



# Newton County Times

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025

\$1.00

## City council approved demolition of Gordon Motel

By **GEORGE FOWLER, PhD**  
george.fowler@newtoncountytimes.com

On the agenda for the Jasper City Council's regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, Aug. 21 were updates on water-related projects and a demolition and construction permit requests; among other items.

The Gordon Motel, located at 208 E. Court St, Jasper, was sold in June of this year, with residents wondering what was going to happen with the long-time fixture of Jasper. Having been in operation since 1947, it has remained relatively stable as much has changed around it. That will change before March, 2026 as the Jasper City Council approved a demolition permit for the swimming pool, house, and two upper buildings. No building permit was requested for the property, so the anticipation will continue to grow for what will happen on that land.

The council also approved a building permit authorizing the installation of a manufactured home on the east side of the city.

In reporting on ongoing projects, water continued to be the major theme. The second water tank, on the north side of town is now full and operational. There were some funds remaining from the grant used to improve the tank, so the city and the engineering company are looking at how to use those funds to improve the functionality.

With the completion and filling of the second water tank, the city now has approximately 200,000 gallons of stored water, which, if used conservatively, could last the residents and businesses of Jasper approximately one week if the main water supply was interrupted. Additionally, the city has continued to maintain its well in compliance with state health codes, so, in an emergency, that water would also be available.

Advertising for bids for the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) the city received to improve storm water drainage on the west side of the city will be

See **DEMOLITION**, A2



The Winnat Family was named the Newton County Senior Farm Family of the Year. Brothers Robert and Jim and their wives Melissa and Linda received the honor for 2025. GEORGE FOWLER, PHD/STAFF

## WINNATS OF WALNUT 2025 Newton County Senior Farmers of Year

By **GEORGE FOWLER, PhD**  
george.fowler@newtoncountytimes.com

**W**ALNUT — Six miles down, way down, some twisty county roads lay two homesteads; home to the 2025 Newton County Senior Farmers of the Year — Robert Winnat and his older brother Jim, with their wives Melissa and Linda.

Jim, 83, and Linda, 82, now married 61 years, met at New Mexico State University

in Las Cruces. Robert, 79, and Melissa, 74, met at a wedding (not theirs) in Jasper. Their 54th anniversary is this month.

Jim and Linda have one daughter and two grandkids, Robert and Melissa have three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. None live locally, though all within driving distance.

With Melissa (Villines) being the only one from around here — growing up in Boxley, one might ask how the rest ended up living so remotely so far from where they grew up. Linda grew up in New Mex-

ico. The Winnat brothers are originally from El Paso, Texas. Their dad, born and raised in Kansas, moved to El Paso during World War II to become a border patrolman. They bought the land in 1960 as a place to retire from the parents of former Jasper mayor, Jan Larson.

Robert fell in love with farming when the family moved there in the early 60's. When he got out of the U.S. Army in 1969, which included time in Germany, he started

See **WINNATS**, A2

## Jasper's Byrd recognized for food insecurity efforts

By **GEORGE FOWLER, PhD**  
george.fowler@newtoncountytimes.com

At the rescheduled regular meeting of the Jasper School District's Board of Education, a report was received on the summer feeding program from the Tina Byrd, the district's child

nutrition director.

It was announced that Byrd has been selected as a recipient of the 2025 Acting Out Against Hunger Award by the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas. According to the press release, this prestigious award honors individuals who

are making a lasting impact in the fight against hunger across our state.

Further, the district receives additional funding for nutrition based on the number of meals it provides, with the projected amount being more than \$200,000 after expenses. The district served close to 1,700

students this summer, with a projection of more than 2,000 next summer as the program is expanded to include two more districts.

The board approved a request to use some of those funds to purchase a walk-in cooler for

See **BYRD**, A2

## Coaching decision made for Deer/MJ schools

By **GEORGE FOWLER, PhD**  
george.fowler@newtoncountytimes.com

**MT. JUDEA** — Deer and Mt. Judea both have their own coach, after the Deer-Mt. Judea School Board held a special called meeting on Monday, Aug. 18 at the Mt. Judea campus.

Starting with a comment

from the public, thanking the board members who make themselves available to talk with parents and interested community members.

There being no other public comments or agenda items, the board went into executive session. Upon exiting executive session, the Board voted 3-2 to move coach Ben West back to the Mt. Judea campus

as teacher/coach for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year.

Subsequently, the board voted to move Brett Sampley from the principal position at Deer to teacher/coach at Deer for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year.



Voting for both motions were Michael Rhoades, Johnny Smith, and Kenny King.

Voting against were Justin Gilmore and Jacob Shatwell.

These moves were effective immediately, with superintendent Joshua "Blaine" Lawrence assuming the additional responsibilities of

the now-vacant Deer principal position.

A few members of the public expressed their disappointment in the decisions as they left the meeting when the votes were finalized.

The board approved one student transferring into the district.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

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**OBITUARIES**  
Ray Mathis, 81

Jerry Brasel, 92  
Mary Sue Eaton, 84



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- Books on Main
- T's BBQ
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### FOUR DAY FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
100% Storms	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
65	75	79	80
59	59	59	59

## Hempstead deputy fired over traffic stop

From Times Sources

LITTLE ROCK — An officer from the Hempstead County Sheriff's Office has been dismissed following a controversial traffic stop involving an 81-year-old man.

Deputy Jason Johnson was caught on body camera footage during a July 25 incident where he stopped Olen Lane for speeding on a county road.

The footage shows Johnson issuing a warning for speeding and a ticket for not wearing a seatbelt. However, the situation escalated when Lane began to drive away while Johnson was writing the ticket.

Johnson returned to the vehicle, demanding, "Give me the \*\*\*\* keys," and questioning Lane's actions.

Lane, who had experienced a stroke five years ago and suffers from memory issues, was handcuffed and placed in the patrol car.

Johnson's aggressive language continued as he asked, "Do you have mental issues

or dementia? I need to know right now."

Backup officers arrived and, upon learning of Lane's medical history, decided to un cuff him and call his daughter. The responders also requested an ambulance to ensure Lane was not experiencing another stroke, noting his unsteadiness and disorientation.

According to KTBS, Lane was cited for not wearing a seatbelt and fleeing but was not taken to the Hempstead County Detention Center.

Hempstead County Sheriff's Office released a statement regarding the dismissal:

"Deputy Johnson was terminated following an internal review of an incident that occurred on July 25, 2025. It was determined that his conduct during a recorded traffic stop involving an 81-year-old male he (Deputy Johnson) violated multiple departmental policies and ethical standards expected of a sworn law enforcement officer."

## DEMOLITION

From Page A1

opened on Sep. 25. The grant amount is \$330,600 and matching portion by the city is \$6,300. Working from the bottom to top, the construction will start at the Little Buffalo River by the ballparks in Bradley Park and could go as far as 605 West Court Street.

Lastly, the city received a \$5,000,000 grant from the ARNC (Arkansas Natural Resources Commission) to update/replace the sewer plant. The first part of the project has been completed, but the second proposed part is more expensive than the funding provided. Therefore, the city, through its hired engineering firm ESI, has submitted a revised project scope that is within budget to ARNC and is awaiting their response. The revisions are minor changes —

such as changing asphalt to gravel — and deleting a portion that was correction by the new lift station.

For the month of July, the Jasper Police Department traveled 2,298 miles, recording 31 traffic contacts, one misdemeanor arrest, 115 school checks, 368 property checks, and 11 public assists among other activities.

Mayor Michael Thomas shared that the Newton County Senior Activity and Wellness Center will be conducting the annual Fall Color Tour, with proceeds going to benefit the Senior Center. More details to follow.

He also reminded people of the Buffalo River Bluegrass Festival in Bradley Park happening Thursday evening, Sept. 11 through Saturday evening, Sept. 13.

The next city meeting is scheduled for pm, Thursday, Sept. 18, at Jasper City Hall.



## Newton County Senior Athletes

The Newton County Senior Center athletes participated in the Northwest Arkansas Senior Olympics in Harrison. The small squad finished second overall losing to Carroll County while defeating seven other counties. Joseph Morgan was the high-point athlete at the games. The senior center won a \$250 check for their efforts in the games. If anyone is interested in participating next year for the squad, contact Nickie Henderson. Athletes that participated include: (front row, left to right) Thomas Rudder; Brenda Hartwick; Helen Reynolds; Melody Seigler; Mark Lambert; (back) George Fowler; Joseph Morgan; David Merbs; and Nelda Casey. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## BYRD

From Page A1

those meals and meals throughout the year.

Byrd also shared that the free and reduced lunch forms are currently being returned, and the number of students qualifying is increasing, which means that the school district will receive more funding through several key programs.

Kim Liggett reported on the state-required School Improvement Plans. For ELA (English Language Arts), the district is going to focus on vocabulary and morphology. Morphology is considered "the knowledge of meaningful word parts in a language (typically the knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and/or roots and base words)."

Liggett further reported that many district teachers are participating in The Writing Revolution (TWR), which states on its website: TWR provides teachers at all grade levels with the capacity to deliver comprehensive writing instruction in every subject: English, social studies, math and science, as well as world languages.

For math, the district will focus on pacing strategies — ensuring they're teaching what needs to be taught prior to testing; goal setting; and internalizing the lessons.

Both plans were approved by the board.

The board approved the resignation of Christina Reddell, a Jasper aide and the hiring of Christopher Day-Smith as a Jasper janitor and Miranda Davis, a Jasper aide.

Liggett provided an update on stu-

dent enrollment across the district, which currently is

Total enrollment — 781  
 Jasper Elementary — 239  
 Jasper High School — 191  
 Kingston Elementary — 102  
 Kingston High School — 89  
 Oark Elementary School — 91  
 Oark High School — 69

District-wide, enrollment is up slightly from five years ago, but down from the intervening four years. No discernible trend has been noted, but Liggett will continue to gather and analyze the numbers to aide in future projections.

The scheduled academic data report by Kristie Betancur was postponed to the September meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 15 at the Kingston Campus.

The public is welcome to attend.

## WINNATS

From Page A1

raising dairy cattle. That lasted until 1986 when the dairy subsidies were removed and it was no longer financially viable for a small farm.

Before 1986, there were many small dairy farms throughout the region, including three in their valley. The dairies mostly disappeared when the milk subsidy was eliminated. That included the Winnats. They switched to beef cattle and have approximately 40 head — pro-

viding enough meat for themselves and their family. Upon switching in 1986, Robert started having to work off the farm, either in Huntsville or Harrison — both approximately 50 miles away, while farming "on the side."

Jim, his older brother, who also served a stint in the US Army including a tour in Vietnam, joined him in 1996, when he retired.

They aren't in it for the money. It is more of a hobby and gives them something to do. Raising enough cattle to feed themselves and their families is sufficient for them. According to the Winnats, you can't make enough money, even with the current high prices, on beef cattle because of the commensurate increase in input costs. Unless you can operate at sufficient scale, you'll need an off-the-farm job to pay the bills.

During their time farming, they've noted a few significant changes. The biggest one is the improved quality of the beef due to selective breeding. Additionally, artificial insemination is

becoming predominant,

This is especially important for the bull, who, according to "cattleman's math" is half the herd. Even if you have one bull for every 25 cows, when it comes to progeny, the bull is one-half of each equation.

Another change is the science behind it. "Old timers" followed the science of (zodiac) signs and moon phases, (e.g., plant this crop by this moon, castrate when the moon is in the leg, etc.), whereas, farmers now use data analytics to monitor the efficiency of the herd, as well as predominantly using artificial insemination to perpetuate their herds.

Of all the varmints they have to contend with, feral hogs are by far the worst. They greatly appreciate the work of the Forest Service and then the Arkansas Game and Fishing Commission, particularly Stacey Clark and Clayton Whitaker, for helping manage the feral hog population around them. Though they saw a couple sows and several babies the day before, the hogs are no longer

a menace, more a nuisance.

Living down in the valley has its perks and drawbacks. As with all long, sparsely populated county roads in Newton County, parts of the roads are always in need of repair. When living as they do, one has to be self-sufficient; learning to do whatever is necessary, to keep things flowing. You also learn to plan ahead for shopping trips. They also deal with the occasional tourist who doesn't know what land is public and what's private. Being who they are, they're always friendly in helping the visitors

On the positive, they don't get a lot of pass-through traffic or unexpected visits. They don't receive a cell phone signal, and they have only nature to look at in every direction.

When looking to younger generations who may want to follow in their footsteps, they recommend being prepared. Be prepared that you'll likely need an off-the-farm job to help pay the bills. Be prepared to help yourself until other help is available. Be prepared for unexpected weather and other things that may be "blowing in the wind." Oh, and have a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

When farming is no longer viable for these senior farmers, they'll find new hobbies to occupy their time.

The farming may end with them as none of their children or grandchildren have shown an interest in continuing to raise cattle. It may be the end of farming on their homestead, but it won't be the end of the Winnats on their homestead. It will simply revert to the original purpose when the Winnats bought it — a place to retire.

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# Chickamagua Cherokee Public Meeting Aug. 29

By George Fowler, PhD  
george.fowler@newtoncountytimes.com

LURTON — Chief Jim Davis will conduct a meeting at the Lurton Community Building on Friday, Aug. 29 at 6:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to report on the progress in state and

federal recognition of the Chickamagua Cherokee tribe; answer questions; and facilitate the documentation of anyone who has, or thinks they have, Cherokee ancestry.

One of the benefits for being recorded as having Cherokee ancestry is financially for the younger generation. Not only can high school graduates

with at least a 2.5 gpa receive a full, 4-year scholarship (6 years if studying to become a doctor or lawyer) or full payment of two years learning a trade; but schools can receive \$204 per student with Cherokee ancestry each year to help pay for long-term educational costs, such as computers, textbooks, etc.

For adults, it can help offset hospital expenses.

If you have documentation proving your Cherokee ancestry; think you have Cherokee ancestry but have no documentation or have never investigated it; or are generally interested in the process and helping out; you are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## August Friends of the Library Meeting

By Betty Stivers

President Pat Dixon conducted the Aug. 11 Friends of the Newton County Library meeting with six members present. The Raise the Roof fundraiser was deemed a success. The Pet Show was canceled.

They achieved over 100% participation in the Imagination Library. The library will be closed Monday, Sep. 1 for Labor Day.

Mark your calendar now for the Sep. 12th and 13th bag book sale at the library. A full plastic bag is \$3, a grocery bag is \$5, and a few books for a donation.

The next meeting will be Sep. 8. The public is invited to attend

## Jasper Pioneers EHC August Meeting

By Betty Stivers

JASPER — The Aug. 13 meeting of the Jasper Pioneers Extension Homemakers Club (EHC) was conducted by President Betty Stivers with eight members and three guests present. Bill Hemmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Stivers gave the devotional. Roll call was answered with the July volunteer hours, which were 177 in all.

The first speaker was Hemmer, chairman of the Newton County Resource Council. He gave a brief history of the organization, whose current projects are Round Top Mountain and the Summer Youth Camp. They are both funded by donations from individuals or businesses.

Micki Somers, the Director of Public Relations at North Arkansas College was the second speaker. She holds one to three fundraisers a month to help students and clubs achieve their goals.

Presently, Northark offers 72 educational programs including a drone project. They sponsor GED classes in several locations. They will send a special instructor to Jasper if ten or more people want to learn something they teach.

Northark is current in the process of merging with the University Of Arkansas system. For more information, call Somers at 870-391-3242 or msomers@northark.edu

The next meeting will be Wed., Sep. 10. In October, they will carpool to the Informed Choices Women's Center in Harrison. Hope Masley served refreshments

## Welcome back, Jack: Camp Jack reopens its doors

By ZACH HOLT  
zach.holt@harrisonsdaily.com

On Wednesday, a grand reopening ceremony was held for Camp Jack. Located at 411 S. Pine St., Camp Jack is the better known name of the Jack Williams Veterans Resource Center. It was named in honor of Jack Williams. Williams was a Harrison native who fought in World War II. Services offered to veterans at Camp Jack include financial aid, medical and healthcare services, handicap and accessibility assistance, veterans benefits and claims assistance, as well as a food pantry.

The ceremony started with Matt Russell, president and founding board member, welcoming everyone. Following the welcome was the posting of colors of all the various flags from branches of the armed forces. This was done by the Camp Jack Honor Guard, led by Luke Mondy, and included 94 year old Korean war veteran, Victor Schneider. Following this was a playing of the national anthem, followed by a prayer by Rhett Bramley.

Russell retook to the podium to offer a brief history of Camp Jack. He recalled how five years ago, he, Lonnie Anderson and Michael Alsobrook, all local commanders of various veteran organizations met over a cup of coffee. They all realized they shared a similar vision, to help the veterans of the area who felt helpless, frustrated with all the hoops to jump through to get benefits as well as helping those who didn't know of the benefits. It was decided that the best thing would be to get all of those resources together under one roof. Russell stated that while he, Anderson and Alsobrook, would like to take credit for Camp Jack, however, "all of the credit belongs to this community." "To all the "dedicated volunteers with huge hearts," he said.

Russell stated that in the four years since Camp Jack's inception, volunteers have given 80,000 hours of their time. Russell singled out the Recovery Center of the Ozarks for its help with volunteering.

Russell then proceeded to give a history of the building. In 1942, The Arkansas National Guard moved into the building now housing Camp Jack. Shortly thereafter the artillery group that trained there were sent to fight in World War II. While overseas in Europe, the army turned the building into a textile factory where more than 100 women sewed blankets and uniforms for the soldiers. Artillery groups were also stationed in the building during the Korean War. Later on, it became a high school, followed by a middle school. Now, it is home to Camp Jack.

According to Russell, Camp Jack has helped more than 2,400 local veterans get the benefits which they are entitled. He also stated they have handed out 60,000 meals, built dozens of handicap ramps, and provided more 100 refurbished electric wheelchairs to local veterans. He also stated they have helped dozens of homeless or soon to be homeless veterans secure permanent housing. He also stated that the building wasn't just for veterans, highlighting other events that have taken place there such as weddings, reunions, and spay and neuter clinics. Russell ended his statements by asking the community to pledge to not let our veterans feel forgotten or alone.

Following this Bob Largent, chairman of the Board for Camp Jack, came to introduce the dignitaries in the crowd. He included Congressman



ZACH HOLT/STAFF

Steve Womack, state senator Bryan King, Arkansas state rep. Ron McNair, Mayor Jerry Jackson, Judge Robert Hathaway, public works director Wade Phillips among others. He also gave thanks to the local Walmart store as well as, First Community Bank, and Wabash.

Following Largent's statements, Russell was joined onstage by King, who presented Russell with a flag that had flown over the state capitol building in honor of Camp Jack. Jackson then took to the stage to offer his remarks on Camp Jack and his time working with Russell to make the organization a reality. He told of the series of "God things" that lined up to get to the opening of Camp Jack. Jackson referred to the facility as "one of a kind."

Featured guest speaker Womack then came to the stage. Womack was a main factor in getting the funding for Camp Jack. According to Russell, when Camp Jack was still in its infancy, they reached out to Womack. Said Russell, "About two and half minutes into my five minute elevator pitch, he said, 'I love it.'" When asking about the cost, Russell gave a very modest amount, just to get the building functional. Womack then asked a question that Russell wouldn't forget, asking "Don't our veterans deserve better?" Congressman Womack told his story of coming on board to help Camp Jack secure \$2.28 million in funding. Womack said of asking for the funds that he "wasn't bashful" when it came to asking for money to help the community. He said even though he had a little bit of credit for getting the funds, his role was "insignificant." That the real credit goes to the veterans. Womack said one of the things that drew him to the concept was the idea that both veterans and young people alike can come and hear the stories of veterans. To hear them tell their tales. As Womack said, "to help bond [the Greatest Generation] to America's next Greatest Generation."

The ceremony ended with Jeff Nielsen and the Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce coming to the front along with Matt Russell and Congressman Womack for a ribbon cutting. Womack then invited all the volunteers and veterans in attendance to join them on stage as he cut the ribbon, officially opening Camp Jack. After this, a lunch of pulled pork sandwiches and all the fixings was served.

In his speech, Womack quoted the Soldier's Creed. He specifically pointed to a passage that says "I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade." Camp Jack stands as a testament to the belief of never leaving a fallen comrade. Now with the reopening of this building, it also stands as a testament to placing the mission first. Now veterans will have a place to tell their stories, and receive the aid they deserve. Harrison also has a place to show it will not only not forget the stories, but that it won't forget the storytellers.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Attention Newton County residents

- To obtain your 911 address please contact the Newton County addressing office at 870-446-2966 or come by Monday — Friday 8-4:30. The office is located upstairs of the courthouse.

### ASP DL testing facilities

- At each facility written exams are given from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the skills exam is by appointment times only. Jasper – The 1st Tuesday of the month. Newton County Sheriff's Office, 300 North Spring Street.

### Jasper Kiwanis Club

- Meets 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at the Ozark Cafe.

### Al-Anon Meeting

- Support group for family and friends of alcoholics. The Jasper meeting now meets via Zoom every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information and Zoom ID, call 479-857-8281 or 870-446-2402.

### Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

- Meeting in a rotating format on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Newton County Library. Conducted by Better Together Recovery, 230 south Stone Street, Jasper. bettertogetherrecovery@gmail.com 870-446-2983.

### The Newton County Hometown Health Initiative Coalition

- Coalition of groups and individuals working towards improving the health and welfare of Newton County citizens. Regularly meets the second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Jasper Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is Aug. 14.

### Newton County Animal Welfare

- Regular meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 5 to 6 p.m., at the Newton County Library in Jasper.

### Jasper School District Board of Education

- Regularly meets the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Jasper School Library.

### Newton County Chamber of Commerce

- Regular monthly meeting is on the third Thursday. Location changes.

### American Legion Auxiliary

- Meets the third Thursday at 4 p.m. The mission of the Auxiliary is to support the veterans.

### Jasper City Council

- The Jasper City Council meets on the third Thursday.

### Mt. Judea Area Alliance

- Meets the last Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the old cafeteria on the Mt. Judea School campus.

### Newton County Healthcare Association, Inc.

- Meets the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 26, at 5 p.m., in the Conference Room of Countryside Health & Rehab of Newton County.

### Newton County Historical Society

- Meets the last Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Bradley House Museum in Jasper. Public is invited.

### Community Matters

- A group representing churches and non-profit organizations serving Newton County meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 10 a.m., at the Jasper Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The group will meet next on Aug. 28.

### Campbell Edgmon Post 93 Auxiliary

- Meets the fourth Thursday of every month at the Legion Hut in Jasper from 4-6 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Aug. 28.

### Jasper Community Garden

- Meet on the first Monday of each month at the Jasper United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting is Sept. 1.

### The Newton County Quorum Court

- Meets the first Monday of each month at the courthouse beginning at 7 p.m., unless the first Monday is a holiday, then the quorum court meets Tuesday. The next meeting is Monday, Sept. 1.

### American Legion, all you can eat pancakes and waffles

- Scrambled eggs and sausage patties, biscuits and sausage gravy, along with coffee, milk, and orange juice. Only \$8 on the first Saturday of every month, starting at 7 a.m., at the American Legion Hut in Jasper. Served by Boy Scouts from Jasper/American Legion Troop 446. The next breakfast will be Saturday, Sept. 6.

### The Newton County Friends of the Library

- Meets at noon on the second Monday of each month at the Newton County Library. The next meeting will be Sept. 8.

### The Newton County Local Emergency Planning Committee

- Meets the second Monday of each month at the Jasper Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, at 10 a.m. The next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 8.

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Newton County Times

# State Capitol Week in Review

By Sen. Bryan B. King

**LITTLE ROCK** – The inmate population in Arkansas prisons will grow by an estimated two percent a year until 2035, according to an expert’s presentation at a conference of county officials, sheriffs, prison administrators and lawmakers.

There is general agreement that Arkansas needs to add prison space in order to relieve overcrowding in county jails and provide a deterrent to violent offenders. Some elected officials want to build a large, new prison unit while others prefer to expand existing units.

The inmate population grew by 2.4 percent a year from 2010 through 2023, but since 2021 it has grown by an average of 5 percent a year, the expert said. There are now more than 19,400 inmates under state jurisdiction. Those estimates prompted one legislator to call the situation “very alarming.”

Sheriffs are in charge of county jails. Some are full because they house inmates waiting to be transferred to a state prison unit. This creates dangerous interactions if serious offenders are in the same facility with people who commit minor offenses. In some

county jails an offender guilty of a misdemeanor may not have to serve time behind bars due to lack of safe space.

Counties have approved local taxes to build more jail space. Since 2021 county jails have added more than 3,000 beds. However, one sheriff told the group that jails were bursting at the seams because of a backlog of about 1,900 state inmates.

Since 2023 the Correction Department has added about 1,400 beds to the state system, according to the head of the department.

One reason the inmate population is growing is that tougher new laws require more serious offenders to serve at least 70 percent of their sentence. Another law passed in 2023 requires the most serious offenders to serve 100 percent of their sentence.

Criminals convicted of rape and capital murder serve 100 percent of their sentences, as do inmates convicted of aggravated robbery, human trafficking, Internet stalking of a child and more serious categories of aggravated residential burglary.

Inmates must serve 85 percent of their sentence after conviction for violent felonies such as second de-

gree murder, negligent homicide, manslaughter, encouraging someone to commit suicide, first degree battery, first degree sexual assault and sexual indecency with a child.

Other felonies on the list include permitting abuse of a minor, serious categories of arson, advocating overthrow of the government, treason, making a terrorist threat, arming a terrorist and exposing the public to toxic, chemical or radioactive substances.

Thanks to the 2023 law, sentencing guidelines more closely mirror those in federal prisons, where inmates generally serve most of their original sentences.

Many county jails are not built to segregate all prisoners, so the presence of violent offenders is potentially dangerous to other inmates and to staff. Another challenge for local jails is the high percentage of people with mental illness who are incarcerated.

The legislature approved Act 733 earlier this year to streamline the process of ordering psychological evaluations for people who have been charged with crimes. It also allows jails to provide medications in a more timely manner, to prevent people from spiraling into a mental health crisis.

## Newton County TIMES

P.O. Box 453, Jasper, AR 72641  
870-741-2325

Editor: Jeff Brasel

news@newtoncountytimes.com

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## Driving Vital Progress to Support Veterans

One thing all Americans can agree on is that those who have served our country in uniform deserve the best care and benefits we can provide in return for their sacrifice.

While representing The Natural State, I have been blessed to engage with countless Arkansas servicemembers and veterans, as well as their families. Their courage, dedication and resilience are inspiring.

Visiting with these heroes has a direct impact on my legislative priorities, and earlier this summer, I was pleased the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee passed legislation I authored with veterans and families in focus.

One frequent concern often brought to my attention involves the difficulties veterans experience when attempting to schedule and coordinate healthcare appointments. That burden should be addressed, which is why I was proud to work with my colleague, Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH), to co-lead the Improving Veteran Access to Care Act. This legislation would establish a centralized platform that streamlines the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) scheduling system while also allowing multiple visits to be arranged at one time, ultimately simplifying the process and improving access and ease for our veterans.

Additionally, legislation I championed to expand the External Provider Scheduling Program (EPS) to reduce the time nec-



**JOHN BOOZMAN**  
U.S. SENATOR

essary for veterans to find and create medical appointments with community providers was also approved by our panel with strong support. Combined, these two bills prioritize empowering those who have served to take control over their healthcare with the help of shorter wait times and increased efficiency.

Combating the mental health and veteran suicide crisis has also been a longtime priority of mine. I am pleased my colleagues also advanced a measure to not only reauthorize, but expand the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program that I designed alongside Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) to provide essential funding for mental health outreach in veteran communities. Without action, funding for this crucial program was set to expire. Instead, we took a key step to continue and enhance this life-saving initiative.

Other significant measures I am championing were also approved by the committee. The Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living

Adjustment Act of 2025 seeks to raise compensation and benefits rates so they keep pace with inflation, while the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act aims to identify and ensure American-Jewish veterans’ headstones correctly reflect their religious affiliation. Both bills demonstrate our dedication to upholding the dignity of the men and women of our armed forces and appropriately respecting their sacrifices.

Fortunately, progress to support veterans is not limited to the work of our committee.

I was very encouraged by VA Secretary Doug Collins’ recent announcement that the department has set an all-time record for claims processing. We owe former servicemembers the highest quality of care and service without delay, so it is heartening to learn the backlog of veterans waiting to receive earned benefits is down over 37 percent since late January.

The full Senate has also confirmed three more of President Trump’s nominees for positions at the VA as we continue working with the administration to ensure leaders are in place to promote accountability and clear direction.

Taking care of veterans is not a partisan issue. It is our duty to honor those who have sacrificed so much for our nation’s safety and prosperity, and I am pleased to see meaningful progress in fulfilling the promises made to them with strong support from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

## Committee studies workforce services

This week, members of the ALC Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee received a presentation on a new approach that could reshape how Arkansas delivers both workforce and social services.

During the 2025 Regular Session, the General Assembly passed Act 145, which directs the subcommittee to examine reforms to the state’s workforce and social service systems and to recommend legislation addressing any identified gaps.

The committee began its most recent discussion with a sobering overview of the state’s current challenges. In the 2023–24 school year, 32,689 Arkansas students earned high school diplomas. At the same time, the state reported 52,681 unemployed workers and an estimated 41,000 underemployed. Employers, meanwhile, struggled to fill positions, with 86,000 job openings in February 2025 and a peak of more than 102,000 in September 2024—one of the highest job-opening rates in the nation. While Arkansas’s unemployment rate stands at a relatively low 3.7%, the state’s labor force participation rate of 58.4% ranks 43rd nationally.

To address these concerns, the subcommittee heard from WorkED Consulting, a firm that specializes in helping states align workforce development with public assistance programs. The firm highlighted Utah’s “one-door” model, which integrates workforce training and social services into a unified system. Testimony noted that this approach streamlines access to federal and state resources, strategically invests in upskilling workers for in-demand industries, and creates cost efficiencies by focusing on the needs of both employers and job seekers.

The subcommittee will reconvene on September 22 to continue its work. The challenges facing Arkansas are significant, but so is the opportunity. By examining innovative solutions, legislators hope to connect more Arkansans with meaningful employment, strengthen families, and build a stronger foundation for the state’s economy.



**STEVEN WALKER**  
ARKANSAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## Education is key

Since the beginning of time, humanity has sought out knowledge and wisdom. The ability to gain a greater understanding of the world around them ensured our ancestors’ success, safety, and survival. Over time, as humanity has continued to learn, society has developed, and tools and resources for building and farming have become more sophisticated. Advances in healthcare, agriculture, and the economy have also been made possible. Education is integral to our nation’s future, and our students returning to school is essential for providing our young people with the tools they need to lead us toward a brighter future.

In his own back-to-school address in 1988, President Ronald Reagan said, “Jefferson and the Founders believed a nation that governs itself, like ours, must rely upon an informed and engaged electorate. Their purpose was not only to teach all Americans how to read and write but to instill the self-evident truths that are the anchors of our political system — truths, to quote Jefferson, such as: ‘all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain



**BRUCE WESTERMAN**  
U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOR ARKANSAS’S FOURTH DISTRICT

unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

For our nation to continue to prosper, we must raise future generations to develop an understanding of civics, learn about not only our nation’s history but world history, and, most importantly, learn about the pillars upon which our nation’s government was built. Creating the best environment for students to learn such things has become a top priority as I represent the Fourth District of Arkansas in Washington.

Earlier this year, it was a great privilege to introduce the Focus on Learning Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation requiring the U.S. Surgeon General to complete a study that considers the effects

of cell phone use among students aged K-12 and how it impacts their mental health and academic performance.

Cell phone use has already been proven to cause major disruptions in the development of young people’s minds and creates barriers to an effective educational experience. It is encouraging to see Arkansas lead the charge at the state level to address the challenges cell phone use in the classroom causes, not just for students but for school staff and teachers. As I continue to serve my friends and neighbors in Congress, efforts like these will always remain a priority, and the support from colleagues on both sides of the aisle is encouraging and appreciated.

Our nation is blessed with an abundance of opportunity. In order to secure these opportunities for our children and ensure a greater future for our nation, education remains an important key. My deepest hope is that this school year, students will be eager to learn, teachers will lead with compassion and dedication, and families will surround their students with support and instill values that will not only benefit their child but ultimately their communities.



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**Deaths**

**Ray Mathis** - funeral service is Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. at Northside Church of Christ. Burial will follow at Western Grove Cemetery.

**Jerry Brasel** - funeral service will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, at the Assembly of God Church in Jasper.

**Mary Eaton** - funeral service is August 30 at 11 a.m. at Western Grove Cemetery.

*The Newton County Times is pleased to publish death notices of reasonable length at no charge to the family. Expanded obits, with more detail and information, may be purchased as paid advertising through a funeral home or by calling Amanda Furr at the newspaper at (870) 743-0623.*

### OBITUARIES

#### Jerry Brasel 92, of Jasper

Jerry Brasel, age 92, of Jasper, AR, passed away at his home on Monday, August 25, 2025.

The son of Ward Brasel and Dovie (Kilgore) Brasel was born November 30, 1932, in Jasper, Arkansas.



Jerry was a member of the Capps Full Gospel Church in Harrison, AR. He enjoyed farming and working around the house. He was an avid Razorback fan and enjoyed going to the basketball games.

He is preceded in death by his parents and 4 brothers, Joe, Jack, Donny, and Roger.

He is survived by his sons, Terry Brasel and wife Annette of Jasper, and Tim Brasel of Bentonville, AR, his sister, Glenda Wallace, his grandchildren, Tyler, Morgan, Brandy, Brandon, Alicia, and Sagan, and his great-grandchildren, Bella, Chloe, Rowdy, Kyler, Taylor, Hayes, Hannah, Gabe, and Gracie.

Funeral service will be 10:00 AM, Wednesday, August 27, at the Assembly of God Church in Jasper with Brother Steve Holt and Brother Eddie Reed officiating. Burial will follow in Jasper Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 9:00 to 10:00 AM before the service on Wednesday.

Pallbearers will be Mitch Brasel, Joel Brasel, Evan Brasel, Tyler Brasel, John Emerson, and Dean McKnight.

Honorary pallbearers are members of the Capps Full Gospel Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Newton County Senior Center, 100 East Clark ST., Jasper, AR 72641.

Online condolences may be left at [www.coffmanfh.com](http://www.coffmanfh.com)

#### Ray Mathis 81, of Western Grove

Ray Mathis, of Western Grove, passed away on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at The Springs of Mt. Vista. He was 81 years old.

The son of the late Hoyl and Thelma (Morrow) Mathis was born on April 28, 1944 in Hasty, Arkansas.



He was preceded in death by one sister, Evelyn Spalinger; and two brothers, William and Billy Mathis.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Mathis; two sons, Kevin and Kent Mathis; one daughter, Kristal Methvin; three stepchildren, Jackie Slusher, James and Jeff Nelson; 11 grandchildren; three great grandchildren; one brother, Leon Mathis; and one sister, Joyce Mathis.

Visitation will be Thursday, August 28, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Coffman Funeral Home of Harrison.

Funeral service is Friday, August 29, 2025 at 10:00 AM at Northside Church of Christ. Burial will follow at Western Grove Cemetery under the direction of Coffman Funeral Home.

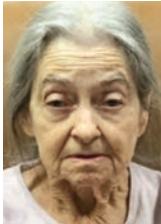
Memorial contributions may be sent to the Western Grove Cemetery Fund, PO Box 113, Western Grove, AR, 72685 or to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences may be left online at [www.coffmanfh.com](http://www.coffmanfh.com).

#### Mary Sue Eaton 84 of Harrison

Mary Sue Eaton, 84 of Harrison, passed away on Saturday, August 23, at The Springs of Mt. Vista in Harrison.

She was born February 10, 1941, at Mt. Hersey, a daughter of Allen Truman and Ruby Jewell Martin Gentry. Mary Sue lived her life in the Ozarks and remained connected to her roots in Newton and Boone Counties. She was preceded in death by her parents and several brothers and sisters.



Survivors include a brother, Mike Gentry of Harrison; and numerous nephews and nieces.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 30, 2025, at Western Grove Cemetery at Western Grove, with Bro. Leo Dye officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Holt Memorial Chapel.

The online obituary and guestbook are available at [www.HoltChapel.com](http://www.HoltChapel.com).

### Obituaries

Deadlines: Mondays at 3 p.m.



# Church DIRECTORY

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL HOMES OF WORSHIP

**BOXLEY**  
**BOXLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sun. School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Wed. Adult & Children Bible Study 6 p.m.  
Craig Villines, Pastor

**COMPTON**  
**COMPTON BIBLE CHURCH**  
Sunday 11 a.m. service time.  
Pastor David Day • 870-577-1985.

**COMPTON COUNTY LINE**  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sun. School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Wed. 7 p.m.  
Steve Emerson, Pastor • 688-2415

**COWELL**  
**FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF COWELL**  
- Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.

**DEER -**  
**DEER BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.  
Bible Study, Wed. 6:30 p.m.  
428-5005

**DEER CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Sun. Bible Study 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Kelly Woods, Preacher

**EVERTON**  
**LIGHTHOUSE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH**  
154 Hwy 206/Everson Rd. • Sunday School 10:30 a.m. • Worship 11:15 a.m. • Rev. Jerry Marshall, Pastor

**HASTY**  
**HASTY HOLINESS CHURCH**  
Sun. School 10 a.m. • worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Angie & Richard Bower, Pastors • 870-429-6122

**JASPER**  
**THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Sun. Bible Study 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.  
Anthony McCutcheon, Preacher • 446-2978

**FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Sat. Prayer 7 p.m. • Sun. School 9:45 a.m. • Worship 10:45 a.m. • Sun. Worship 6 p.m. • Wed., Royal Rangers, Missionettes, Forgiveness Youth Group, Worship 7 p.m.  
Brother Steve Holt, Appointed Pastor • 446-2921

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
Sun. School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. 6 p.m.  
Jimmy Dale Huskey, Pastor • 446-5442.

**JASPER METHODIST CHURCH**  
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m.  
Tue. Men's and Women's Bible Study Groups 9 a.m.  
Byron Mann, Pastor 870-446-2089

**NEWTON CO. COWBOY CHURCH**  
Sunday 5 p.m. • Newton Co. Fair Grounds • 870-291-9417

**TROY WALKER GRACE FOR LIFE MINISTRY**  
Sun. Worship 10 a.m.  
American Legion Hall, Jasper

**JASPER CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sun. School 9:45-10:45 a.m. • Worship 10:45-11:15 a.m. • For information: 391-1595

**LOW GAP FULL GOSPEL CHURCH**  
Services: Sunday 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Wednesday 7 p.m. • Phone 870-861-5855  
Pastor Kelvin House

**JASPER SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
Worship: 9:30 - 11 a.m.  
Sabbath School 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Pastor Ross Harris • 446-2122

**LURTON**  
**ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. • Evening service 5 p.m. • Youth & Children's Wed. 7 p.m.  
Stan Taylor, Pastor

**MARBLE FALLS**  
**MARBLE FALLS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
located on the Old Erbie Road across from Dogpatch.  
Pastor is OD Chaney, 870-688-1189.  
Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday youth activities at 6:30 p.m.

**MT. JUDEA**  
**BETHLEHEM CHURCH**  
Services 7:30 p.m. Wed. & Sun.  
Kenneth Campbell, Pastor - Troy Royce & Paul Martin, Assistant Pastors

**MT. JUDEA CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
Next to the Mt. Judea School • Sun. 10 a.m. • Thurs. 7 p.m. Bible Study  
Gary & Nina Johnson, Pastors • 434-5574

**MT. SHERMAN**  
**MT. SHERMAN ASSEMBLY**  
Sun. 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Wed. meal 5:45 p.m. • Services 6:30 p.m.  
Raymond White, Pastor • 861-5560

**PARTHENON**  
**Buffalo Church**  
Services Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Pastor Austin Williams

**CHURCH OF GOD SEVENTH DAY**  
Sat. Services 11 a.m. • Wed. 6 p.m. • 1.5 miles • Diamond Cave Rd. • Jason Overman, Pastor 446-5736 or 446-2352

**CHURCH IN THE VALLEY CAMPGROUND MINISTRIES**  
1 1/2 mile on Murray Road  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Minister, Randall Chronister

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. • Wed. 6:30 p.m. • 446-5627

**PIERCETOWN**  
**NEWTON COUNTY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School: 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. • Wednesday Evening 6:30 Children and Youth ministries • Andrew Campbell, Pastor 434-5988

**SHILOH**  
**SHILOH UNITED BAPTIST**  
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. • Every 4th Saturday 7:30 p.m., Jerry Liggett, Pastor

**VENDOR**  
**BIG CREEK ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. • Wed. 7:00 p.m. Bible study, youth & children's ministries  
Phil Pittman, Pastor 434-5517

**LOG HALL**  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Jim Bohannon, Pastor • 434-6217

**WAYTON**  
**WAYTON UNITED BAPTIST**  
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m.  
Bible study 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month.  
Anthony Newboles, Pastor

**WAYTON FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School, 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m., Pastor Tony Taylor

**WESTERN GROVE**  
**ABUNDANT LIFE UPC**  
Wed. service 7 p.m. • Sun. Worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., J.W. Daniels, Pastor

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### James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, dies at 89

From Times Sources

in 2016.

James Dobson, a child psychologist who founded the Colorado Springs-based conservative ministry Focus on the Family and was a politically influential campaigner against abortion and LGBTQ+ rights, died on Thursday. He was 89.

Born in 1936 in Shreveport, Louisiana, Dobson launched a radio show counseling Christians on how to be good parents and started Focus on the Family in 1977.

He became a force for pushing conservative Christian ideals in mainstream American politics in the 1980s alongside fundamentalist giants like Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. At its peak, Focus on the Family had more than 1,000 employees and gave Dobson a platform to weigh in on legislation and serve as an adviser to five presidents.

Focus on the Family moved to Colorado Springs in 1991. Dobson's death was confirmed by the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Shirley, as well as their two children, a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

#### 'Mount Rushmore' of conservatives

Dobson interviewed President Ronald Reagan in the Oval Office in 1985, and Falwell called him a rising star in 1989. Decades later, he was among the evangelical leaders tapped to advise President Donald Trump.

In 2022, he celebrated the overturning of Roe v. Wade — including Trump's conservative appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court credited with the landmark decision that allowed states to ban abortion.

"Whether you like Donald Trump or not, whether you supported or voted for him or not, if you are supportive of this Dobbs decision that struck down Roe v. Wade, you have to mention in the same breath the man who made it possible," he said in a ministry broadcast.

He belongs on the "Mount Rushmore" of Christian conservatives, said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, another group Dobson founded.

"Very few people have had such a positive impact in the shaping of the American family, from what we would describe as a biblical standpoint," said Perkins, promoting ideas that pushed back against progressive parenting of the 1960s.

#### Weighing Dobson's legacy

John Fea, a American History professor at Messiah College in Pennsylvania, has been critical of Dobson's politics and ideas but recounts how his own father was a better parent after becoming an evangelical Christian and listening to Dobson's radio program. Fea's dad was a tough Marine who spanked his children out of anger, which Dobson opposed.



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# Better breakfast month: Why breakfast matters

By MARY HIGHTOWER  
U of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Good timing and the right foods can turn breakfast into a something of a superpower — a meal that can improve cognition, memory and metabolic health.

Breakfast — that first meal after sleeping — is important because of what happens to our bodies while we sleep, said Lida Araghi, assistant professor and extension specialist in nutrition and food safety for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

“Metabolism never fully sleeps. Essential functions continue overnight, but after 8-12 hours of fasting, blood sugar and insulin are lower and liver glycogen is partly depleted,” she said. “Breakfast restores blood glucose, stimulates insulin response, and provides the brain and muscles with fuel.”

“This is why many people feel more alert and energized after eating in the morning,” Araghi said. “Sleep quality affects morning metabolism: poor sleep impairs insulin sensitivity, raises cortisol, and disrupts hunger hormones” including reducing leptin, which tells the body it’s full and increase ghrelin, which tells the body to eat more.

### Timing

Chrononutrition is a discipline that examines the links between



time and food and their combined effect on the body. The body has its own clock — the circadian rhythm — which regulates biological processes.

Araghi said that “eating in sync with circadian rhythms supports metabolic health. Front-loading calories earlier in the day lowers risk of obesity, insulin resistance, and metabolic disruption.”

On the other hand, “poor sleep increases appetite and carb cravings; a balanced breakfast helps stabilize metabolism and appetite in the morning,” she

said.

Intermittent fasting is an area that has received more attention in the media and has become a focus of research.

Araghi said time-restricted eating in a 14-16 hour fasting window is being studied for benefits such as improved insulin sensitivity and reduced inflammation, as well as autophagy, the process by which cells repair damage.

“Some adults may find benefits, but evidence is mixed,” she said. “This is not recommended for children, teens, or people

with certain health conditions.

### Cognition

Why breakfast is so important. (U of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture image)

Research has shown that breakfast means improved attention, memory, and executive function, especially in undernourished children,” Araghi said. “School breakfast programs boost test scores, attendance, concentration, and mood.”

In adults, breakfast can help produce modest, but consistent memory gains, she said.

“Across 45 studies, breakfast improved attention, executive function, and memory in the mid-to-late morning. Low-glycemic index meals — ones that cause only slow rises in blood sugar rather than spikes — had the most consistent benefits.”

Araghi said there is some evidence breakfast before exercise supports endurance and recovery, though findings are still emerging.

### Breakfast as balancing act

“Balance is key. Combining protein, complex carbs and healthy fats works best,” she said.

Key players on the breakfast table and their advantages:

Complex carbs such as whole grains, fiber-rich fruits produce steady glucose and enable sustained focus.

Protein brings amino acids that support neurotransmitters such as dopamine and serotonin that aid memory and attention.

Healthy fats such as nuts and seeds provide long-lasting satiety and brain health.

“A small study found walnut-rich breakfasts improved memory and reaction time, likely due to omega-3s and polyphenols,” Araghi said.

Omega-3 fatty acids aid cell function and are found in high concentration in the eyes and brain. Polyphenols can have antioxidant properties and also help with blood flow and pressure.

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

### The William C. Hale family

By BARBARA LEROY

William C. Hale was born in Shelby County, Tennessee, May 23, 1829. After the death of his mother in 1839, his father moved to Searcy County, and then to Pope County in Arkansas. William had little opportunity for schooling as he helped his father carve out the farm and protect the livestock from bears.

In 1850 he married Narcissa Nettie Burns. She was born in Giles County Tennessee April 18, 1831. She gave him three children.

During the Civil War, William joined Company D, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry (US), and was sent on scouting expeditions, mainly along the White River. He was mustered out in 1865, and went to Missouri to gather up his family, which had gone north for refuge.

They took up farming on the mouth of Cave Creek, which grew to 175 acres. He also had a farm in Boone County.

Narcissa died Aug. 14, 1886. William remarried Jan. 31, 1878 (surely 1887) Jane Wells and had three more children. He died July 4, 1896 and was buried at Mt Hersey Cemetery.

Matilda Jane (Wells) Hale married Francis Qualls around 1900 and moved out of the state.

Two of his daughters lived in Newton County their whole lives. Narcissa Hale married John Salmon and lived in Prairie Township. Mallissee Hale married William Simon Garner and lived on a farm in White Township.

In 1918, Mallissee caught influenza, and then pneumonia. She died at home in October 1918.

Barbara LeRoy is the author of “Which Side Were They On?,” a 302 page book listing biographical sketches of the Newton Countians who were involved in the Civil War, available for sale either in the Bradley House Museum or by purchasing online at [www.newtoncountyar.com](http://www.newtoncountyar.com). The book sells for \$33.

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## AS LIFE GOES BY

By ELAINE LAUNDERVILLE

This should be an exciting week. The Springdale Senior Center will be opening its doors to the many seniors who have been enjoying all the amenities over the years in the old building. Tickets have been given to anyone who would like to have an early look at the many things added to the center. It is two stories tall and has an elevator.

An article in the Business & Farm section of the Arkansas Democrat — Gazette shared information we may be interested in. As the tariffs start to take effect, beef prices are spiraling up over the year. In the past, a large U.S. deli producer got instructions once a year to hike red meat prices. Now its once a week.

My tooth pain has finally been identified and is on the road to being final. After my second trip to the dentist, they found out why my gums

were swollen and the pain was terrible! The dentist had to cut open the tooth area and found a large piece of my tooth was left in the site. After redoing the tooth, cleaning up the gum, removing the tooth piece and then resewing the gums, I was on the way to relief after a few days. I lived on Tylenol!

Jackie and I drove to Mountain Home to see Jane. She is in the Baxter County Hospital. She had been diagnosed with pneumonia after having a very high fever. She is still in the hospital. Jackie had been in the Washington Regional Hospital a week ago. After all my pain, I was a little nervous that I might have to go to the hospital. Not really, but who knows? John and Wanda drove over to see Jane. Her two boys, David and Bruce were there and Bruce’s kids went by to visit her, too.

Take care of yourself. Stay healthy.



Bridge to history

A memorial to the old Pruitt Bridge is located at Bradley Park in Jasper. Girders from the old bridge on Highway 7 were donated to the city of Jasper and to the the Newton County Historical Society to create a memorial. The original bridge was destroyed in June of 2021. The monument was erected in 2024. ZACH HOLT/STAFF

## NEWS FROM COMPTON/HILLTOP

Just a reminder that the Compton Community Association is raffling a quilt. Proceeds go to the Compton Community Association. The quilt was hand-stitched by Betty Stivers and donated by Darlene Cullen.

The drawing will be held in September at the Compton Community Day. Tickets are \$5 each or \$5/\$20. Contact Karen Fancher, Paulette

Jech, Latisha Cook, Christine Blackshear, or Darlene Cullen to purchase tickets.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Riner Gibbins who passed away this week. Funeral and burial were Wednesday, August 20. Riner and Cleo have been a fixture at Compton and the Crossroads Church all my life. I always enjoyed getting to see them and visit.

The Compton Volunteer Fire Department has been busy responding to various call outs the last few weeks. We are thankful to those who are able to respond to the needs of folks in the community. If you would like to volunteer with the Fire Department, please contact Chief Garland Matlock at 870-204-1845.

The Back-to-School service and luncheon at New Hope was well attended on Sunday morning. We enjoyed a great lunch provided by our Pastors.

Addi and I traveled to Conway for a family birthday party on Saturday, followed by some stops at the flea markets on the way home. It was a hot day. We got about 3/10 inch of rain this week, but we need more. We are watering Addi’s flowers every day to keep them alive. I think we are both ready for cooler temperatures.



MATTHEW PIPER  
NEWS FROM COMPTON  
MATTHEWPIPER72601@GMAIL.COM

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## Count to 180, then rush field at Razorback Stadium

FROM TIMES SOURCES

FAYETTEVILLE — Arkansas will allow football fans to rush the field following big wins, but only after a delay so the Razorbacks can avoid hefty fines.

The Southeastern Conference's updated field rushing policy, with \$500,000 fines, applies to each incident across all sports. The conference can waive the fine if the visiting team and officials are allowed to reach the lockerroom before fans descend. Arkansas announced Wednesday that three minutes will be placed on the videoboard inside the stadium to delay the rush and allow the visiting team, staff and officials to exit the field.

"The safety of our student-athletes and the student-athletes from the visiting institution is extremely important to all of us," Arkansas athletic director Hunter Yurachek said in a statement. "By implementing this new policy, we are allowing the visiting team to clear the field so our fans can safely join our team on the field to celebrate the big win. We look forward to our fans and students complying with this policy the first time we get to implement it so we can all enjoy a huge win."

Arkansas' first big game will be Sept. 27 against No. 6 Notre Dame.

## I have failed as a grandfather

Maybe my headline is a little misleading, but I did make a mistake. I don't know if it was failure.

My family loves the Kansas City Royals. Usually, every family gets that one kid that has to "be different" and not defend the family values and love the same team that the rest of us love.

My daughters grew up going to Royal games and my oldest daughter got a ball from Alex Gordon.

Hannah has gone with me when I have interviewed professional players.

Where I have failed is not finding time to take all of the my grandkids to a Royals game together.

That will be remedied next season.

However, I did take my family to a professional baseball game last month.

All 10 of us boarded an airplane and flew to St. Petersburg, Fla. to leave on a cruise. We got there a day early to make sure that we didn't miss our cruise.

We boarded the big boat without trouble and off to the wonderful land of island hopping. We did stop at Key West and I did have my sloppy joe from Sloppy Joe's.

There were earlier flights back to Memphis, but we took the later flight to make sure that we had time.

On the next to last day of the cruise, my son-in-law Dusty stated that the Devil Rays were playing in town. We had time to make that and not find something to entertain our children all day long.

I had never been to a Devil Rays game, so that would be great.

We discussed it and made the decision to go.

Tampa Bay had hurricane damage to their stadium, so they were not in their air conditioned facility, which was little problem on a 95 degree noon first pitch. They were borrowing a minor league park that was there in Tampa Bay. I hated the



**JEFF BRASEL**  
SPORTS@NEWTONCOUNTYTIMES.COM

See **BRASEL**, A8



Arkansas quarterback Taylen Green runs through drills at practice. The Razorbacks open the season on Saturday against Alabama A&M in Fayetteville. CRAVEN WHITLOW/NATE ALLEN SPORTS SERVICE

## Green to be highlight as Hogs' season draws near

By **OTIS KIRK**  
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — Arkansas is nearing the season opener against Alabama A&M on Saturday, Aug. 30, at Razorback Stadium.

The Razorbacks have one of the more difficult schedules in the nation and the schedule gets brutal once the opener is out of the way. One area of hope for Arkansas is the play of quarterback Taylen Green. In his first season at Arkansas after transferring in from Boise State Green completed 230 of 381 passes for 3,154 yards, 15 touchdowns and 9 interceptions. He also was second on the team in rushing with 156 carries for 602 yards and 8 touchdowns. Bobby Petrino praised Green's performance in this past Saturday's scrimmage.

"The best thing I saw from Taylor was his technique on his release," Petrino said. "It was the best days had on getting up and over the top, and his accuracy was way up. He threw the ball a couple times before the receiver broke on their route, so his timing was really good. I thought it was a huge step forward for him. Didn't have the same yards, same touchdowns he had in the first scrimmage, but his performance was much more consistent in throwing the ball and accuracy."

A reporter asked Petrino if Green is where he wants him to be heading into the season?

"Getting closer," Petrino said. "No one's ever where you want him to be, but he's certainly getting closer. And that's the thing that was most exciting for me, watching the tape after the scrimmage and grading it with him was seeing how much he improved from one week to the next on the consistency. It's not like he doesn't have good technique. It's just at times he's not consistent enough with it. But his release in the scrimmage on Saturday was closer to where we want."

Petrino has KJ Jackson behind Green and is working on having him prepared like he did Malachi Singleton last season.

"Yeah, getting a lot more comfortable with him, and really



The best thing I saw from Taylor was his technique on his release. It was the best days had on getting up and over the top, and his accuracy was way up. He threw the ball a couple times before the receiver broke on their route, so his timing was really good. I thought it was a huge step forward for him."

**Bobby Petrino**

starting to understand, you know, what the package will be for him," Petrino said. "And not only in the pass game, but the run game. I think KJ's took huge steps forward since spring ball. He's a really, really intelligent young man, so he knows the offense. He's the one that wants to answer the question first in every meeting. It's just continue to learn what he does well, what he doesn't do well. We'll keep working on what he doesn't do well, but we've got to have the package ready and know exactly what we would go to if he had to jump in the game."

In a 70-0 win over UAPB to open last season, Singleton played enough to complete 8 of 10 passes. That experience seemed to help him when he went against Tennessee later in season. Would it be good if Jackson could get some extended time against Alabama A&M?

"Yeah, the way I've always looked at these games is that we have to be mature enough to understand that we need to go out and execute, score points and work to score every single time we have the ball and allow our depth to get into the game," Petrino said. "That's how you develop. Like you said with Malachi last year, he got on the field, and I knew exactly what we were going to do with them, and he executed and did a good job, and it

certainly gave him confidence the next time that he jogged out on the field. But that's up to our players to be mature enough and prepare themselves well enough and really approach the game like, it doesn't matter who we're playing, it matters how we play, and we have to take care of ourselves."

One issue with the offense last year was too many turnovers. Is that something Petrino feels they can limit this season?

"We need to, there's no question about that," Petrino said. "One of the things that helps you take care of the ball better is your pass protection, so we can secure the ball in the pocket, get the ball out of your hand and don't take those blind hits in the pocket. We've had a good emphasis on carrying the ball correctly at each position when we get in traffic, chinning it and locking it, and I'm seeing those show up on video, so our coaches are doing a really good job of it."

As offensive coordinator, Petrino explained how much say he has in the positions other than quarterback.

"A lot," Petrino said. "We talk a lot. When you come in and have a meeting on the depth, coach (Sam) Pittman's in there, I'm in there and the position coaches are in there, and sometimes we agree, sometimes we don't agree, and coach Pitt's the boss, so he makes the final decision. Then you figure out how to work guys in to using what their skills are, because there's a lot of starters on offense, when you look at receivers, tight ends, running backs, fullbacks. It just happens to be what you trot out there in the first play of the game on who really starts. But we see it as a lot of starters on offense."

"Now, the offensive line's a little bit different. That's the five guys you want to get together and get to know each other and stay together and work and rely on each other. You don't rotate as much on the offensive line, although there's times throughout my career that you've rotated a guard and each one of them plays about 50% of the game, and then they make each other better because they're not out there the entire game. They're fresh and never get worn down."

## Shanks a-lot: All-American ready to take field

By **OTIS KIRK**  
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — The lone first-team All-American for Arkansas is UAB transfer punt returner and wide receiver Kam Shanks.

In 2024 at UAB, Shanks returned 16 punts averaging 27.4 yards per return and a pair of touchdowns. He also

caught 62 passes for 656 yards and six touchdowns. In a 37-27 loss to Arkansas last fall he caught a 15-yard touchdown pass.

On Thursday night Shanks was one of the players made available to the media. When asked how much the hamstring injury that kept him out of some practices set him back Shanks had a

quick reply.

"It didn't set me back, I just missed a little bit of practice, a little bit of fall camp but I'm back rolling," Shanks said. "I play slot and start on punt returns and stuff like that."

As far as the loss to Arkansas last season Shanks talked about his memories of that.

"Actually, I scored my first receiving touchdown here," Shanks said. "I didn't really know that Coach (Scott) Fountain really liked me, that he was scared of me being a punt returner and didn't want to kick to me. So it was actually a fun game to be a part of for my

See **SHANKS**, A8

# Daly II Falls in U.S. Amateur Quarterfinal

By UA Communications

SAN FRANCISCO – Razorback senior John Daly II birdied the final hole, but it was not enough as Mason Howell birdied as well to win 1 UP in the quarterfinal of the 2025 USGA U.S. Amateur Championship, played at The Olympic Club (Lake Course).

Daly was the first Razorback to reach the U.S. Amateur quarterfinal since David Lingmerth accomplished the feat in

2009.

Howell took control early by winning the opening hole with a par. Daly then won the fourth hole with a par to tie the match. Howell regained the advantage with wins on holes 5 and 6 to take a 2 UP lead. Undaunted, Daly won holes 7 and 8 and the pair tied the par-4, 9th to start the back nine even.

As he did to start the match, Howell won the opening hole of the inward nine only to see

Daly answer by winning the 11th with a par. After tying holes 12 and 13, Daly hit an impressive approach shot on 14. Howell was away but drained the birdie putt. Daly's birdie putt missed to give Howell a 1 UP lead.

Both players carded pars on holes 15, 16 and 17, and Howell led 1 UP with one to play. Daly put the pressure on Howell by sinking his birdie putt first on 18, but Howell answered to clinch the win. The quarterfinal run at

the U.S. Amateur ends an impressive summer for Daly. He finished second on the 2025 Elite Amateur Golf Series thanks to a win at the Southern Amateur, a third-place finish at the Northeast Amateur and a 15th-place finish at the Trans-Mississippi Amateur.

With his summer success and not counting his play at the U.S. Amateur, Daly has climbed 314 spots to 121st in the World Amateur Golf Rankings.

# Hogs have questions about defense

By NATE ALLEN  
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — Arkansas' season opener is nearing and much of the questions about this year's team is on defense.

Travis Williams met with the media Monday and expressed confidence in his unit. He was asked if that side of the ball performed better in Saturday's second scrimmage than the first?

"Yeah, just the effort," Williams said. "Just from top to bottom, the effort. That's what we taught. We'll teach you football like the X's and O's. That's on the coaches. But we need to go. We need to get to the ball like our life depending on it. And I just thought throughout the whole week just the pursuit – we did a pursuit drill every day of last week – so we wanted to make sure it showed up when we go out there and we scrimmage. And I thought that was one thing that we could build upon, and that's something that we did a lot better than the first scrimmage."

One concern about the defense is in recent seasons has been the lack of turnovers created by the defense. They haven't created many turnovers in the two scrimmages

either, but is that concerning?

"Not really," Williams said. "It's few things, like we like the quarterback to keep going, so the offense can go through their progressions and the defensive backs can cover. There's some sacks and different things that wasn't called, so it's a lot of different things we can look at. We want to stay away from the quarterback — that's smart. That'd be dumb to even get close to the quarterback. But we still have to be able to separate guys from the ball and get turnovers. So we continue to work those drills. But a lot of times in scrimmages you can really tell because of the way it's laid out. But we have to get the ball back to our offense so our offense can be able to to down and score."

Has Williams seen some encouraging signs in practice that makes his feel this team can get more turnovers in games?

"Yeah, just being able to get them in practice when the opportunities are there," Williams said. "I just tell the guys: 'Don't bat down the ball, let's intercept the ball.' It's not a PBU when the ball hits you in the hands. That should be an interception.

So just being able to do that. Just very pleased with the guys. The guys on the back end are doing a great job when we're trying to strip the ball out and do different things like that. So the progress is going well."

Williams also was asked what he feels are the strength of his defense overall?

"You know what, I would say the linebackers and the defensive backs," Williams said. "We got a lot of experience back there. In the defensive backs room, we have a lot of guys with one year left of eligibility, so we have a lot of guys that have played a lot of football. Stephen Dix, this is his last year of eligibility, so you have a guy that's been around the block. We have guys with mustaches, so we don't have a lot of young guys. That's a good thing. That experience means a lot when you get up under the lights and get to play big-time football, so we're definitely going to lean on that experience."

Williams didn't mention the defensive line that has a proven talent in Cam Ball and a lot of new or inexperienced faces.

"Yes, we have to continue to establish dept," Williams said. "May

need some young guys to step up. We have guys that's played in SEC ball, but just the depth part of it is definitely a deal that we have to figure out.

"Young guys is why we recruit, and being able to see those guys play early if they are ready. So, we tell the guys if you're good enough, you're old enough. So, you know, just getting those guys ready. But we definitely need some young guys to step up."

With classes beginning and practices moving to the evenings Williams talked about the transition from camp to preparing for the opener.

"Just really, you go from putting all the pieces together and figuring out, okay, who's going to be where, as far as on defense, and then you start watching the opponent and you're seeing what they're doing," Williams said. "What do we need to do to stop what they're doing? But in the midst of that, you're trying to figure out who's going to be on the field for you and then once you figure that out, how are we going to stop the actual opponent that we're about to face?"

Arkansas will host Alabama A&M at 3:15 on Aug. 30 and televised on the SEC Network.



Razorback sophomore wide-receiver Kam Shanks runs through drills at practice outside the Willard & Pat Walker Pavilion in Fayetteville. CRAVEN WHITLOW/NATE ALLEN SPORTS SERVICES

## SHANKS

From Page A7

SEC game."

While some players like to watch and study film of greats at their position, don't count Shanks in that group.

"I really don't be watching film," Shanks said. "I kind of go out there and do my own thing. I'm not trying to be like anybody else, I'm trying to be my own person. So I'm doing what I've got to do myself."

Shanks talked about how the other wide receivers and himself have rallied around CJ Brown, who lost his father Carson recently.

"Since CJ lost his father, you wouldn't be able to tell that he lost his father," Shanks said. "CJ, he's still acting the same, laughing and stuff. I think us being around him is kind of bringing the joy out of him. Kind of takes his mind off it, doing practice and stuff."

While the football field hasn't provided many challenges for Shanks, something off the field has.

"Class, the one thing I don't like about class is walking to it, there be some crazy hills and stairs you gotta walk up," Shanks said. "But other than that, I enjoy class."

Arkansas will open the season on Saturday, Aug. 30, against Alabama A&M at 3:15 p.m. on the SEC Network in Razorback Stadium. [{div}](#)

## BRASEL

From Page A7

stadium as it was the New York Yankee spring training facility. There was Yankee logos everywhere despite being at a Devil Rays' home game.

I have bought seats many, many, many times for large groups of people. We are going to a stadium that only holds 14,000 people. How was I going to get us tickets together on a Sunday afternoon game.

When I put in my request for 10 tickets, I could not get that many. However, I could buy six tickets on one row and then I could get four more on the same row. They only problem was that there was a single ticket in between our tickets.

My thoughts were, "Oh well, that person has to be a loser to only buy one ticket. He needs some Jeff Brasel grandkids in his life."

I traded in some credits and got 10 tickets for only \$250.

Did I mention that we were only four rows behind third base?

We had great tickets, I started pouring water into my wife immediately. I could not have her passing out like she has at other hot games.

(Yes, I am the husband that left her on the sidewalk with paramedics to go watch Albert Pujols bat in his final game in St. Louis. I might have done that twice...).

My plan was to watch three innings and take her to shop. I also took another grandson to shop and Hatcher found a fan that sprayed water. He was planning on changing his color, but after he got his tongue hit by the fan, he made his decision on which one we were getting. yes, we bought three more fans later in the game.

The family had made plans to leave the game before it was over to avoid the traffic and get a meal before flying out. However, an unbelievable storm struck in the seventh inning, so we left a couple of innings early.

My grandkids had a great time at their first professional baseball game when they were all together. The fans were their favorite thing and the food was their second favorite thing. Number three was new shirts. The game did make it into the conversation.

Someone may have to hold me accountable, but in 2026 my grandkids will be going to a Kansas City Royals baseball game together.

Jeff Brasel is the sports and managing editor and general manager of the Newton County Times. E-mail him at [sports@newtoncountytimes.com](mailto:sports@newtoncountytimes.com) or follow him at [X.com/jeffbrasel](https://www.facebook.com/jeffbrasel).

# Arkansas starts season on Saturday

By OTIS KIRK  
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — The season is finally here with Arkansas at home on Saturday hosting Alabama A&M in Razorback Stadium. Saturday's game will be televised on the SEC Network.

Sam Pittman is pleased to get an opener in Fayetteville after having opened at Little Rock the past two seasons. Arkansas last opened in Fayetteville in 2022 against Cincinnati.

"Well, it's really nice to have a home opener," Pittman said. "We haven't been here for a

while to open the season since 22, I believe, and, and it's really nice to be able to. What looks like a pretty good temperature game as well. And we're certainly hoping that a lot of Hog fans are in the stands, and we have a lot of respect for Alabama A&M and their staff. They've got a really good staff. Coach (Sam) Shade brought in a good staff there. They won their conference over at Miles (College) and obviously, I'm sure that's a big reason, a lot of reasons, but I'm sure that's one of the reasons that he was able to get that A&M job. They've got a lot of

new people, brought some kids over from Miles as well. And so, we're doing back and forth watching with Alabama A&M from last year to see the players that we're going to see this year and certainly Miles College from offensive, defensive, special teams standpoint.

"So, excited about getting our team out there and we need to play smart football, penalty free football. Well, we've got to hang on to the football and we have to play to our standard. What our expectations of our team is, and that's going to be a mantra of 'us' all season. We've got a good

team, but we have to put a good team out there every Saturday. If any indication came off of Friday, I thought we did a really good job in the mock game Friday, and our special teams were really good and we flew around. So I was proud about what we did Friday night and Starzyk made all his kicks and so we're ready to go and excited to play somebody else other than ourselves and again, have high respect for Alabama A&M."

Pittman was asked if he feels the team has gotten everything accomplished they needed to at this point.

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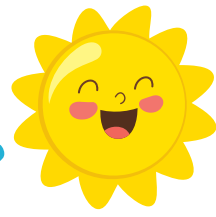
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# Kids' corner



## Fascinating bats Surprising facts about these small flying mammals



Bats often get a bad rap as symbols of Halloween and evil vampires. However, the truth is that these remarkable creatures are vital allies in the ecosystem. Here are some interesting facts about the only mammals capable of true flight.

### BATS GALORE

Bats make up an estimated 20 percent of all mammals on Earth. That means one in five mammals is a bat!

In fact, there are more than 1,300 species of bats worldwide. They can be found on every continent except Antarctica.

Nearly 50 different species live in North America alone. Most have black or brown fur, but you can also spot white bats in Central America.

### MEALTIME

Most bats, particularly the most common species found in North America, feast on insects. A single bat can devour thousands of bugs every night, helping to keep pest populations in check. Thank you, bats!

Other bat species enjoy fruits and nectar. They help pollinate plants and disperse fruit seeds, which is invaluable to farmers.

Interestingly, three species have a taste for blood. These are commonly known as "vampire bats." But don't worry; they rarely target humans, and they don't live in North America.

### UPSIDE DOWN

You've probably seen pictures of bats hanging upside down. Have you ever wondered how they sleep in that position? Their ankles have a locking mechanism that keeps their toes curled. Handy, isn't it?

### WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT BLINDNESS?

Bats use echolocation rather than eyesight to get around in the dark. They emit ultrasound waves, and the returning echoes help them determine the size and shape of objects around them. However, contrary to popular belief, bats possess excellent eyesight.

Finally, bats face serious threats from various factors, with white-nose syndrome being the most significant. This fatal disease is caused by a fungus and can wipe out up to 99 percent of the bats in a colony. Isn't that sad?

## Protect yourself while you're on wheels!

Did you know how important it is to wear a helmet when you ride a scooter and go rollerblading or skateboarding?

Your head is precious! It houses your brain, which functions like a computer for everything you do—learning, moving and much more. If you hit your head on the ground after losing your balance, you could get badly hurt and have to go to the hospital. A helmet acts like a shield, protecting you from harm. Make sure it's the right size, fits snugly and is securely fastened under your chin.



In addition to wearing a helmet, it's a good idea to wear knee, elbow and wrist pads. That way, if you fall, you won't get any cuts, bruises or broken bones. Think of them as your suit of armor. Why go without?

Before you head out for a ride, ask an adult to check that all your gear fits properly and is secure. Remember to stay alert, watching out for cars, pedestrians and other riders around you.



## Animal look-alikes: learn to tell them apart

Some animal species look so much alike that people regularly confuse them. Discover the differences between some of these fascinating creatures.

### CAMEL OR DROMEDARY?

Camels, which live in Asia, have two distinct humps on their backs. Dromedaries live in Africa and have only one hump. If you're wondering, those humps store fat, not water.

### CROCODILE OR ALLIGATOR?

Crocodiles can weigh up to 2,200 pounds and have slender, V-shaped snouts. Alligators are slightly smaller, reaching a maximum weight of 990 pounds. They have broad, U-shaped jaws.

### HORSE OR PONY?

Many people mistakenly believe that ponies are baby horses. However, the pony is a distinct species, measuring no more than 4.75 feet from

the ground to the withers (the area above the shoulder).

### RABBIT OR HARE?

Rabbits have short ears and small legs. In contrast, hares have much longer ears and powerful back legs, so they can run really fast. Hares live in above-ground nests, and rabbits live in underground tunnels known as warrens.

### PENGUIN OR PUFFIN?

Unlike penguins, puffins can fly. These two birds inhabit very different regions as well: puffins thrive in the Northern Hemisphere, and penguins reside in the Southern Hemisphere.

### FROG OR TOAD?

Frogs have smooth, moist skin and long legs that can make impressive leaps. Toads, on the other hand, have dry, bumpy skin and shorter legs, limiting them to short hops.

Are there other look-alike animals that you often get mixed up? Do some research at your local library or browse the internet to find accurate information.



Butterflies and moths are often confused. Most butterflies are active during the daytime, and moths are generally active at night. In addition, butterfly wings are usually brightly colored or boldly patterned. You have to look closely!

# Local schools ranked on state list

## Staff Report

news@newtoncountytimes.com

"We are not No. four, No. 3, No. 2, we're No. 1." That is a line for an old high school basketball cheer, but it is not one that any Arkansas school wants to be ranked on the 2025-2027 WSD Needs List that was released by the Division of Elementary & Secondary Education.

The list is a collection of all 982 public education facilities in Arkansas that are home to elementary, middle or high school buildings.

Two local schools are listed in the top 20 of this list.

The Kingston Elementary has the top score of Heart of the Ozarks schools. The school is part of the Jasper School District and is ranked No. 11 in the state of Arkansas.

Green Forest High School has a ranking of No. 20.

The top school on the WSC list is Brinkley High School.

Kingston Schools is looking at the possibility of breaking away from the Jasper School District. A new law that was passed during the last Arkansas Legislation session that allows for this to occur.

Timbo and Rural Special are currently leaving the Mountain View School District.

Green Forest is looking to increase their millage and is holding a public forum on Tuesday to present their case to the public.

Harrison's first building on the state list is the Kindergarten facility. It is ranked at 318. Right behind that is the Skyline Heights Elementary. It is 323.

Forest Height is ranked at 368.

## Heart of the Ozark 2025-2027 WSD Needs List

School District	School Name	Overall Ranking	School District	School Name	Overall Ranking
Jasper	Kingston Elementary	11	Searcy County	Marshall Elementary	392
Green Forest	Green Forest High School	20	Jasper	Oark High School	397
Deer/Mt. Judea	Mt. Judea Elementary	34	Jasper	Jasper Elementary	399
Jasper	Oark Elementary	56	Bergman	Bergman High School	404
Ozark Mountain	St. Joe Campus	61	Yellville-Summit	Yellville-Summit High School	454
Deer/Mt. Judea	Deer Elementary	64	Omaha	Omaha Elementary	516
Ozark Mountain	Bruno-Pyatt Campus	72	Bergman	Bergman Middle School	528
Lead Hill	Lead Hill Elementary	80	Green Forest	Green Forest Elementary	557
Ozark Mountain	Western Grove Campus	105	Berryville	Berryville Elementary	562
Alpena	Alpena Elementary	112	Yellville-Summit	Yellville-Summit Elementary	570
Alpena	Alpena High School	120	Valley Springs	Valley Springs Middle School	600
Berryville	Berryville Middle School	160	Berryville	Berryville High School	610
Deer/Mt. Judea	Deer High School	170	Searcy County	Marshall High School	631
Jasper	Kingston High School	174	Omaha	Omaha High School	647
Valley Springs	Valley Springs Elementary	183	Harrison	Harrison High School	758
Lead Hill	Lead Hill High School	207	Valley Springs	Valley Springs High School	784
Deer/Mt. Judea	Mt. Judea High School	252	Green Forest	Green Forest Intermediate School	791
Jasper	Jasper High School	267	Bergman	Bergman Elementary	855
Harrison	Harrison Kindergarten	316	Berryville	Berryville Intermediate School	879
Harrison	Skyline Heights Elementary	323	Harrison	Harrison Middle School	888
Harrison	Forest Heights Elementary	368	There are 982 Arkansas public educational buildings		



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# The Regional Classified Marketplace

**AD DEADLINE**  
 WEDNESDAY EDITION:  
**MONDAY 3pm**  
 SATURDAY EDITION:  
**THURSDAY 3pm**



Place your ad in your hometown newspaper and reach over 40,000 readers across Southern Missouri and Northern Arkansas.

**HARRISON (870-741-SELL) | JASPER (870-741-SELL) | MOUNTAIN HOME (870-508-8000) | WEST PLAINS (417-256-9191)**

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- 1 inch - \$70 per month (8 days)
- 2 inch - \$90 per month (8 days)
- 3 inch - \$100 per month (8 days)

**Regular Classifieds**

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- 1 day/20 words \$22.50
- 2 days/20 words \$33.60
- 4 days/20 words \$42.00
- 6 days/20 words \$55.50
- 8 days/20 words \$60.00

**Bargain Items**

**8 DAYS 20 WORDS \$100 or Less Free!**

**\*\*Restrictions Apply**

\$101-\$1,000 - \$10\* | \$1,001 + \$15\*

Additional words 35¢\*

**Free lost and found for 4 days**

**AGRI-BUSINESS**

**Equipment & Supplies**

**ADVERTISING PROVISIONS**

- The publisher reserves the right to classify ads under their appropriate heading and to revise, reject or cancel any advertisement at anytime, if deemed necessary.
- Liability for Advertisements - Advertiser assumes all liability for advertisements printed per his/her instruction and shall hold the publisher harmless from and against any claims and/or damages in connection herewith.
- Check your ad the first day. The publisher will not be responsible for error beyond the first week. Claims and adjustments must be made within seven days from the first publication date.

Sell it fast in the Classifieds!

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Maintenance**

**GRISHAM PROPERTIES**

AVAILABLE storage units:  
 6X10 \$35/month  
 8X24 \$55/month  
 12X20 \$75/month  
 12X24 \$100/month  
 Move your mobile home onto one of our lots, rent is \$150/month

**Miscellaneous**

**Water Treatment/Distribution Operator**

If you are looking to start a career in the Public Utility Sector or if you are already licensed, here is your opportunity. Carroll-Boone Water District has a position open for a Water Treatment/Distribution Operator.

Minimum requirements include must be at least 18 years old, have a High School Diploma or equivalent, have a valid AR driving license, have and maintain a clean driving record, must be dependable, and have reliable transportation. You must be willing to work mid-nights, evenings, and holidays as needed.

AR T4 & D4 licenses must be obtained within one year of employment. Applicants must be able to attend training classes and pass the exam. The district will cover the costs associated with training. All applicants will have a motor vehicle and criminal history background check. This position is safety-sensitive. This position is full-time and is eligible for benefits. Starting pay will be based on experience. Applicants must be able to work outdoors in all conditions, swim, climb stairs and ladders, and must be dependable. For more information, please contact:

Carroll-Boone Water District  
 11510 Hwy 187  
 Eureka Springs, AR 72631  
 (479) 253-7269  
 cbwd@arkansas.net

Applications will be accepted through 09/05/2025 at 4:00 pm. Carroll-Boone Water District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**Help Wanted**

**NOW HIRING**

GENE'S Trout Fishing Resort in Salesville is looking for a dock and maintenance person to fill a full-time position. Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to, cleaning boats, marine docks, landscaping, garbage removal, cleaning BBQ grills, and maintaining all aspects of the resort. Applicants will be trained. No alcohol nor drugs. Contact the office at 1-870-499-5381 to arrange an interview.

**MOUNTAIN HOME VFW** needs part-time cook Wednesday and Saturday evening's. \$12 an hour, minimum 16 hours a week. Apply at VFW Post. 870-425-6174.

**CLASS A CDL** Drivers needed. Local/Regional area. Home every night. Must have 5 years experience. Call (417) 934-1184 or 870-404-3280.

**Help Wanted**

**NEED PART-TIME GARDENER** and help with household projects. Some lawn care also. \$15 hour. Call 210-373-7003. Leave message.

**NOW HIRING AN** experienced machine operator for backhoe, dozer, etc. References required. Call 417-256-7159

**Professional**

**LEGAL SECRETARY RECEPTIONIST** in a busy personal injury law firm. Must have good grammar, computer, and communication skills. Salary negotiable. Email resume to lynn@henrylawfirm.com.

**Sales**

**SHOTGUN SHELL PRIMERS**, 1 Full box of 1000 primers, size 209. Made by Alcon, non corrosive. Manufactured in the U.S.A by Fiocchi, Inc. Bakersfield 417-284-7414. \$50.00

**MERCHANDISE**

**Furniture**

**BEDROOM KING SIZE** bedroom set with mirror and headboard, wicker and steel, very heavy. 870-701-3039.

**BROWN COUCH WITH** recliners on each end, excellent condition. \$250. Call 870-491-5591.

**EIGHT SHELVES FREE** standing shelf, 18"x36"x6". \$63. Call 870-424-3432.

**OAK GATE LEG** drop leaf table, dark wood. Excellent condition. \$100. Call 870-425-5094.



**SOLID OAK DINING** room table with pedestal. \$375 or best offer. Call 870-404-1621.

**TWO FLEX STEEL** recliners, excellent condition. One for \$275 or both for \$500. Call 870-491-5591, can send pictures.

**Lawn & Garden**

**CEDAR RAISED GARDEN** bed. 47"x30"x30" has wheels that lock. Very good condition. \$128. Call 847-207-4952.

**SCAG TIGER CAT II. 61"** Commercial mower with 547 hours. \$6,700 870-715-5466



**Miscellaneous**



**FOUR TON AC** unit with heat pump, still under warranty, AHRI certified. \$2,000. Call 870-404-1621.



**HISENCE WORKS EFFICIENT** window AC, energy good. \$200. Call 870-404-1621.

**GO GO ELITE** Traveler Scooter. two new batteries used very lightly worth \$250, weight limit 265 pounds, does not fold up. \$500. 870-405-5025.

**8 X 11** rug, good condition. Can send a picture. Call 870-491-5591.

**Miscellaneous**

**1939-1964 OLD NICKELS**, 8 all together. Make an offer. Call or text 870-232-1355, leave message.

**40 RW CD'S**. These are blank and never used, record music or movies. \$10. Call or text, 870-232-1355, leave a message.

**BRAND NEW WEST** Nine purse. Asking \$20 but worth more. Call or text 870-232-1355, leave a message.

**FANTASY SPA / hot tub**, 4 person with hydro cover lift, and steps included. \$3,000. Call 870-404-0131.

**FD-35 CD RADIO** player, never used, 218x13x290, screen lights up blue, fade balance control. \$200 value, asking \$80. call or text, 870-232-1355.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DESIGNER** plate, in perfect condition, very pretty. \$10. Call or text 870-232-1355, leave a message.

**SAMSUNG WIRELESS SOUND** system, loud speaker. \$50. Call 870-491-5591.

**TEMPUR - PEDIC** queen size mattress, no stains, good condition. \$100. Call 870-491-5591.

**UNITED ORTHO LEFT Knee Brace**. Sells For \$245 on Amazon. Selling for \$75. Only worn three times. Still In Box. 870-656-5394.

**VINTAGE AIR CONDITIONER** for old car, new. \$200. Call 870-491-5182.

**VINTAGE CRYSTAL HEART** shaped trinket dish, still has original red tag by Anne Haute. \$10. Call or text, 870-232-1355. Leave a message.

**WOMEN'S NEW ANKLE** boots, Made Line Girl, name brand, size 9 1/2, black. \$60 value, selling for \$20. Call or text, 870-232-1355, leave a message.

**Pets & Supplies**

**FEMALE AUSTRALIAN SHEPARD**, 4 years old, and her 1 year old puppy that is mixed. Need to re-home, would like them to stay together. FREE. Call 870-470-0189 or 870-321-6069.

**Sports Equipment**

**19' FIBER GLASS** canoe 971-570-0097 \$300

**BARNETT 10X CROSSBOW** and scope. 10 new arrows, six new broad heads, as new. \$150. 870-499-0330.

**SELF CLIMBING TREE** stand. 971-570-0097 \$50

**Wanted**

**WANTED: USED WATER** fire extinguisher. Call 870-321-8110.

**REAL ESTATE RENTALS**

**Apartments**

**1 BEDROOM APARTMENTS**, through out Harrison, utilities paid, weekly rates available. \$180 weekly + deposit. 870-741-4131

**GREAT LOCATION CLOSE** to ASU, downtown Mountain Home with shops, restaurants and entertainment. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath with private fenced yard. Non-smoking, no pets. Can be furnished if necessary for extra per month. Includes water, trash, and partial gas for utilities. \$1,100 monthly and deposit. Call 870-321-2888.

**NICE 1 BEDROOM**, 1 bath, walk-out basement apartment. In Gamaliel, all utilities paid, includes internet, cable, washer and dryer, deck and woods view. \$850.00 monthly, \$850.00 deposit. Call 870-706-0639, no text.

**COUNTRY AIRE ESTATES** COTTER 1 bedroom & efficiencies. Includes all Utilities, \$180/\$200 Weekly. Call 870-321-2141.

**Other-RE Rental**

**RV PADS FOR** rent. with electricity, sewer, and water, laundry room available, have wind tie downs, private, not in RV Park, stipulations exist, 7 miles from town down 5 south, 114 Allen Lane. \$400 monthly, utilities included. Walter Burrus 870-405-7606.

**Homes For Rent**

**FOR RENT- DO** you need somewhere to put your mobile home? We have lots available for \$150 a month. 417-256-7159.

**REAL ESTATE SALES**

**Acresages & Lots-Sales**



**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE**

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preferences, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.

**We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised herein are available on an equal opportunity basis.**

**Homes For Sale**



**HOUSE IS APPROXIMATELY** 800 square foot plus 400 square foot in the garage. The garage is like a motel room with a full restroom and shower. Home is located between Salesville, Arkansas and the Norfolk Dam. \$124,900. Call Jerry 870-321-6238.

**Mobile Homes For Sale**

**WIDE SELECTION OF** new manufactured mobile homes available. Call 417-293-0528. View at vonallmenmobilehomes.com.

**RECREATION**

**Boats & Motors**



**2001 SMOKERCRAFT MILENTIA**, Walleye Edition. 21 1/2 foot with 96" beam, includes two out-board motors, 2014 Mercury 4 stroke 150 hp motor, 2014 Mercury 4 stroke 15 hp motor, fully loaded, latest electronics, custom trailer. Call for equipment and option list. Beautiful boat. \$16,500. Call 870-701-3081.



**2018 BASS CAT** with 150 mer opita-max Minkota Ultra max trolling motor. Trailer-Custom cover. All in good condition -\$28,000.00 Larry at 870-436-7325

**Campers & Trailers**



**2014 COACHMAN FREEDOM** express camper. Excellent Condition Seldom used. Under cover 19' \$9,750 Call 870-365-5902

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Repair without Replacement Serving NW Arkansas 741-8353 • 688-1277 **ACTION** Charles Parker, Owner • 100% Guarantee • Fast, Free Mobile Service FREE repair with proper insurance coverage. "I want to Save you money NOT sell windshields"

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Replace Windows, Pressure Washing, Siding, & Remodels 30 Years Experience **870-414-3350 870-414-3844**

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**WE DO IT ALL!** Licensed and Insured **Call Oscar 870-404-1914**

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**General Laborer** Powered by Christ. Veteran owned. Brush hogging, top soil, remodeling, lawn care, trees, painting, power washing, gutters, etc. **870-265-0922**

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Sell your home fast Includes a photo or graphic **8 days/40 words \$60** Private party and businesses

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Cars, trucks, tractors, boats, RV's, campers, side by side, 4 wheeler, etc. Private party and businesses Includes a photo or graphic **8 days/25 words \$35** Additional words 35c

**Call us** FOR YOUR CLASSIFIED NEEDS

**HARRISON 870-741-SELL JASPER 870-741-SELL MOUNTAIN HOME 870-508-8000 WEST PLAINS 417-258-9191**

**Miscellaneous**

**SCREEN SHOP** Repairs, Rescreen, On Windows, Doors, Porches, and Patios. 3519 West Rd., Mtn. Home **870-430-5460**

**Painting**

**BRAD GRASS PAINTING** and More. Custom interior, exterior, painting, staining and more. Call for a quick free estimate. Brad, 417-598-4876, insured.

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**POWER WASH** Remove Mold, Mildew, Dirt Free Estimates David Crawford **870-425-9764** In business since 1978

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**CLASS A/B DUMP TRUCK DRIVERS** NEW Equipment, local routes, home every night. Life and Health Insurance, pay percentage of truck gross. 3 yrs driving exp., 1 violation, no accidents.

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# The Regional Classified Marketplace

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**MONDAY 3pm**  
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**THURSDAY 3pm**



**HARRISON**  
(870-741-SELL)

**JASPER**  
(870-741-SELL)

**MOUNTAIN HOME**  
(870-508-8000)

**WEST PLAINS**  
(417-256-9191)

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Gutter Installation, Repair, Cleaning & Home Maintenance Services  
Over 30 Years of Experience  
**CALL US TODAY 870-405-4898**  
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Lawn Care, Mulching, Optional Chip Removal  
**Free Estimates**  
**BRYAN 870-405-3058**  
Serving Baxter, Izard, Fulton & Stone Counties

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**Automobiles**

**2002 CHEVROLET IMPALA**, V6, 168,500 \$5,000 870-688-6904

**2011 TOYOTA PRIUS** Hybrid, 57 MPG, automatic, 4 cylinder, 230,000 miles, great car, good condition inside and out, regular maintenance. \$5,800. Cash, no trades. 870-847-1754.

**2019 NISSAN ALTIMA** Platinum 4 dr \$21,500 fully loaded 57,000 miles one owner, no accidents, garage kept. WeatherTech floor mat throughout. tires less than a year old text 870-715-7750 for photos, original options or to schedule a test drive.

Sell your vehicle fast in the Classifieds.

**YARD SALES**

**Baxter County**

**HUGE YARD SALE**, Saturday 8/30, Sunday 8/31 and Monday 9/1, 8 AM - 2 PM, across the street from Farmers Market on 4th Street. Tools, hardware, household items, lots of vintage and collectibles, hundreds of Frist edition books like new, 100 Andrea by Sadek collectible birds, and more. No clothing.

**YARD SALES**

**Baxter County**

**MOVING / ESTATE** sale, 497 CR 101 Norfork August 29th - September 1st, 8 - 2 except Sunday 10 - 2. Camping, fishing, gun loading supplies, duck calls, Halloween / Christmas decor, tools, wall art, craft supplies, countertop ice maker, household goods, fabric, vases, and much more

**Boone County**

**YARD SALES SATURDAY** 8/16 8am-? 5849 Rock springs Rd. End of life sale lots of stuff, too much to mention. This sale will run on every SATURDAY until gone. CASH ONLY, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE. NO EARLY BIRDS AND NO HOLDS NO EXCEPTIONS

**Keep customers calling your business!** It doesn't cost a lot to keep your professional service ad running continually in the Regional Classified Marketplace. Give us a call today at any location.

**AUCTIONS & ESTATE SALES**

**Baxter County**

**A SOUTHERN VIEW**

**ESTATE SALE**

808 Arkansas Avenue  
Mountain Home, AR

**Fri Aug 29th & Sat Aug 30th**  
9 AM - 2 PM

**Something for everyone at this sale!** Nexgrill gas barbecue grill, small chest freezer, Masterbuilt smoker, Intex inflatable hot tub, scroll saw, Champion generator, push mower, small window AC, living room furnishings, dresser, chest of drawers, queen bed, kitchen items, home and lawn decor, lots of miscellaneous, and so much more!

**For a complete listing & pictures, please go to our Facebook page, The Southern View Estate Liquidations.**

**Cash only please! We hope to see ya this weekend!**

**If you are interested in having a sale, please call or text 870-404-1971 for a free no obligation consultation. Licensed and Bonded Serving the Twin Lakes area since 1995!!**

**LEGALS**

**Legal Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY ARKANSAS**

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION PLAINTIFF VS. Case Number 51CV-25-60. CATHERINE I. PHIPPS; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF CLETA LEE BOONE A/K/A CLETA LEE MULLENS; JOANN BOONE A/K/A JODY BOONE; PATRICIA RYERSON A/K/A PATTY RYERSON; DANNY RYERSON; JUDITH HATHAWAY; JASON HATHAWAY; LICIA DALTON; KIM HATHAWAY; WILLIAM DALTON A/K/A WILLY DALTON; NEDRA DANIELS, IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS NEWTON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; STEPHEN WILLIS, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS NEWTON COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR; CERTAIN LANDS BEING, 0.11 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, IN NEWTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS; AND ANY AND ALL PERSONS OR ENTITIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST THEREIN DEFENDANTS

**WARNING ORDER**

Any persons or entities claiming an interest in or ownership of, that have not been served via personal service, certain land as described and located in Newton County, Arkansas, are hereby warned to appear in the Circuit Court of Newton County, Arkansas, within thirty (30) days of the date of first publication of this Warning Order and answer the Complaint of Plaintiff, Arkansas State Highway Commission, which has condemned the following described land: JOB NO. 090669 TRACT NO. 6 Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 25, Township 17 North, Range 19 West, Newton County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a point being used as the Northwest Sixteenth Corner of Section 25; thence North 01°13'23" East along the East line of the Northwest Quarter of Section 25 a distance of 385.80 feet to a point on the Northeastly right of way line of U.S. Highway 65 as established by AHTD Job 9435; thence North 30°35'42" West along said right of way line a distance of 14.55 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue North 30°35'42" West along said right of way line a distance of 69.81 feet to a point; thence North 01°12'18" East along said right of way line a distance of 158.32 feet to a point on the Easterly right of way line of U.S. Highway 65 as established by ARDOT Job 090669; thence South 13°36'35" East along said right of way line a distance

**Legal Notice**

of 173.93 feet to a point on the East line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 25; thence South 01°13'23" West along said East line a distance of 49.64 feet to a point; thence North 87°50'33" West a distance of 7.67 feet to the point of beginning and containing 0.11 acres more or less as shown on plans prepared by the ARDOT referenced as Job 090669. NONCONTROLLED ACCESS You are hereby notified that the Arkansas State Highway Commission, Plaintiff, whose attorney is Cody Eenigenburg, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261, has filed a Complaint, Declaration of Taking, and Order of Possession, shall be delivered to you or your attorney upon request. If you fail to appear within thirty (30) days from the first date of publication of this Warning Order, you may be barred from answering said Complaint and otherwise asserting your interest.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and seal as Clerk of this Court on this 14 day of August, 2025.

DONNIE DAVIS, CIRCUIT CLERK  
y :  
D.C.

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY ARKANSAS**

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION PLAINTIFF VS. NO. 51CV-25-61 THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF CLETA LEE BOONE A/K/A CLETA LEE MULLENS; TIM MULLINS; COURTANEY MULLINS A/K/A COURTNEY MULLINS; SHIRLEY MULLINS; JOANN BOONE; CAMERON MULLINS; PATRICIA RYERSON; DANNY RYERSON; JUDITH BRUMLEY HATHAWAY; JASON HATHAWAY; KIM HATHAWAY; LICIA DALTON; WILLIAM DALTON; STEPHEN WILLIS, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS NEWTON COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR; NEDRA DANIELS, IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS NEWTON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; CERTAIN LANDS BEING 0.11 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, IN NEWTON COUNTY, AND ANY PERSONS OR ENTITIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST THEREIN DEFENDANTS

**WARNING ORDER**

**Legal Notice**

Any persons or entities claiming an interest in or ownership of, certain and land as described and located in Newton County, Arkansas, are hereby warned to appear in the Circuit Court of Newton County, Arkansas, within thirty (30) days of the date of first publication of this Warning Order and answer the Complaint of Plaintiff, Arkansas State Highway Commission, which has condemned the following described land:

TRACT NO. 5: Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 25, Township 17 North, Range 19 West, Newton County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a point being used as the Northwest Sixteenth Corner of Section 25; thence North 01°13'23" East along the East line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 25 a distance of 113.97 feet to a point on the Southwesterly right of way line of U.S. Highway 65 as established by AHTD Job 9435; thence North 32°01'38" West along said right of way line a distance of 360.95 feet to a point on the Southwesterly right of way line of U.S. Highway 65 as established by ARDOT Job 090669 for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence North 43°16'52" West along said right of way line a distance of 116.97 feet to a point; thence North 22°24'29" West along said right of way line a distance of 161.69 feet to a point on the Southwesterly right of way line of U.S. Highway 65 as established by AHTD Job 9435; thence South 30°35'42" East along said right of way line a distance of 167.62 feet to a point; thence South 32°01'38" East along said right of way line a distance of 106.57 feet to the point of beginning and containing 0.07 acres more or less as shown on plans prepared by the ARDOT referenced as Job 090669.

TRACT NO. 5E-1: A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 25, Township 17 North, Range 19 West, Newton County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the Southwesterly right of way line of U.S. Highway 65 as established by AHTD Job 9435, said point being 90.15 feet Right of and perpendicular to Construction Centerline Station 438+69.00; thence South 32°01'38" East along said right of way line a distance of 70.54 feet to a point; thence South 60°44'54" West a distance of 18.05 feet to a point; thence North 41°28'03" West a distance of 71.89 feet to a point; thence North 60°23'03" East a

**Legal Notice**

distance of 29.85 feet to the point of beginning and containing 0.04 acres more or less as shown on plans prepared by ARDOT and referenced as Job 090669. You are hereby notified that the Arkansas State Highway Commission, Plaintiff, whose attorney is Cody Eenigenburg, Legal Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261, has filed a Complaint in eminent domain against you and the described land, a copy of which Complaint, Declaration of Taking, and Order, shall be delivered to you or your attorney upon request. If you fail to appear within thirty (30) days from the first date of publication of this Warning Order, you may be barred from answering said Complaint and otherwise asserting your interest.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and seal as Clerk of this Court on this 19th day of August 2025.

Donnie Davis  
CIRCUIT CLERK  
By: Vanessa Moore  
Newton County Deputy Clerk

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RALPH WALLIS KETTEL II, DECEASED NO. 51PR-25-42

**NOTICE OF OPENING ESTATE AND FILING OF CLAIMS**

Last known address of decedent: HC 33 Box 67 Compton, Arkansas Date of Death: January 13, 2025 Ralph Wallis Kettell III was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of the above-named Decedent on August 11, 2025 All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate. This notice first published 20th day of August, 2025. The name and address of the Representative and his attorney are stated below:

Ralph Wallis Kettell III, Representative of the Estate of Ralph Wallis Kettell II, Deceased

The Elder Law Practice of James J Burrus 701 N Walnut, Suite C Harrison, Arkansas 72601 (870) 517-5444

## Data shows shelters are saving more dogs lives

From Times Sources

Tuesday, August 26 was National Dog Day in the United States. Data from the American Veterinary Medical Association shows that 45.5% of American households have a dog. Recently some good news came in for man's best friend.

For the first time, Best Friends Animal Society, a leading national animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters, has unveiled mid-year data on the state of animal welfare in the U.S. Collected from January to June 2025 from 864 shelters across the country, this data shows U.S. residents saved 19% more pets in shelters in the first half of 2025 compared to the same time period last year. While this demonstrates promising momentum for the no-kill movement, many shelters continue to face overcapacity issues and lack of community support.

"This data shows tremendous progress for dogs and cats on a national scale, but we know that many shelters continue to struggle to meet the needs of homeless pets in their communities," says Julie Castle, CEO, Best Friends Animal Society. "There is still

much work to be done, and shelters and rescue groups cannot shoulder this burden alone. We need community members to step up and adopt, foster, volunteer, donate, and advocate for pets. Even an act as seemingly small as sharing adoptable dogs and cats on social media can save lives."

Data shows that one of the most effective ways people can save healthy and treatable pets and get their communities to no-kill is by choosing the adoption option. According to Best Friends, about 7 million households will add a pet to their family over the next year, and if just 6 percent more of them chose to adopt from a shelter rather than purchase their pets, the entire country could be no-kill.

Best Friends' mid-year data shows that nationwide, things are looking up for dogs. Dogs saw a 20% improvement in lifesaving, the first uptick in lifesaving for the species since before the pandemic. Insights gained from this data show that reducing the number of pets entering shelters through programs that help keep pets with their families, get lost pets back home, and rehome pets without bringing them to the shelter in the first place was the



Local dog Waylon enjoys the dog days of summer. BRITTANY VANDEGRIFT/STAFF



primary driver for the improvement in dog lifesaving in the first half of 2025.

But the good news isn't just going to the dogs – cat lifesaving is continuing to look up, too. Following a great year for cats in 2024, felines are on track for another record-breaking year in 2025, with lifesaving improving nearly 18% from the same time period last year. Best Friends

credits this positive trend to support for community cat and trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) programs.

The progress for dogs and cats comes thanks to the hard work and dedication of animal welfare staff, volunteers, advocates, and community members who have helped save homeless pets in ways both big and small.

"Any person in any community

can join this collective movement to help end the killing of dogs and cats in shelters," says Castle. "There is strength in numbers, and with more support from people around the country, not only can we take America no-kill – we will."

To learn more about how to help save pets in your community by adopting, fostering, and advocating, please visit bestfriends.org.

# Teachers union lawsuits in 5 states challenge private school vouchers

By The Arkansas Advocate

Across the country, teachers unions have been challenging the constitutionality of their states' private school voucher programs in court. And in at least two cases, they've won.

Since 2022, when the U.S. Supreme Court allowed Maine private schools to receive public funds, at least five lawsuits have been filed by teachers unions, in Wyoming, Utah, Montana, Missouri and South Carolina. Additional legal challenges have been mounted by advocacy groups and parent organizations.

The Supreme Court's Carson v. Makin ruling, combined with growing interest among parents in alternatives to traditional public schools post-COVID, has fueled the rise of voucher programs and led to a tug-of-war in state courts between public educators and school choice advocates.

Heading into the 2025 legislative session, at least 33 states had some form of private school choice, according to the Georgetown University think tank FutureEd. Most union lawsuits have focused on voucher programs, in which public dollars pay for children to attend private schools — including religious schools — and cover other education-related expenses such as homeschooling.

In Wyoming and Utah, judges ruled in favor of the unions — at least for now. In South Carolina, the program was retooled after a court declared its previous version unconstitutional.

The Wyoming Education Association, which represents roughly 6,000 public school teachers, landed a win in July after District Court Judge Peter Froelicher granted a preliminary injunction against the state's universal voucher program. The union and nine parents had sued the state in June on grounds that the Steamboat Legacy Scholarship Act is unconstitutional because it violates a state regulation that it must provide a "uniform system



of public instruction."

The union decided to sue after lawmakers made the voucher program universal this spring. It was originally created with a family income cap of 250% of the federal poverty level.

"No income guidelines, in essence, means that you could be someone in Jackson who owns an \$18 million property, and the state's giving you money," said union President Kim Ame. "Our constitution clearly says that we cannot give public money to private entities, so that's why we challenged that."

The injunction temporarily stops the distribution of \$7,000 scholarships — which are funded from a state appropriation of \$30 million — until the court determines the program's constitutionality. The state has since filed an appeal to the Wyoming Supreme Court.

"I am disheartened at the court's written order granting the WEA's injunction. As one of nearly 4,000 Wyoming families, you have had your lives unnecessarily upended through no fault of your own," Megan Degenfelder, state superintendent of public instruction, wrote in a July statement to parents.

The case is similar to the one in Utah, where a judge ruled a

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**The General Assembly has far overstepped its authority and violated five provisions of the Missouri Constitution by using an appropriations bill to construct out of whole cloth a scheme to divert general revenues to what are essentially vouchers for the payment of private school tuition for elementary and secondary school students,”**

**Loretta Haggard**

\$100 million voucher program unconstitutional in April, following a lawsuit by the state teachers union.

The Utah Education Association sued the state last year, arguing the Utah Fits All Scholarship Program violates the state constitution by diverting tax money to private schools that aren't free, open to all students and supervised by the state

board of education. The Utah Supreme Court is set to consider an appeal later this year.

Lawsuits in other states are still working their way through the courts.

In July, the Montana Federation of Public Employees, which represents the state's public school teachers, joined a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the statewide voucher program that funds private education expenses for special education students.

"Even voucher programs like [this one] that are targeted to students with disabilities deprive them of crucial legal protections and educational resources," the plaintiffs said in a legal brief.

In Missouri, the state teachers union is suing over the MOScholars program, which started as a tax credit scholarship in 2021. It currently relies on nonprofits to collect donations that are turned into scholarships. Donors can receive a tax credit amounting to 100% of their contribution, but it can't exceed more than half of their state tax liability.

This year, Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe dedicated \$50 million in taxpayer dollars for the scholarships and \$1 million for program marketing, according to

the suit. The Missouri National Education Association, which has 28,000 members, sued in June in an effort to block the appropriation.

"The General Assembly has far overstepped its authority and violated five provisions of the Missouri Constitution by using an appropriations bill to construct out of whole cloth a scheme to divert general revenues to what are essentially vouchers for the payment of private school tuition for elementary and secondary school students," wrote Loretta Haggard, the union's attorney, in the suit.

On July 30, EdChoice Legal Advocates — part of a national nonprofit that advocates for school choice — filed a motion to join the suit as defendants. Thomas Fisher, litigation director, said in a press release that the program helps Missouri families afford an education that fits their children's needs.

"The recent expansion of the program is constitutional and will expand education freedom for low-income families and students with learning differences," he said.

In South Carolina, the state Supreme Court ruled in 2024 that its Education Trust Fund Scholarship Program was unconstitutional following a lawsuit from the state teachers union, parents and the NAACP. The program resumed this year after lawmakers revised it to funnel money from the lottery system instead of the general fund.

Unions have also been involved in school choice lawsuits in Alaska and Wisconsin. In 2023, National Education Association Alaska funded a suit over a state system that sent cash payments to the parents of homeschool students. That same year, Wisconsin's largest teachers union asked the state Supreme Court to hear its case challenging the constitutionality of the statewide voucher program, but the request was denied.

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