Following the induction ceremony on Nov. 6, the 2026 class will be recognized during halftime of Ouachita's football game against Southwestern Oklahoma State on Nov. 7. More information about the Ouachita Athletics Hall of Fame can be found at www.OBUtigers.com/HallofFame.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture urges poultry owners to stay vigilant for avian influenza

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is reminding poultry producers, industry partners, and the public to remain alert for signs of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and to follow biosecurity measures to protect flocks as detections continue across the United States.

On Oct. 27, the Department confirmed the first case of HPAI this season in a backyard domestic poultry flock in eastern Baxter County.

While this is currently the only detection in Arkansas, increasing detections in other states reinforce the importance of continued prevention and monitoring.

HPAI is a highly contagious virus that affects both domestic and wild birds. It can cause sudden death or severe illness in poultry and lead to major economic losses for producers and the state's poultry industry, which is valued at more than $6.7 billion annually.

The virus spreads easily through contact with infected birds, contaminated equipment, or materials, and even a single detection can disrupt trade and local food supply chains.

Under Arkansas state rule, any suspected or confirmed case of avian influenza must be reported immediately to the Department. State regulations authorize the Department to quarantine infected premises, restrict poultry movement within designated control zones, and require depopulation and disinfection when necessary to prevent further spread.

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YOUNGEST TRICK OR TREATER (above) Cornelia Gilliam and Selveah Tatum, 3 months.
READY FOR TREATS (from left) Leo Hines, 9, Jaydon McGiness, 10, and Lorenzo Hines, 9. As you can tell, Leo and Lorenzo are twins.

News-Leader photos/LOUIE GRAVES

Nashville Primary School
Honor Roll & Merit List

Honor Roll -- All A

Second grade: Bailey Chesshir, Everleigh Hilliard, Caroline McRae, Clarah Hopson, Avery Sunderman, Mariyah Swift, Leiella Witherspoon, Zariunna Alexander, Mason Barnes, Kayden Miller, Liam Poulton, Jamie Singleton, Isaiah Smith, Ava Witherspoon, Sienna Adams, Layla Capetillo, Rylee Galente, Beckett Mason , Ethan Haney

Julia Jones, Avery Lowrey, Mattie Miller, Alexander Cardona, Kacen Holliman, Jehsey Jones, Kade Linhoff, A'jiah Miller, Juliette Sullivan , Tripp Troutt, Winter Wallace.

Third Grade: Enrique Alonso, Bryson Hill, Braven Hunter, Kade Linhoff, Jaxon Morrow

Teagan Sanders, Ava Williams, Daleyza Fraire, Samuel Hernandez, Anna Troutt, Melody Capetillo, Brandon Holmes, Jehsey Jones, Leonidas McGhee, Naomi Sanchez, August Williamson, Baylor Casper, Cataleya Marshall, Savannah McEleya, Jayden Patel, Lillian Smith, Clay Sullivan , Madelyn Teague, Javier Bearden , Ethan Darling, Melany Hughes, Hudson Mote, Jenna Watson, Everleigh Gardner, Taiya Hall, River Hugg, Ariana Hunter, Madeline Mendez.

Merit List -- All A & B

Second grade: Kambrie Davis, Aubree Hopkins, Carter Michaud, Dixie Pinegar, Adrian Pioquinto, Rex Reeves, Gunner Walters, Ensley Rosenbaum, Cesar Sanchez, Carter Cobb, Veronica Garcia, Kinley Duvall, Easton Marshall, Jose Morales, Elissa Payton, Everlynn Childs, Declan Davis, Brandon Hill, Tinlee Jamison, JoLee Stanley, Legend Wroblewski, Jameson Goolsby, Kiyair Hopkins, Ella Morrow, Brittney Murphy, Carter Singleton, Ben Adams, Adrian Bustamante, Della Crump, Isaac Gracida, Caroline Moore, Jorja Trotter-Haynes, Preston Wakefield, Angel Bustamante, Brett Barfield, Julianne Staneley.

Third grade: Veronica Hernandez, Khyrie Jones, Maxton McCauley, Ethan Phillips, Alan Rodriguez, Grant Boyce, Evan Chandler , Noemi Escamilla, Lorenzo Hines, Mason Willingham, Aubrey Smith, Graham Askew, Asher Clark, Raylee Hamilton, Lailah Moore, Eli Pham, Kenslie Reed, Jameson Shavers, Royce Wade, Kutter Clay, Amari Fultcher, Asher Gray, A'jiah Miller, Andrea Castro, Khylie Jones, Miriam Tollett, Tripp Troutt,, Madani Valente, Evie Friend, Leo Hines, Amir Walker, Winter Wallace.

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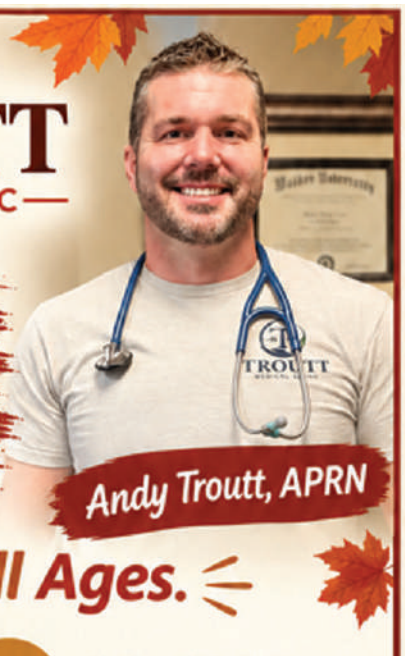
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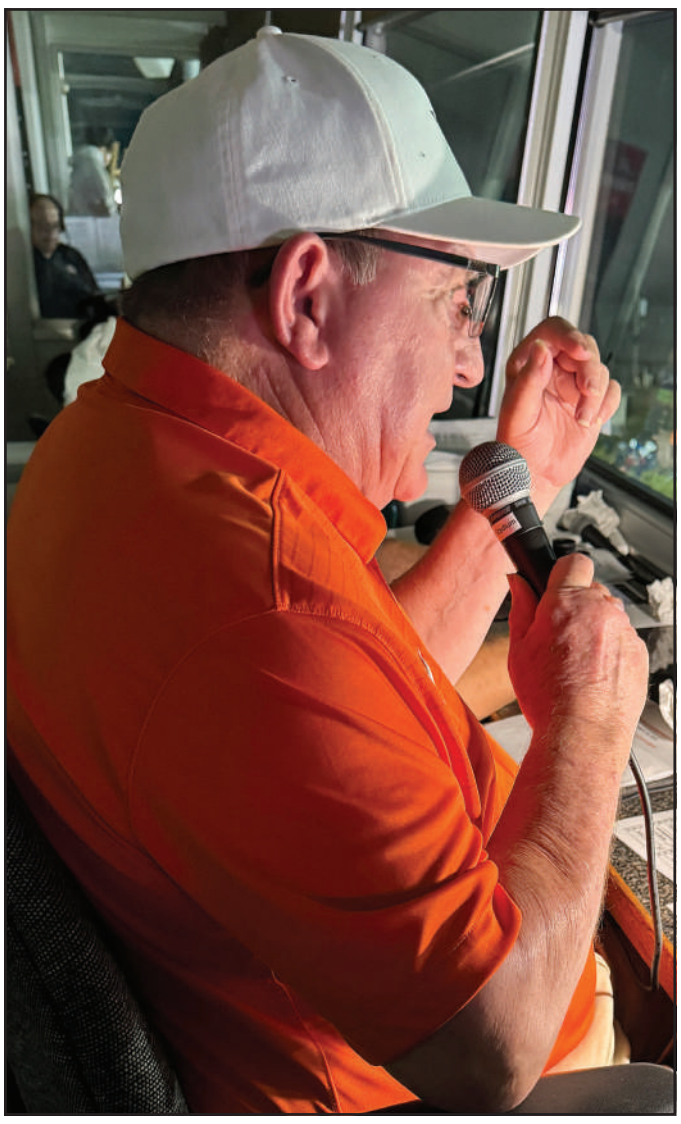
Nashville News-Leader

‘Thank you, Mr. Wilson’

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Nashville football fans gather before the game Oct. 30 to recognize Johnny Wilson for 55 seasons as the announcer at Scrapper Stadium. Well-wishers included friends, family, colleagues and members of the 1996 state championship Scrapper team. Wilson says he is not retiring from his stadium duties or from teaching math at Nashville Junior High. Superintendent Doug Graham said the event recognized the 55-season milestone.



PA announcer Johnny Wilson was recognized Friday night, Oct. 30, for 55 seasons as the Scrapper Stadium “Voice of the Scrappers.”



Johnny Wilson (center) visits Dr. Tom DeBlack (left) and Dr. Susan DeBlack, both of Conway, before Friday night’s Scrapper football game.



Johnny Wilson talks to Wayne Clark during an appreciation event Oct. 30 recognizing Wilson’s 55 seasons as the PA announcer at Scrapper Stadium.

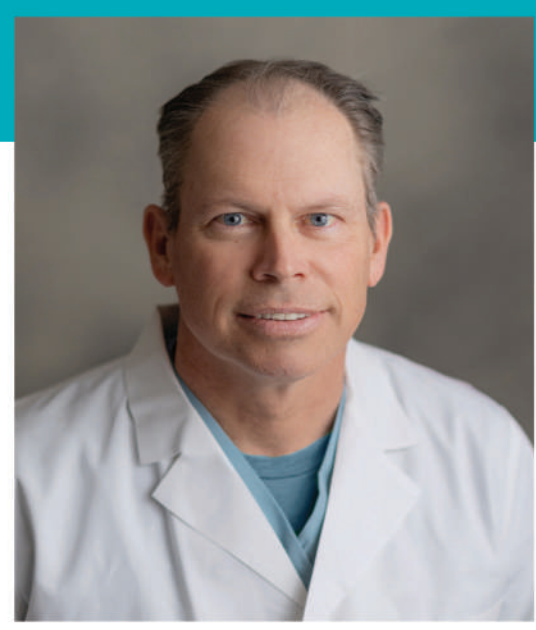


Johnny Wilson (front row, at left) and Scrapper team captains Bryce Perrin (7), DJ Jefferson (8), Luke Lacie (56) and Zavion Vaughn (3) await the coin toss before the game Oct. 30. Wilson accompanied the team captains when they went to mid-field, followed by members of the state champion 1996 Scrapper team. Wilson was recognized for 55 seasons as the Scrapper Stadium PA announcer. The state champions were introduced before the game and at halftime of Nashville’s 46-28 victory over Malvern in the final home game of the regular season.



Johnny Wilson, Jared McBride and Superintendent Doug Graham swap stories before the game with Malvern Oct. 30. McBride was the quarterback for the 1996 Scrapper team which won the state championship. He and his teammates were introduced Friday night.

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Murfreesboro Diamond Photos
MURFREESBORO RATTLERS VS. SPRING HILL BEARS
Friday, Oct. 30 at Rattler Stadium

Spring Hill Bears fall 38-6 to 2-7 Rattlers

Mineral Springs headed to M'boro for Rattlers' last game

The Murfreesboro Rattlers (2-7/1-4) defeated Spring Hill (1-8, 0-5) 38-6 last Friday night at home.

Murfreesboro head coach Jay Turley said it was a combination of things that led to the victory, including catching the football and a "relentless effort."

"We had some kids back -- Kooper Caldwell and Cale Humphry -- along with some great contributions from ninth graders, it really helped with our confidence. While Spring Hill isn't a great team, we went out and did what we should have done all year long. Kooper got into a rhythm and we had a good Friday night."

He said his team was able to keep drives alive and overcome penalties for the first time this season.

"Our defense played hard -- Spring Hill's offense is very hard to defend -- it is so disciplined. They made some big plays, but largely we were able to make the drive the football."

He felt that a key moment of the game was the Rattlers going on a touchdown drive in the final 48 seconds of the first half, moving the score from 14-8 to 22-8 at the break on a Caldwell to Cayden Ballard TD on a fade pass to the back corner of the end zone.

"We talked to them and said if we could get a stop to start the second half and go score it would really change the game," said Turley, noting that Spring Hill's triple option offense was designed for ball control, not to score quickly.

In the game Caldwell went 21/31 passing with three touchdowns along with eight rushes for 45 yards and a touchdown.

Justin Burgess would lead the Rattlers in rushing with nine carries for 90 yards and a touchdown.

Keith Wilkinson grabbed seven receptions for 94 yards to lead the receivers. Ballard added four catches for 43 yards and two scores, while Burgess had three catches for 39 yards and a touchdown.

Turley said the win should allow his team to take some momentum into the team's final game of 2026 -- a home game versus Mineral Springs (4-5, 3-2) this Friday night.

He said the Hornets feature some great athletes, including "the best sophomore in Arkansas."

"We have to stop him by attacking them. They will make plays, so we have to try to keep the ball out of their hands.

"We will try to control the ball and not get into a shootout. We need to control the clock and finish drives."

Turley labeled Mineral Springs as "super athletic and well coached" noting they moved up the ninth grade quarterback to play running back.

"We just have to play hard -- Mineral will be out there vying for a playoff spot, and it would be nice to knock them out of that spot."

He said his team needed to go out the right way, and teach the underclassmen that regardless of he record "you go out and fight to the end."

"Play hard for 48 minutes," Turley added simply.

Turley said he hopes for a big crowd in the season finale.

"It says a lot about our community that the stands were still full for a 1-7 team" in last week's win over Spring Hill. "It's how important football is to Murfreesboro and what you want as a team."

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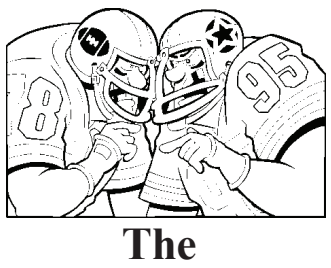

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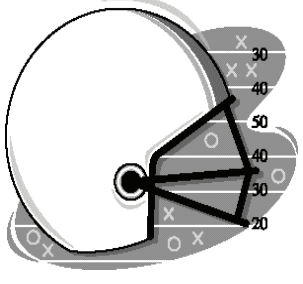
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The News-Leader's 2026

PIGSKIN PREDICTIONS



This week's top games	John R. Schirmer	Louie Graves
Nashville at Genoa Central	Nashville	Nashville
Arkadelphia at Malvern	Arkadelphia	Malvern
Fouke at Hope	Fouke	Fouke
Fountain Lake at Ashdown	Fountain	Fountain
Texas at Missouri	Texas	Texas
Texas A&M at South Carolina	SC	A&M
Alabama at LSU	Bama	LSU
Georgia at Ole Miss	Georgia	Georgia
Arkansas at Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
Mineral Springs at Murfreesboro	MSprings	MSprings



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

Nashville High School band members perform at halftime of Nashville's 46-28 District 7-4A victory over Malvern Friday night, Oct. 30, at Scrapper Stadium. The band recently received all 1's during the regional marching assessment at Texarkana. The Scrapper musicians will advance to the state marching competition to be held Monday, Nov. 9, at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock, with the time to be announced. State was originally scheduled for Monday, Nov. 2, at War Memorial but was postponed one week because of weather. The Scrapper band is directed by Spencer Green and Hadley Lewis.



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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THE HOWARD COUNTY CUP STAYS WITH THE MINERAL SPRINGS HORNETS - News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH

Battle of The Howard County Cup: MS 48 • Dierks 38

MS Hornets to make playoff push Friday at M'boro after retaining Howard County Cup

Mineral Springs Head Hornet Jarrod Jackson said his team played "some of our best football of the season" Friday night to surprise the Dierks Outlaws 48-30 and keep the coveted Howard County Cup in Mineral Springs.

"We got everybody healthy over the bye week, and bringing a few of our ninth-graders up really helped us with depth," Jackson said about the Hornets' third conference win.

"I was proud of the way our guys competed for four quarters."

The Hornets will have a chance to clinch a playoff spot this coming Friday when they head to Murfreesboro to face the 2-7 Rattlers.

The game is another local conference grudge match for the Hornets with the Pike County Rattlers likely looking to play the role of spoiler.

"We'll have to go down there and play well for four more quarters," Jackson added. "Our kids know what's on the line, and we're looking forward to the challenge."

The Hornets wracked up close to 400 yards of offense with sophomore quarterback Jamerian Staten running all over with 24 carries good for 214 yards and three touchdowns. He also completed 6/10 passes for 79 yards and another TD caught by senior Keiandrian Nunally. Nunally also stepped in at QB a few plays and hit 1/1 passes for 36 yards.

Hornet freshman J. Allen also had seven carries for 21 yards and one TD and sophomore Carter Steward added seven carries for 34 yards and a TD.

Jackson said his outside linebackers, juniors Cortney Thomas and Roger Goodloe, played a major role in keeping the Outlaw running game away from the edges.

Carter Steward registered 13 combined tackles to the lead the Hornet tackle chart, followed by J. Allen with 11.

Dierks went into Friday's battle for the county cup without two key players: sophomore Maxton Greene, leading tackler and blocker, and leading rusher senior Drake Thatcher.

The Outlaws earned 316 yards of offense. Junior QB Maclane Smith had 7/12 completed passes for 71 yards and one TD and two interceptions and back-up QB sophomore Jacoby Faulkner hit 3/7 completions for 44 yards. Sophomore Madden Hill collected Smith's TD pass.

Junior Jason Bailey led the Outlaw running game with 15 carries for 90 yards and two TDs followed by QB Smith with 16 carries for 61 yards and one TD. Sophomore Jett Jackson added three carries for 29 yards and Faulkner rushed once for 21 yards.

Sophomore Griffin Shankles led the Outlaw tackle chart with 11 combined stops followed by seniors Brady Foran and Tristen Godwin with nine combined stops each.

The loss moves Dierks (7-2/4-1) to second in conference and they will play at home against the Gurdon Go-Devils this Thursday night.

"We'll learn from this one," said Outlaw Head Coach Lantz Castleman about the county cup contest. His team will make the adjustments this week and move on.

"We've put ourselves in position to play meaningful football. Our focus now is on finishing the regular season strong against Gurdon."

This Week's Class 3-2A Games

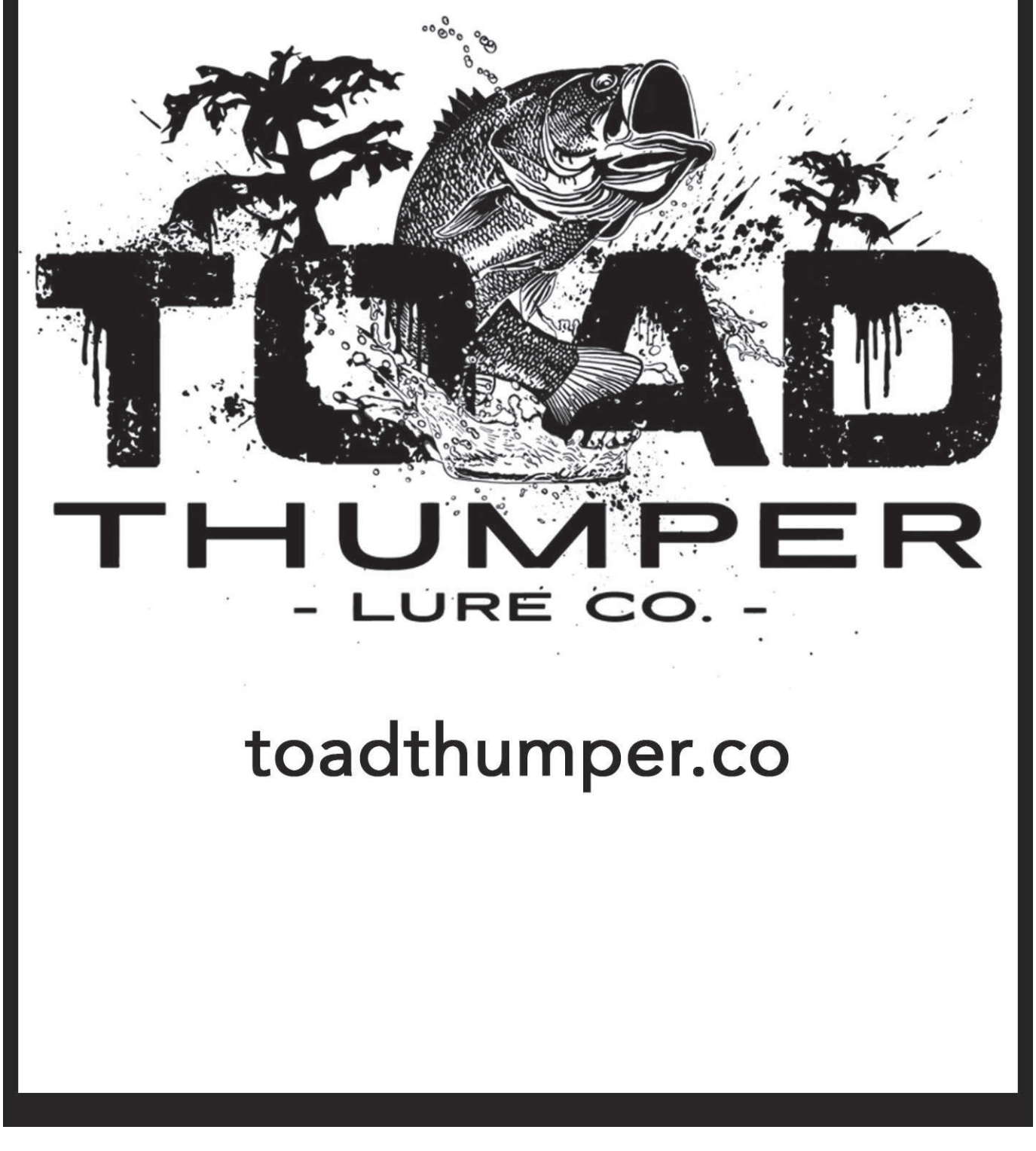
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Jr. Outlaws take county rivalry over Hornets 58-38

The Dierks Junior Outlaws closed out the season with a 58-38 win over the 7-2 Mineral Springs Junior Hornets on Thursday, Oct. 29 in the junior-high version of the Howard County Cup held in Dierks.

The Dierks youngsters collected 502 total yards of offense with 280 passing and 222 rushing while Mineral Springs had 228 total yards of offense with 28 passing and 200 rushing.

The Junior Outlaws won the rivalry game despite starting five seventh-graders and trailing 16-0 to start the game.

Hornet Javen Allen jumped MS out quick when he ran the first play 70 yards for a TD and then Cedric Davis took an Outlaw fumble 70 yards for another Mineral Springs TD.

Dierks finally answered with a 70-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Tyler Tedford to Eli Brinkley. Dierks then got three onside kicks in the first half and went up at the half 30-24 when Tedford hit Sawyer Janes for another TD pass.

Tedford, a seventh-grader, finished the game hitting 14/18 passes for almost 300 yards passing and accounted for three Outlaw touchdowns.

The Outlaw receivers only dropped two balls on the night. Brinkley, who led Dierks on the season on yards per carry, TDs and tackles, led Dierks in receiving for 120 yards and a TD. Janes finished with five catches for 81 yards and a TD, Sawyer Markham had two grabs for 25 yards while Henry Semmler had two for 24 yards.

MJ Wright added two catches for 10 yards and also led Dierks in rushing with 23 attempts for 180 yards and four touchdowns. Brinkley finished with six carries for 45 yards and a TD while Tedford ran the ball five times for 20 yards.

Brinkley, Carson Bray, Braxton Bullard and Landon Smith led the team in tackles followed by Wright, Janes, Bryce Castlemen and Kayden Wyatt.

Javen Allen led Mineral Springs with over 100 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Cedric Davis was second in rushing and also had two touchdowns. Davis, Allen and Chris Bell led the Hornets in tackles.

Mineral Springs finished second in conference with Dierks in third.





Outlaw MJ Wright and Hornet Corbin Dixon —— Hornet Cedric Davis and Outlaw Tyler Tedford

News-Leader photos/NIKKI FIELDS

Junior High Outlaw Roster: Chase Johnson, Henry Semmler, Klayton Helms, MJ Wright, Tyler Tedford, Cash Nuttall, Sawyer Markham, Bryce Castleman, Colton Chandler, Barrett Alexander, Eli Brinkley, Cash Thatcher, Landon Smith, Alejandro Salgado, Jaxon Bailey, Sawyer Janes, Ethan Jackson, Isaiah Eskew, Toby Hill, Carson Bray, John Woods, Sam Power, Kyptin Heifner, Eli Gilbert, Hayden Humphries, Connor Bagley, Braxton Bullard, Eli Lee, Remington Brya, Isaiah Turner, Joe Ellis, Raylan Minchew, Walt Chandler, Kayden Wyatt, Aiden Jurnigan

Junior High Hornet Roster: Cedric Davis, Cayden Sanders, Demariay Cheese, Kenneth Armstrong, Corbin Dixon, Elijah Marlow, RJ Scott, Javen Allen, Wyatt Kuykendall, Issac Maxwell, Kolton Johnson, Paul Stuart, Michael Porter, Mckavion Mays, Leroy Booker, Izayiah Reed, Darrien McFadden, Caden Turner, Christopher Bell

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BOBBI LARSON f/k/a BOBBI PARKER; and COLE LARSON, spouse of BOBBI LARSON **DEFENDANTS**

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to the authority and directions contained in the Default Judgment of the Circuit Court of Howard County, Arkansas, entered on the 2nd day of October, 2026 in a certain Cause No. 31CV-26-132 then pending therein between DIAMOND BANK as Plaintiff and STANLEY D. PARKER, JR., BOBBI LARSON, formerly known as BOBBI PARKER, and COLE LARSON as Defendants, the undersigned as Commissioner of said Court, will offer for sale at public sale to the highest bidder, at the hallway at the front entrance to the Howard County Courthouse, 421 N. Main Street, Nashville, AR 71852, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., on the 19th day of November, 2026, the following, described real estate located in Howard County, Arkansas, to-wit:

Part of the S-2 of the SE-4 of Section 9, Township 9 South, Range 28 West, being all that part thereof lying East of the County Road (Anderson Road) and also being part of the same tract as recorded in Book 339, Page 504-505 in Howard County, Arkansas, LESS AND EXCEPT the following tracts: 1) A tract described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the said S-2 of SE-4, thence N 88 degrees 40' W 1235 feet along the South line of the said S-2 of SE-4 to the Point of Beginning, thence North 210 feet, thence N 88 degrees 40' W 225 feet to the centerline of a County Road, thence Southwesterly along said centerline to the South line of the said S-2 of SE-4, thence S 88 degrees 40' E along said line to the point of beginning of said excepted tract, excepting herein 1.15 acres (See Deed R2018-02277), more or less, and Tract 2) A tract of land being part of the S-2 of SE-4 lying east of Anderson Road in Section 9, Township 9 South, Range 28 West and also being part of the same tract as recorded in Book 339, Page 504-505 in Howard County, Arkansas, being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the SE corner of said S-2 of SE-4, thence N 87 degrees 23'30" W 1492.55 feet along the south line of SE-4 to a point in Anderson Road, thence N 06 degrees 33' E 212.2 feet along with Anderson Road to RR spike for the Point of Beginning, thence N 10 degrees 57' E 197.2 feet along with Anderson to RR Spike, thence S 86 degrees 33' E 226.2 feet to fence corner and continuing along with existing yard fence for total 414.10 feet to a 10" fence corner post, thence S 03 degrees 54' W 189.7 feet along with fence to 8" fence corner post, thence N 87 degrees 19' W 438.3 feet along with existing fence & the north line of existing 1.15 acre tract (R2018-02277) to the Point of Beginning, containing 1.88 acres of land, more or less. Contains: SW-4 SE-4= 0.58 acres, SE-4 SE-4= 1.30 acres. Leaving a total of herein 39.26 acres, more or less, all in Howard County, Arkansas. (Subject to all existing Utility Easements & County Road Right-of-Way.)

Terms of Sale: The purchaser(s) of the aforesaid property shall pay in cash or on credit terms up to 90 days with interest, the purchaser(s) being required to execute a bond as required by law and the aforesaid Default Judgment of said Court in said cause, with approved security, bearing interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum from the dale of sale until paid, and a lien being retained on the property sold to secure the payment of the purchase money.

This sale is made subject to any and all findings in the Default Judgment. The Commissioner does not warrant title, boundary lines, taxes, liens, and/or improvements if any, or solid waste delinquent payments, on this property in Howard County, Arkansas.

Given under my hand this 27th day of October, 2026.
Angie Lewis, Commissioner
421 N. Main Street
Nashville, AR 71852
(870) 845-7506
(DB: 20, 21)

Junior, Senior Scrappers win 7-4A; 1996 state champions recognized

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Jailyn Staggers (0) scores Nashville's first touchdown as members of the 1996 state championship team look on in Nashville's 46-28 win over Malvern Oct. 30.



Aiden Bradley (78) and Halton Howard (55) clear the way for Jacoby Hopson (2) last Friday night at Scrapper Stadium.



Coaches and players from the 1996 state champion Scrappers held a reunion Oct. 30 at Scrapper Stadium, where they were recognized during halftime.



B99.5 sideline reporter Mike Aylett (center) arranged an interview for 1996 Scrappers Jared McBride (right) and Greg Washington during the game broadcast.

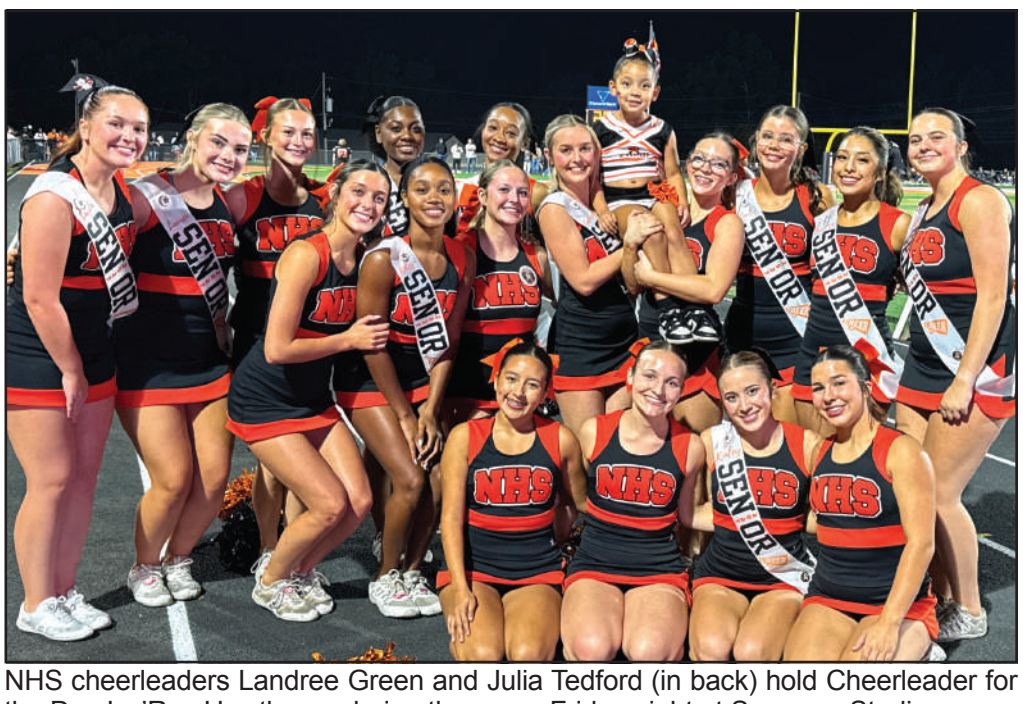


Bryce Perrin (7) scores for Nashville in the District 7-4A win over Malvern.



Courtesy photo

Coach John Martin was named junior high 7-4A Coach of the Year after the NJHS Scrappers defeated Malvern 21-6 Oct. 30 to win the district championship. The Martin family includes daughter Kinley, Coach Martin, wife Kayla and daughter Jacee.



NHS cheerleaders Landree Green and Julia Tedford (in back) hold Cheerleader for the Day Ivy'Ray Hawthorne during the game Friday night at Scrapper Stadium.



Kiron Johnson (21) and Bo Dean (12) tackle the Malvern Leopard ball carrier during the Scrappers' 46-28 win the night before Halloween.

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Sports Leaders

Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

DJ Jefferson, Nashville



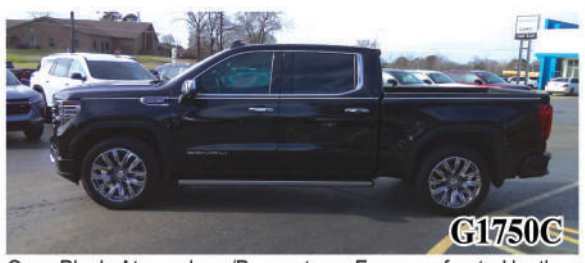
DJ, a Scrapper senior, completed 19 of 28 passes for 328 yards and five touchdowns in Nashville's 46-28 Senior Night win over Malvern Friday, Oct. 30, at Scrapper Stadium.

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