

The Mid-South Tribune

“Where there is no vision, the people will perish.”
August/Sept. 2025 MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE and The Mid-South Area Comp.

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“He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat; and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.” (Palm 81:16)

The Golden Age of Agriculture in the One Big Beautiful Bill!!

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders launches Farm-to-School program

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Gov-
ernor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
today announced a new farm-to-
school program launching in
Marion School District for the
upcoming 2025-26 school year.
This innovative program, created
by Governor Sanders’ faith-
based initiatives office in part-
nership with the Arkansas
Department of Corrections, Ar-
kansas Department of Agricul-
ture, and Arkansas Department
of Education, will enable the Ar-
kansas Department of Correc-
tions’ facilities in Newport to
participate in Arkansas’ agricul-
ture industry and help harvest
fresh produce for Marion stu-
dents’ school breakfasts and
lunches.
“Combating food insecurity —
especially among kids — is a top
priority for my administration,
and this program can be a model
for our state,” said Governor
Sanders. “I am proud of our

“Combating food insecurity — especially among kids — is a top priority for my administration, and this program can be a model for our state,” said Governor Sanders. “I am proud of our faith-based initiatives office for spearheading the development of this innovative program that will provide students with fresh, nutritious produce and give the prisons an opportunity to contribute positively to their communities.”

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this innovative program that will
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tritious produce and give the
prisons an opportunity to contrib-
ute positively to their com-
munities.”
“We are honored to partner with
Governor Sanders to support
children in Arkansas,” said Ar-
kansas Secretary of Department
of Corrections Lindsay Wallace.
“This pilot program offers a way
for the Department to give back
to the community by addressing
food insecurity for future gener-
ations.”
“This pilot program exemplifies
the kind of cross-agency innova-
tion that supports both student
success and community well-
being,” said Arkansas Secretary
of Education Jacob Oliva. “By
bringing fresh, locally grown
food directly to our schools,

Please see page 2



Native American Tribe Chairman Pierite nominates President Donald J. Trump for Nobel Peace Prize... article on page 2.



Shown here are Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders (center) with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward at the USDA Farm National Security Press Conference in Washington, D.C., highlighting the significance of farms and agriculture as a national security concern.

See article and photos on page 2.

Registration now open for the upcoming 35th Annual National Black Farmers Association Conference in Birmingham, Alabama!

See article on page 3.

Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair has roots as far back as 1853. Fair dates for one of the oldest state fairs in the nation are August 14-23.
See more on history and events on pages 4, 5 and 6.

President Trump’s Executive Order on discrimination and de-banking businesses and citizens due to politics (full text)

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. Financial institutions have engaged in unacceptable practices to restrict law-abiding individuals’ and businesses’ access to financial services on the basis of political or religious beliefs or lawful business activities. Some financial institutions participated in Government-directed surveillance programs targeting persons participating in activities and causes commonly associated

“As a result, individuals, their businesses, and their families have been subjected to debanking on the basis of their political affiliations, religious beliefs or lawful business activities, and have suffered frozen payrolls, debt and crushing interest, and other significant harms to their livelihoods, reputations, and financial well-being.”

with conservatism and the political right following the events that occurred at or near the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. The Federal Government suggested that such institutions flag individuals who made transactions related to companies like “Cabela’s” and “Bass Pro Shop” or who made peer-to-peer payments that involved terms like “Trump” or “MAGA,” even though there was no specific evidence tying those individuals to criminal conduct. Bank regulators have used supervisory scrutiny and other influence over regulated banks to direct or otherwise encourage politicized or unlawful debanking activities. “Operation Chokepoint,” for example, was a well-documented and systemic means by which Federal regulators pushed banks to minimize their involvement with individuals and companies engaged in lawful activities and

Please see page 7

Native American Tribe formally nominates Pres. Donald Trump for Nobel Peace Prize; President holds a historic summit with Chairman Pierite of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe

From News Breaker

MARKSVILLE, LA - Recently, President Donald J. Trump held a historic summit with Chairman of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Marshall Pierite, weeks after the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe announced they would be formally nominating President Trump for the honor of the Nobel Peace Prize.

An article advocating for greater economic cooperation between America's Indian tribes and the U.S. government by Chairman Pierite reportedly caught the attention of President Trump earlier this year, prompting the summit. During their meeting, President Trump and Chairman Pierite discussed the unique position of In-

"I believe we can foster a new spirit of cooperation that will see the expansion of energy production plants, data centers, housing, and technology through partnership between the federal government and Indian Country," Chairman Pierite said, adding that the cooperation between the Trump administration and various Indian tribes would be "a major catalyst for job creation and prosperity for both Native Americans and all Americans."

dian sovereignty and authority over tribal lands, and how to capitalize on the opportunity for the mutual benefit of the tribes and the American people.

"I believe we can foster a new spirit of cooperation that will see the expansion of energy production plants, data centers, housing, and technology through partnership between the federal govern-



Chairman Marshall Pierite of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana is shown here with President Donald J. Trump in the Oval Office during a historic summit at the White House where the two leaders discussed a variety of subjects from job creation, land, Native American governance, and much more. (Photo/Courtesy: The White House)

ment and Indian Country," Chairman Pierite said, adding that the cooperation between the Trump administration and various Indian tribes would be "a major catalyst for job creation and prosperity for both Native Americans and all Americans."

"As someone who spent a lifetime in the construction industry, I recognize the serious obstacles that over-regulation poses in building any new facility or business in America," President Trump said to Chairman Pierite.

"Tribal sovereignty poses a great opportunity to bypass these unreasonable hurdles and create a major economic boom in the public/private partnerships between our Native American tribes and our business community."

During the meeting, President Trump reiterated his support for

"self-determination and the sovereignty of the country's Native American tribes" and hailed what Chairman Pierite called a "post-gaming economic development for Indian country."

Because of President Trump's forward-thinking leadership and the support of visionaries like Chairman Pierite, Native Americans will have opportunities to build lasting prosperity for their families and communities. Chairman Pierite sees this partnership as a coalition-building exercise to bring prosperity to all Native Americans – something he's referred to as "taking our seat at the table." Despite hardships Indian Country has faced historically, Chairman Pierite believes Native Americans are ready to prosper along with the rest of the United States.

The President also expressed

gratitude to the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe for their recent announcement that, based on their status as a sovereign nation, the tribe would recommend President Trump to the Nobel Peace Prize committee. "President Donald Trump will be remembered as one of the most influential world leaders in history, recognized for his unwavering commitment to global leadership and peace," Chairman Pierite said. "By broker-

ing the Abraham Accords, facilitating economic normalization between Serbia and Kosovo, negotiating the peace treaty between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, and mediating cease-fires between India and Pakistan and between Israel and Iran, no world leader has dedicated more time and effort to promoting global peace than President Don-

Chairman Pierite is encouraging other Native American leaders and communities to join and support the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe as they do the foundational work that will lift up the entirety of America's Indian Country.

ald Trump."

Chairman Pierite is encouraging other Native American leaders and communities to join and support the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe as they do the foundational work that will lift up the entirety of America's Indian Country.

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe has already made strides in pursuing economic development opportunities on their own. Through its business ventures, the tribe is committed to fostering partnerships and developing economic prosperity on behalf of its tribal citizens. Current investments include manufacturing and textiles, public infrastructure projects and AI and technology developments. Pierite convened a roundtable discussion last month that featured several Trump administration officials to help lay the groundwork for this developing alliance. Diane Cullo, assistant administrator for the Office of Native American Affairs at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), spoke at the summit, addressing dozens of tribal leaders who will form the core of this groundbreaking coalition.

"I believe President Trump's vision during this administration emphasizes strong economic growth, deregulation, and the revitalization of communities that have long been forgotten. That vision resonates with many of us because tribal communities have known what it feels like to be

overlooked. We are no longer asking for a seat at the table—we are taking our place at the table," Chairman Pierite said.

Learn more at www.tunicabiloxi.org.

About the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

The Tunica-Biloxi people first appeared in the Mississippi Valley. In the late 1700s, they settled near south of Marksville in east-central Louisiana. Today, the Tribe has more than 1,600 members throughout the United States, primarily in Louisiana, Texas, and Illinois. The modern Tunica-Biloxi Tribe is composed of Tunica, Biloxi (a Siouan-speaking people from the Gulf coast), Ofo (also a Siouan people), Avoyel (a Natchezan people), and Choctaw. Although ancestry is typically intermixed through marriages, tribal members typically identify

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either as Tunica, Biloxi or Biloxi-Choctaw. The tribe owns and operates the Paragon Casino Resort, the largest employer in Central Louisiana.

For more information about the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, visit <https://www.tunicabiloxi.org> and "like" us on Facebook.

The Mid-South Tribune and the Black Information Highway

<https://blackinformationhighway.com>

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“Where there is no vision, the people will perish.”

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders launches Farm-to-School program... from front page

we're not only strengthening nutrition and wellness in the classroom — we're also making real-world farm to school connections. We're proud to partner in this effort to combat food insecurity and support our students in every way possible."

"Agriculture provides the food, fiber, fuel, and shelter that we depend on every single day and it is the critical link in addressing food insecurity," said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. "Agriculture is our state's largest industry and Arkansas is blessed with the natural ability for diverse agricultural production to include fresh and nutritious fruits and vegetables that are so important for students."

Tomatoes, sweet potatoes, peas, corn, watermelon, strawberries, kale, potatoes, onions, squash, zucchini, okra, cucumbers, pumpkins, and blueberries are just some of the fresh fruits and vegetables students can expect to see beginning this fall.

Thanks to the Good Neighbor Act - a law signed by Governor Sanders earlier this year expanding liability protections for food bank donors - any produce not used by the school may be donated to food pantries or other organizations, ensuring food doesn't go to waste.

Governor Sanders also signed SB59 this past legislative session as part of her comprehensive strategy to combat food insecurity. This critical piece of legislation requires all Arkansas public schools to provide one free breakfast to students per school day, regardless of their federal

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eligibility for free meals. Arkansas is the first state in the South to create such a program.

Additionally, Governor Sanders previously signed legislation providing free school lunches for eligible students who qualified for reduced-price meals, and announced Arkansas will continue its Summer EBT program this year, ensuring Arkansas' students have access to food in the summer months.

Governor Sanders launched Faith-Based Initiatives to unite Arkansas' diverse faith communities around issues facing the Natural State. Since its inception, the faith-based initiatives team has hosted roundtables and fostered important conversations with faith communities that have led to the development of critical programs to address issues like childhood hunger, maternal health, foster care, and more.

The "E" in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is a Marxist term. Research before you believe! No DEI!

-A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

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Cabinet members, senators, congressmen, governors gather to fight for farmers and farm land security



Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders with U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, Counselor to the President Peter Navarro, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture Glenn "GT" Thompson, and U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville at the USDA Farm National Security Press Conference in Washington D.C. on Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

Blackburn introduces bills to expose foreign influence and protect U.S. property



Sen. Marsha Blackburn

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) introduced a trio of bills to expose and address national security risks posed by foreign adversaries who are leveraging Sister City partnerships, opaque real estate purchases, and agricultural land acquisitions to embed themselves in U.S. communities. The District of Columbia Sister City Integrity Act, the Foreign Property Ownership Transparency Act, and the Prohibition of Agricultural Land for Foreign Adversaries Act would

“The United States cannot allow foreign adversaries like Communist China to quietly embed themselves in our communities and near our critical infrastructure,” said Senator Blackburn. “From Sister City agreements that legitimize hostile regimes, to opaque real estate purchases that demand greater transparency, to buying up farmland near our military bases, we have a responsibility to identify and address these threats...”

help identify vulnerabilities, close backdoor influence channels, and protect American land and institutions from adversarial exploitation. This effort builds on the Trump administration’s executive action barring farmland sales to buyers linked to China and other foreign adversaries.

“The United States cannot allow foreign adversaries like Communist China to quietly embed themselves in our communities and near our critical infrastructure,” said Senator Blackburn. “From Sister City agreements that legitimize hostile regimes, to opaque real estate purchases that demand greater transparency, to buying up farmland near our military bases, we have a responsibility to identify and address these threats. This legislative package shines a light on these activities and will help protect American property and sovereignty.”

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SISTER CITY INTEGRITY ACT

•As of July 10, 2025, Washington, D.C., has 15 signed Sister City agreements, including with jurisdictions in countries designated as foreign adversaries. •These Sister City relationships may provide adversarial regimes with diplomatic legitimacy, opportunities for influence operations, and access to sensitive U.S. political, academic, or civic institutions through soft-power channels such as tourism and investment.

•The District of Columbia Sister City Integrity Act would prohibit Washington, D.C. from maintaining Sister City relationships with jurisdictions in foreign adversary countries such as China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea,

Please see page 8



Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders delivers remarks at the USDA Farm Security National Security Press Conference in Washington D.C. on Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

The National Black Farmers Association offers hot info in August as it gets ready for the 35th Annual NBFA Conference in Birmingham, AL

A Report from The National Black Farmers Association (NBFA)

Join the NBFA for USDA-NRCS Community Meetings in South & North Carolina this August. In-person and virtual options available! More meetings coming soon!

For more information, email to

The NBFA is working directly with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to ensure farmers and landowners are fully informed, engaged, and empowered to protect and strengthen their land through sustainable conservation practices.

NBFA.Office@gmail.com, or AmericanIndianfarmers.com.

You may visit www.blackfarmers.org, or www.native-americanfarmers.org or www.womenfarmers.net

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Civil Rights Attorney

Please see page 10

Saluting one of the oldest state fairs in the nation, the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair with roots back to 1853

History and Interesting Tidbits of the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair

In 1853, the Third Division Fair was held in Lebanon for the first time. Between 1854 and 1885 the Wilson County Fair was located in the original location on Coles Ferry Pike, the site of today’s Jimmy Floyd Center and the Lebanon Senior Citizens Center.

In 1868, Dr. J.M. Anderson and Board of Directors built an amphitheater 70 feet in diameter.

In 1872, Ed Geers drove “Little Dave” to victory in three minutes, four seconds at the Wilson County Fair Harness Races. In 1919 one hundred and twenty-five citizens, tired from WWI, organized a two-day fair at the Courthouse on the Square. Due to the success of this fair, a Fair Board was organized and stock was sold. Twenty acres were purchased on Coles Ferry Pike near the old “Fair Spring” and racing grounds. \$30,000 in improvements were made including a Grandstand, Stable, and Cattle Barn. These were followed with a Poultry Building, Women’s Building and Sheep Barn. The fair was held on this property by the stockholders through 1927.

In 1920, Homer Hancock, Tennessee’s Commissioner of Agriculture was the first President of the Fair Association.

In 1921, contests included hog calling, cattle calling, chicken-calling, - women only.

In 1934, A. W. McCartney was the president of the Tennessee Association of Fairs.

The 1927 fair had an attendance of over 25,000. Between 1927 and 1969 various owners and stockholders continued the fair. The fair was closed in 1970.

In 1973 the fair was re-established by the Lebanon Jaycees called The Mid State Fair. This remained the name of the fair through **1978**. Gordon Skeen was one of the organizers and involved Barbara Buchanan in Beauty Pageants and in 1975 Gordon got Nelson Steed involved as a volunteer with the fair.

When the County Court met in March **1974**, Mr. Bob Burton made a motion to purchase a 104-acre tract of the Baddour Estate. This acquisition of property was the beginnings of the James E. Ward Agricultural and Community Center. From 1975 until 1978 the Mid-State Fair was held on this site. The Lebanon Jaycees were responsible for the construction of the first permanent building, which was a restroom facility on the property.

In 1979 Wilson County Promotions was formed with the purpose of establishing the Wilson County Fair. Thirty-three people were on the first Fair Board. Officers included Johnny Trice, Hale Moss, Nelson Steed, Charlene Key, and Randall Clemons. The Youth Board consisted of 21 members. Attendance that year was 12,000. The James E. Ward Center has been home to the Wilson County Fair under the leadership of Wilson County Promotions and a volunteer Fair Board of 300 members from 1979 until the present. We continue to have a youth board and other volunteers that embrace the responsibility of producing the now Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair. During the late ‘70s and early ‘80s, the Sertoma Club, under the chairmanship of Joe Holbrook, built the Grandstands and the Arena for events they were producing. Today, this is called the Motorsports Arena.

In 1984 the Wilson County Fair was named Tennessee’s Most Improved Fair. Attendance was 21,000. New events were added, including the demolition derby, truck and farm tractor pull, and break-dance contest.

Senator Robert Rochelle pursued a State Grant to buy additional land. Fourteen acres were purchased to the back, one acre (road to Tennessee Blvd.), and two acres to the north of the Arena.

In 1988, Hale Moss was the president of the Tennessee Association of Fairs.

In 1991, Wilson County Fair was named State Champion Fair of the AAA Division. Ground breaking began for Fiddlers Grove.

In 1992, Wilson County Fair was named Tennessee’s Champion of Champions.

In 1993, Wilson County Fair was named Tennessee’s Champion of Champions for the second time.

In 1999, Wilson County Fair was named State Champion. Andy Brummett was the president of the Tennessee Association of Fairs. Attendance tops 257,000.

In 2000, The Ward Ag Center had grown to a total of 244 acres.

In 2004, Wilson County Government and the Wilson County Fair (Wilson County Promotions) partnered to purchase 25.33 acres of adjoining land from the Seay Family Estate. This purchase increased the size of the James E. Ward Ag Center to 267.80. The Wilson County Fair had a record attendance of 427,619.

In 2006, the Wilson County Fair added a picture display of historical Wilson County Schools, two new entertainment stages: Back Porch Stage & Food Court Stage, the Garcia Brothers Circus and a text messaging contest. Outdoor Land area housed the outdoor boat show and mule pulling competition. Improvements in Fiddlers Grove included: Rice Cabin, Train Depot with an operational model train, Grist Mill, new restroom facilities & rock entrance. Attendance was 419,666.

In 2007, Amusements of America signed on as Wilson County’s carnival operator with Crazy Mouse and Fireball as showcase rides. The day temperatures were in triple digits and contributed to lower attendance at the 2007 fair. New Construction included: grandstands, lighting and sound system, two new restrooms one with showers, additional paving was completed on the grounds, new concrete floor in the Fiddlers Grove Pavilion, new fencing in Fiddlers Grove, space refurbished to create a space for the youth board, Train Caboose located next to the Train Depot in the Grove, the Grist Mill flume was installed and provided water for the mill to operate and demonstrate corn mill production, new arena office was constructed, and new concrete block food concessions were built by three county Lions Clubs. Other attractions included: Old-fashion Sorghum Making, Six cowboy look-alikes honored the birthdays of John Wayne & Gene Autry, KC Masterpiece Memorable Meals Contest, and FCE Central Region Cultural Arts Competition. Attendance was 366,641.

In 2008, construction of a new covered arena was completed; the first event held in the arena was the inaugural Betty Freeman Walking Horse Classic opening night of the fair. A Tracy Lawrence Concert (free with paid gate admission) was also held at the new arena. Other new events were Martha White Cobbler Contest, Crank It Up Ice Cream Freeze Off Contest, Jr. Market Goat Show, Off Road Challenge, Exotic Animal Show, Youth Duct Tape Contest and a FCE Fashion Revue Show. New Rides for 2008 were Wave Swinger, Pharaoh's Fury, Cove of Doom (tunnel ride), MTV Funhouse, Monkey Mayhem, Alps Funhouse, Little Eli's Scrambler. Attendance was 466,119. This was another record year.

In 2009, good weather contributed to the record-breaking attendance of 505,434. New features were added to the Grist Mill including an observation porch. A cobbler shop, built around 1883, was relocated to the grounds along with old memorabilia and cobbler tools. A high aerial act performed at the newly dedicated Volunteer Stage. Barrel races and a Darryl Worley Concert, free with paid gate admission, were held in the covered arena. Hay and field crop entries were separated from the fruits and vegetables and displayed under the old log barn. Other new events included: salsa making, guitar hero, arm wrestling, Moo Mania educational agricultural act, Banana Derby Monkey Jockeys, Shutterbug digital camera contest, cell phone photo contest, Cowboy Town Real Western Gunfights, and Ernest Tubb Record Shop Midnite Jamboree live radio broadcast. The Great Give-a-Way included a John Deere Tractor or the choice of a car or truck. A new pavilion was constructed for the Fiddlers Grove Opry, a replica of the Town Square popcorn stand was constructed, two storage sheds were built on to the barn at the covered arena, a new ticket booth was built, new carnival living space was constructed including electrical, 1,200 square feet addition was added to the fair office, master gardeners began seven educational themed flower gardens, ten storage buildings were constructed, and renovation of a horse drawn hearse and a carriage house to store the hearse was added.

In 2010, the large Animal Barn and a 40 x 100 Pole Barn were built. The roofs of the Turner Evans Building and the Pop Smartt Barn were resurfaced. Gutter and drainage improvements were made to the Pageant Stage and the Poultry and Rabbit Barn. Lighting improvements were made at the Turner Evans Building.

In 2011, weather was good and we had another record breaking attendance of 545,945. Tennessee Blvd entrance was widened and paving was completed. The large Animal Barn acquired new bleachers, dirt, gravel, and paving. New events were Baby Quilts for Pre-natal ICU’S, ATV/Utility Flat Track Racing, Decorated Hay Bale, QR Code Scavenger Hunt, Rooster Crowing Contest, Wade Henry High Roller, Robot, and Puppeteers. This was the first year to have a focus on an agricultural commodity to promote the Fair - “Year of Soybean”.

In 2012, James Spears was elected to serve as President of the Tennessee Association of Fairs. He is the 4th representative of the Wilson County Fair to hold this office.

The 2017 Fair Theme was “Here Comes the Fun” and the agricultural commodity - “Year of the Sunflower.” Fair attendance was 488,299. There were 15,629 exhibits and 6,831 exhibitors. There were 1,147 volunteers that donated over 76,873 volunteer hours in the production of the 2017 Wilson County Fair. The once in a lifetime event of

Continued on page 5

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WILSON COUNTY FAIR

TENNESSEE STATE FAIR

AUGUST 14-23, 2025

Tallest ride ever to showcase Carnival Midway at the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair, August 14-23, sending thrills into the outer sphere of one of the nation’s oldest state fairs

Lebanon, TN: Carnival riders at the 2025 Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair will have more thrills this year--seven new rides and attractions. Reithoffer Shows, the fair’s carnival partner will present a total of 63 rides to delight riders of all ages—including kiddie, adult and the ultimate thrill seeker rides. Richard Reithoffer, President, Reithoffer Shows, says the show will present the highest quality and newest attractions that the company has ever staged at the fair. “We’re going all out to provide the fair customers the best midway we can build. Tennessee fairgoers love carnival rides and

Prepare for a thrilling experience with the Lightning ride, which soars 131 feet into the air, featuring rotating arms reminiscent of a windmill. Crafted by Fabbri in Italy, this exciting attraction is making its debut at this year's fair! Accommodating eight riders, it is classified as a Super Spectacular ride, appealing to the most daring thrill-seekers who will want to ride it again and again.

we want to give them the most thrills possible.”, he says. Prepare for a thrilling experience

with the Lightning ride, which soars 131 feet into the air, featuring rotating arms reminiscent of a windmill. Crafted by Fabbri in Italy, this exciting attraction is making its debut at this year's fair! Accommodating eight riders, it is classified as a Super Spectacular ride, appealing to the most daring thrill-seekers who will want to ride it again and again. The Sky Ride, which was unable to open in 2024 due to construction and permitting delays, is now ready for the Fair. Spanning 1050 feet long and reaching a height of 40 feet at its tallest point, this ride features 70 chairs

that can seat two people each, allowing a total of 140 riders at any time. The ride will connect the Fair’s Green Gate to the agricultural area, offering breathtaking views of the entire fairgrounds and enabling patrons to board from either location. Designed for guests of all ages, children must be at least 48 inches tall to participate. A fun fact is that this ride was constructed by Sky Ride manufacturer Bergathon in Chattanooga, TN. For adults, the Joker ride offers a musical experience with 16 cars that can accommodate two passengers each, totaling 32 riders. This engaging ride features four

arms, each with four cars, arranged on a circular disc that tilts while the arms rotate, creating a dizzying and exhilarating experience. *(See photo on page 6)* New kiddie rides include the Samba Balloon, which consists of four hot air balloon cars that gently rise and fall in a circular motion while “floating” through the air. The Red Baron allows little pilots to soar in airplanes that fly around and up and down. The Star Jet features adorable space jets for the little ones to zoom around in, while Treasure Island presents an exciting walk-through obstacle course, guiding kids on an adventure over a bridge walkway that leads to a fun slide at the end. Ride ticket and fair admission pricing and special days can be found on the fair’s website: www.wilsoncountytntatefair.com

Reithoffer Shows is the longest continuous operating amusement company in America. Now in their 128th year of operation, the show operates about 50 events in 16 states. Reithoffer Shows is known for their creative management ideas for bringing events the newest and most unique rides for the public to enjoy. The Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair will run August 14-23 at the James Ward Agriculture Center just north of I-40 Exit 239 on Rt. 70/East Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN. The fair is considered the fastest growing fair in North America and expected to draw about 650,000 patrons during the 10-day run. The Fair’s theme is “Goin Hog Wild and Bacon Memories at the Fair”, and will once again highlight exhibits from all 95 Tennessee counties.



Photos/Courtesy: Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair and Reithoffer Shows

Saluting one of the oldest state fairs in the nation, the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair with roots back to 1853

from page 4

the “Solar Eclipse” was a highlight for this Fair.

The 2018 Fair Theme was “MooAGic Memories at the Wilson County Fair” and the agriculture commodity – “Year of Milk.” Fair attendance was 575,047. There were 16,350 exhibits and 8,599 exhibitors. There were 1,289 volunteers who donated over 84,305 volunteer hours in the production of the 2018 Fair. Fairlife Milk gave away a full tractor trailer load of 52 oz. milk jugs in a 24 hour period. **The 2019** Fair Theme was “A Grand Celebration” where the Fair celebrated 40 years of Wilson County Promotions sponsoring the Fair. The agriculture commodity was the Year of Wool where we educated our fairgoers on the entire Sheep to Shawl process. Fair attendance was 578,131. There were 18,183 exhibits and 11,828 exhibitors. The Fair paid out \$160,384 in premiums. There were 1,623 volunteers who donated over 91,035 volunteer hours in the production of the 2019 Fair. Various celebrations and dedications were conducted daily. **The 2020** traditional Fair was not able to take place due to the pandemic of COVID-19, however the Wilson County Fair Livestock Shows did take place. Over 90 county and state livestock shows took place with 4,187 entries and 1,277 exhibitors participating. The Shows paid out \$79,528. This was the first year that the Livestock Shows ran over an 11-day period. **2021** was a unique year in that the Tennessee State Fair was combined with the Wilson County Fair and the Fair became the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair. The was also the first year that the Fair ran for a full 10 days. The 2021 Fair Theme was “Honoring Hometown Heroes” and the agriculture commodity – “Year of Beef.” Fair attendance was 480,627. There were 17,025 entries and 7,953 exhibitors. The Fair paid out \$281,170 in premiums. There were 1,860 volunteers who donated 99,162 hours in the production of the 2021 Fair. Educating fairgoers in the “Pasture to Plate” process and celebrating beef with the Tennessee Beef Council and Tennessee Beef Producers who sponsored spokesperson Lance Pekus (Cowboy Ninja Warrior) and a “Beef. It’s What’s for Dinner” Ninja Course. Today Fiddlers Grove Historic Village is the home to over 60 structures that focus on the history and life of the Wilson County and Middle Tennessee area. The village operates year-round with events from weddings in the Melrose Church, the Christmas Festival of Lights, to educating the community in the arts of blacksmithing, weaving, storytelling, quilting, or just having a good time reliving life in days gone by. Since **1853** the Wilson County Fair truly became Tennessee’s “Big County Fair” a true “Tennessee Champion of Champion Fairs.” As the State Fair is now joined with the Wilson County Fair to become the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair, the Fair’s success is still due in large part to the many hours that the volunteers contribute and the pride everyone takes in “their” Fair. The Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair is one of the largest events in the great State of Tennessee.

Some attractions, highlights, and good times at the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair

LEBANON, TN – The countdown is on for the BEST 10 Days of the Year! The Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair, presented by your Mid-South Ford Dealers, is thrilled to announce this year’s concert line up!

Bates Ford proudly presents **Jamie O’Neal** and **Ty Herndon** at the Entertainment Pavilion Monday, August 18 at 8 pm at the James E. Ward Ag Center in Lebanon, TN.

Jamie O’Neal is a platinum-selling country music singer and hit songwriter known for her powerful vocals and chart-topping hits. Bursting onto the scene with her debut album *Shiver*, O’Neal scored back-to-back No. 1 singles with “There Is No Arizona” and “When I Think About Angels.” Her heartfelt lyrics and soulful sound have earned her four Grammy nominations, ACM and Billboard awards, and a lasting place in the hearts of country music fans.

Ty Herndon is a Grammy-nominated country music artist known for his heartfelt vocals and chart-topping hits. Since his debut in the mid-90s, Herndon has delivered memorable songs like “What Mattered Most,” “Living in a Moment,” and “Hands of a Working Man,” earning him multiple No. 1 singles, gold albums, and a devoted fan base. With a career defined by authen-



Bates Ford proudly presents Jamie O’Neal and Ty Herndon on Monday, August 18 at 8 pm. at the Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair, presented by your Mid-South Ford Dealers. (Photo/Courtesy: Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair)

ticity and resilience, Ty continues to inspire with his powerful storytelling and passionate live performances.

Bates Ford will also be bringing the Pitch Meeting with Oliver Steele and Friends to the stage on Sunday, August 17 at 6 pm at the

Entertainment Pavilion. Pitch Music, “The World’s Best Open Mic,” is a music-first, non-profit artist development organi-

zation focused on giving promising talent access to the tools they need to bring their artistry to life, without compromise. Joining them is Oliver Steele, a standout vocalist and finalist from American Idol, whose powerful voice and heartfelt delivery have earned him a loyal following. A Mt. Juliet, Tennessee native, Oliver brings a fresh yet familiar sound to the stage, making this performance a true homecoming. Together with his friends Natalie Layne, Crystal Rose, Spencer Ford, Tabitha Meeks, MP Gannon, Moga Family Band, Makenna Hartlin, Young Original, Summer Joy, Carson Mac and the Pitch Meeting crew, this concert promises to be a celebration of music, storytelling and Tennessee talent.

With 16 stages of entertainment during 10 days of the Fair, every night will be filled with so many exciting, family friendly events. Come out and listen to bluegrass, country music and more, enjoy clogging and square-dancing competitions, pageants from the Doll Parade to Ms. Senior along with our Fairest of the Fair, hypnotist and much more! There’s so much to see and do that you can’t see it all in one visit!

For a detailed schedule of our concerts and entertainment, visit www.wilsoncountytntatefair.com.

We’ll see YOU at the Fair!

Plan ahead for a safe visit to the fair

LEBANON, TN – As the 2025 Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair presented by your Mid-South Ford Dealers prepares to welcome thousands of fairgoers from across the state and beyond, organizers want to remind guests of important safety protocols and parking information ahead of Opening Day on August 14. To ensure a secure environment, all fairgoers will walk through metal detectors and have bags inspected at the gate. A clear bag policy is in place, and weapons of any kind are strictly prohibited.

- Approved Bags:**
- Clear plastic, vinyl or PVC bags that do not exceed 12”x6”x12” – a logo no larger than 4.5”x3.4” can be displayed on one side of a permissible clear bag.
 - One-gallon clear plastic freezer bag [Ziplock bag or similar]
 - Small clutch bags no larger than 4.5”x6.5” – approximately the size of a hand, with or without a handle or strap.
 - Medically necessary items (after proper inspection and tagging)
 - Diaper bags accompanied with a baby (after proper inspection and tagging).

General parking is free with \$10 preferred parking available. Handicap parking is also available. Free satellite shuttle service is offered every day of the Fair from two off-site locations: Cumberland University Football Parking Lot (415 Harding Dr.) and First Baptist Church (209 E. Main St.). Shuttles operate from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays, 10am to 11pm on Saturdays and noon to 11 p.m. on Sunday.

Fairgoers are encouraged to lock their vehicles, secure or remove valuables and note their parking location to avoid confusion later. As you arrive, please look for directional signage and entrance gate numbers to help you navigate parking patterns and entry points smoothly.

The 2025 Wilson County – Tennessee State Fair runs Thursday, August 14 through Saturday, August 23, 2025. Gates open weekdays at 4 p.m., Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Sunday at 12 noon. Admission gates close at 9 p.m. Sunday – Thursday and 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Please note that parking lot gates will close 30 minutes prior to the Fair’s ticket gates, so plan your arrival accordingly.

For a complete list of fair rules, entry policies and other general information, visit www.wilson-countytnstatefair.com.

We’ll see YOU at the Fair!

... And here’s the Joker, a ride for adults. The Joker ride offers a musical experience with 16 cars that can accommodate two passengers each, totaling 32 riders. This engaging ride features four arms, each with four cars, arranged on a circular disc that tilts while the arms rotate, creating a dizzying and exhilarating experience. *(See article with more rides and thrills on page 5)*





Reithoffer Shows, “the Aristocrat of Show Business” continues to be a part of the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair

We’ll see YOU at the Fair!

August 14-23, 2025!

YEAR OF Pork!



WILSON COUNTY FAIR

TENNESSEE STATE FAIR

AUGUST 14-23, 2025

GOIN' Hog Wild & Bacon MEMORIES AT THE FAIR!



Fair time at the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair!

NRA’s Political Victory Fund endorses Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears, Attorney Gen. Jason Miyares, and John Reid in critical Virginia races that affect 2nd Amendment rights

FAIRFAX, VA , August 5, 2025- The National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund (NRA-PVF) is proud to announce endorsements in three critical Virginia races. Based on their pro-gun advocacy and commitment to preserving the rights of Virginians, NRA-PVF has issued the following endorsements:

•**GOVERNOR: Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears**

•**ATTORNEY GENERAL: Jason Miyares (Incumbent)**

•**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR: John Reid**

Following the announcement of the endorsements for these nationally targeted races, NRA-PVF Chairman John Commerford released the following statement:

“The Second Amendment rights of Virginians have been under constant attack by radical progressives who seek to rubber-stamp Michael Bloomberg’s extreme gun control agenda. By electing pro-gun candidates like Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, Attorney General Jason Miyares, and John Reid, Virginia gun-owners can rest assured that they will be protected from the never-ending push to disarm law-abiding citizens.”

To ensure that the rights of law-abiding gun owners remain pro-



Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears

tected, the National Rifle Association is deploying staff and resources to push pro-gun candidates in Virginia to victory. “In today’s current political era, simply voting is no longer enough. NRA members and Second Amendment advocates must take an active role in the political process. Get involved, knock doors, register voters, and do whatever it takes to push pro-gun candidates to victory,” said Commerford.

Gun rights supporters and NRA members in Virginia are encouraged to view the complete list of



Attorney General Jason Miyares

endorsements on nrapvf.org and support candidates who prioritize the rights of gun owners and sportsmen.

BACKGROUND:

Governor: Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears ("A" Endorsed)

Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, a Marine veteran and former Virginia Delegate, has dedicated her life to upholding the Constitutional rights of Virginians. Throughout her career, Sears has been an outspoken leader in the fight against progressive politicians’ incessant

calls to disarm law-abiding citizens, ban commonly owned firearms, and undermine the Constitutional rights of their constituents.

As Lieutenant Governor, Sears worked alongside Governor Glenn Youngkin, who vetoed dozens of extreme gun control measures and fought for the rights of all Virginia residents. As the next Governor of the Commonwealth, NRA members can rest assured that Sears’ veto pen stands at the ready to protect the rights of gun owners.

Attorney General: Jason Mi-

yares ("A" Endorsed)

Throughout his career, Attorney General Jason Miyares has continually fought for and delivered key victories for NRA members. As a former prosecutor and current Attorney General, Miyares understands that promoting policies that target criminals, not law-abiding gun owners, is the key to lowering crime rates in the Commonwealth.

Before becoming the Attorney General, Miyares served as a Delegate in the Virginia House of Delegates, where he voted to block extreme gun control measures. These proposals included, but were not limited to, firearm confiscation orders, arbitrary waiting periods, expanding gun-free zones, and bans on commonly owned firearms and magazines.

Lieutenant Governor: John Reid ("A" Endorsed)

John Reid is a prolific pro-gun voice in Virginia media. Throughout his career, Reid has been a vocal gun rights advocate and opposes progressive policies that would disarm law-abiding citizens.

As Lieutenant Governor, John Reid will continue his fight to protect and preserve Second Amendment rights in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith seeks to restore fairness for firearms businesses



Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith

Hyde-Smith Also Cosponsors Resolution Designating August as National Shooting Sports Month

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) last week teamed up with U.S. Senator James Risch (R-Idaho) to introduce legislation to stop the Small Business Administration (SBA) from using its loan programs to discriminate against firearms-related businesses.

The Equal Shot Act (S.2562) responds to concerns of politically-motivated discrimination against gun-related businesses under the Biden administration and seeks to ensure all eligible small businesses receive fair, unbiased treatment. Related to this unfair treatment, Hyde-Smith also co-sponsored Risch’s S.Res.342, a resolution that recognizes the contributions of small business firearm manufacturers and designates August as National Shooting Sports Month.

“It’s high time we codify protections against discrimination for firearm manufacturers and related businesses. Gun owners and the small businesses that support them have faced dark years. It started with Operation Choke Point, an Obama initiative that pressured financial institutions to cut off services to lawful firearm-related businesses, and it continued under the last administration, which weaponized policies restricting Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens,” Senator Hyde-Smith said.

tions against discrimination for firearm manufacturers and related businesses. Gun owners and the small businesses that support them have faced dark years. It started with Operation Choke Point, an Obama initiative that pressured financial institutions to cut off services to lawful firearm-related businesses, and it continued under the last administration, which weaponized policies restricting Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens,” Senator Hyde-Smith said. “The SBA needs to course correct and again be willing to support small manufacturers of firearms, shooting ranges, or other small businesses associated with the time-honored right to bear arms.”

“Federal agencies have no authority to deny critical support to small businesses based on ideological bias,” Senator Risch said. “The Equal Shot Act defends the Second Amendment rights of Idaho’s small business firearm industry and ensures these law-abiding Americans have fair access to resources that will help them thrive.”

S.2562 would prohibit the SBA Administrator from adopting any policy, practice, guidance, or directive that would restrict a firearm entity, affiliate, or trade association from applying for financial assistance under the

President Trump’s Executive Order on Discrimination in Banking and in De-banking Citizens and Businesses due to Politics (full text)... from front page

industries disfavored by regulators based on factors other than individualized, objective, risk-based standards. As a result, individuals, their businesses, and their families have been subjected to debanking on the basis of their political affiliations, religious beliefs or lawful business activities, and have suffered frozen payrolls, debt and crushing interest, and other significant harms to their livelihoods, reputations, and financial well-being. Such practices are incompatible with a free society and the principle that the provision of banking services should be based on material, measurable, and justifiable risks. Such practices, when wielded to discriminate against customers and businesses in credit transactions due to their religion, are also unlawful under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.). They further undermine public trust in banking institutions and their regulators, discriminate against political beliefs and free expression of those beliefs, and weaponize a politicized regulatory state.

Sec. 2. Policy. It is the policy of the United States that no American should be denied access to financial services because of their constitutionally or statutorily protected beliefs, affiliations, or political views, and to ensure that politicized or unlawful debanking is not used as a tool to inhibit such beliefs, affiliations, or political views. Banking decisions must instead be made on the basis of individualized, objective, and risk-based analyses.

Sec. 3. Definitions. (a) The term “politicized or unlawful debanking” refers to an act by a bank, savings association, credit union, or other financial services provider to directly or indirectly adversely restrict access to, or adversely modify the conditions of, accounts, loans, or other banking products or financial services of any customer or potential customer on the basis of the customer’s or potential customer’s political or religious beliefs, or on the basis of the customer’s or potential customer’s lawful business activities that the financial service provider disagrees with or disfavors for political reasons.

(b) The term “Federal banking regulators” refers to the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Federal member agencies of the Financial Stability Oversight Council with supervisory and regulatory authority over banks, savings associations, or credit unions.

Sec. 4. Removing Reputation Risk and Politicized or Unlawful Debanking. (a) Within 180 days of the date of this order, each appropriate Federal banking regulator shall, to the greatest extent permitted by law, remove the use of reputation risk or equivalent concepts that could result in politicized or unlawful debanking, as well as any other considerations that could be used to engage in such debanking, from their guidance documents, manuals, and other materials (other than existing regulations or other materials requiring notice-and-comment rulemaking) used to regulate or examine financial institutions over which they have jurisdiction. The removal of such concepts shall be made clear by each appropriate Federal banking regulator through formal guidance to their examiners. The Federal banking regulators shall also consider rescinding or amending existing regulations, consistent with applicable law, to eliminate or amend any regulations that could result in politicized or unlawful debanking and to ensure that any regulated firm’s or individual’s reputation is considered for regulatory, supervisory, banking, or enforcement purposes solely to the extent necessary to reach a reasonable and apolitical risk-based assessment.

(b) The SBA shall, within 60 days of the date of this order, give notice to all financial institutions with which it guarantees loans under its lending programs, requiring that each financial institution that is subject to the SBA’s jurisdiction and supervision:

(i) within 120 days of the date of this order, makes reasonable efforts to identify and reinstate any previous clients of the institution or any subsidiaries denied service through a politicized or unlawful debanking action in violation of a statutory or regulatory requirement under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) or any requirement in a Standard Operating Procedures Manual or Policy Notice related to a program or function of the Office of Capital Access, with notice of the reinstatement sent to the victim;

(ii) within 120 days of the date of this order, identifies all potential clients denied access to financial services provided by the financial institution or any subsidiaries through a politicized or unlawful debanking action in violation of a statutory or regulatory requirement under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act or any requirement in a Standard Operating Procedures Manual or Policy Notice related to a program or function of the Office of Capital Access, and provides notice to each victim advising of the denied access and the renewed option to engage in such services previously denied; and

(iii) within 120 days of the date of this order, identifies all potential clients denied access to payment processing services provided by the financial institution or any subsidiaries through a politicized or unlawful debanking action in violation of a statutory or regulatory requirement under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act or any requirement in a Standard Operating Procedures Manual or Policy Notice related to a program or function of the Office of Capital Access, and provides notice to each victim advising of the denied access and the renewed option to engage in such services previously denied.

Sec. 5. Scrutinizing Politicized or Unlawful Debanking. (a) Within 180 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, shall develop a comprehensive strategy for further measures to combat politicized or unlawful debanking activities of financial regulators and financial institutions across the Federal Government, including consideration of legislative or regulatory options to eliminate such debanking.

(b) Within 120 days of the date of this order, each Federal banking regulator shall conduct a review to identify financial institutions subject to its jurisdiction that have had any past or current, formal or informal, policies or practices that require, encourage, or otherwise influence such financial institution to engage in politicized or unlawful debanking and to take appropriate remedial action, to the extent authorized and consistent with applicable law, including levying fines, issuing consent decrees, or imposing other disciplinary measures against any financial institution subject to the jurisdiction of such Federal banking regulator that such Federal banking regulator finds has engaged in politicized or unlawful debanking that violates applicable law (including section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45), section 1031 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5531), and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act).

(c) Within 180 days of the date of this order, the Federal banking regulators shall review their current supervisory and complaint data to identify any financial institution that has engaged in unlawful debanking on the basis of religion and, if such financial institution is unable to obtain compliance within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. 1691 and 1691e(g), refer such matters to the Attorney General for an appropriate civil action, as appropriate.

Sec. 6. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) The costs for publication of this order shall be borne by the Small Business Administration.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
August 7, 2025.

Country Cruising adds veteran music radio broadcaster Storme Warren to fall itinerary; Five Nights! Five Stages!

Artist-Hosted Special Excursions Announced Both Onboard and in Key West, Florida and Nassau, Bahamas

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. August 7, 2025 – Flying Dutchmen Travel announces the addition of Storme Warren as the “heartbeat” of the Country Cruising lineup, sailing October 27- November 1, 2025, from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Key West and Nassau, Bahamas. For more information on the cruise, including booking and the full itinerary details, visit countrycruising.com.

Warren has 41 years of experience as a radio broadcaster, including 32 years within the Nashville music industry. He’s

Warren has 41 years of experience as a radio broadcaster, including 32 years within the Nashville music industry. He’s been featured at major music festivals and events acting as official emcee/master of ceremonies across North America, Australia, and the Caribbean.

been featured at major music festivals and events acting as official emcee/master of ceremonies across North America, Australia, and the Caribbean.

Devoted to his work and his community, the award-winning personality continues to support local and national causes including ACM Lifting Lives, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Operation Song, USO, and more. He can be heard daily on The Big 615 Channel on Tune-In, as part of Garth Brooks’ Sevens Network and operates Stone Beaver Productions, a full-service video production company.

“This is going to be a fantastic cruise. I love this lineup. They’ve all been friends of mine for many years. I’m looking forward to being your cruise host!” said Storme Warren.

In addition, artist-led excursions and adventures on and off board have been announced, including:

- Tiki Sandbar Escape – Hosted by Ray Scott and Clark Hill
- Key West Secret Food Tour – Hosted by Whey and Taryn Jennings
- Mimosa Morning Snorkel Sail – Hosted by Chad Bushnell

Blackburn introduces bills to expose foreign influence and protect U.S. property ... from page 3

require termination of existing relationships within 180 days, and bar the use of federal funds for international outreach unless D.C. certifies compliance.

THE FOREIGN PROPERTY OWNERSHIP TRANSPARENCY ACT

- Concerns are growing about housing access and national security risks stemming from opaque foreign real estate investments.
- Reports have documented how foreign buyers—especially those using anonymous shell entities—are distorting U.S. housing markets and threatening national security.
- The Foreign Property Ownership Transparency Act would:
- Direct the Comptroller Gen-



- Rum Mixology Class – Hosted by Jessie Leigh
- Rum Academy Tasting Experience – Hosted by Chad Bushnell and JB Aaron
- Walking Tour & Key Lime Pie

Making – Hosted by The Flat River Band
Previously announced performers include award-winning country musicians Trace Adkins, Clay Walker, LOCASH, Jerrod

Niemann, Canaan Smith and Song Suffragettes – joined by rising talents Maggie Baugh, Allie Colleen, Whey Jennings, Flat River Band, and more!

Randy Travis visits Grammy Museum Mississippi from page 9

dedication to U.S. troops, including five USO tours, and received the Bob Hope Entertainment Award. He was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2004 and is celebrated on Nashville's Music City Walk of Fame. Since suffering a near-fatal stroke in 2013, Travis—through the support of his wife, Mary, and rigorous physical therapy—has made remarkable strides in recovery, including improvements in speaking, walking, and singing. In 2019, he released his critically acclaimed memoir *Forever and Ever, Amen*, co-authored with Ken Abraham.

In May 2024, with the assistance of cutting-edge AI technologies, Travis and Warner Music Nashville released “Where That Came From,” marking his first new recording in over a decade and showcasing his signature vocals. The single debuted at No. 45 on Billboard’s Country Airplay chart and was met with enthusiastic praise from fans and country radio.

In 2021, CMT named Travis the CMT Artist of a Lifetime. In 2022, he released his award-winning documentary *More Life*, which garnered six Telly Awards. In May 2024, with the assistance of cutting-edge AI technologies, Travis and Warner Music Nashville released “Where That Came From,” marking his first new recording in over a decade and showcasing his signature vocals. The single debuted at No. 45 on Billboard’s Country Airplay chart and was met with enthusiastic praise from fans and country radio. The release also sparked a new chapter of advocacy, as Travis and his wife began working to promote creators’ rights in Washington D.C. and across the nation, championing fair compensation and protections for artists in the evolving digital age. For more information, visit RandyTravis.com.

About James Dupré
James Dupré was born and raised in Bayou Chicot, Louisiana. He was named one of Rolling Stone Magazine’s “Country Artists You Need to Know” and has spent years sharing his smooth baritone voice with his fans across social media and at venues and festivals across the United States, Canada, and Europe. The one-time aspir-

ing meteorologist turned paramedic became a YouTube sensation in 2007 which ultimately led to an invitation to perform on The Ellen Degeneres Show. Shortly after, he released his debut album *It’s All Happening* in 2010, which charted on Billboard. After signing a record deal with Warner Music Nashville in 2011, Dupré began performing and touring full-time. In 2015, Dupré appeared on NBC’s *The Voice* (Season 9) with a four chair turn, landing him a spot on Adam Levine’s team. Following his departure from *The Voice*, James released his sophomore album *Stoned to Death*, yielding two singles charting on the Billboard Indicator chart: “Hurt Good” and the title track. The father of five made his acting debut in the film “The Price” playing the son of a country singer portrayed by Randy Travis. In 2019, James was hand-picked by Randy and his wife, Mary, as the special guest vocalist for the “More Life Tour.” For more information, visit JamesDupre.com.

About GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi

Developed by the Cleveland Music Foundation—a nonprofit organization founded in 2011—the 28,000-square-foot GRAMMY Museum Mississippi is housed near the campus of Delta State University, home of the Delta Music Institute’s Entertainment Industry Studies program, which features the most unique audio recording facilities in the South. Affiliated with the GRAMMY Museum Foundation™, GRAMMY Museum Mississippi is dedicated to exploring the past, present, and future of music, and the cultural context from which it emerges, while casting a focused spotlight on the deep musical roots of Mississippi. The Museum features a dynamic combination of public events, educational programming, engaging multimedia presentations, and interactive permanent and traveling exhibits, including a Mississippi-centric area that introduces visitors to the impact of Mississippi’s songwriters, producers, and musicians on the traditional and modern music landscape.

For more information, visit grammymuseumms.com.

Sen. Hyde-Smith seeks fairness for firearms businesses from page 7

Small Business Act or Small Business Investment Act, including loans or loan guarantees. The National Rifle Association, Gunowners of America, National Shooting Sports Foundation, and National Association of Gun Rights support the legislation, which has been referred to the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. The National Shooting Sports Month resolution recognizes the role of small manufacturers of

firearms in preserving the rights of law-abiding Americans to exercise their Second Amendment rights through shooting sports, including hunting, target shooting, and competitive marksmanship.

It also credits shooting sports for promoting safe and responsible firearm handling, outdoor stewardship, and civil engagement through clubs, ranges, and competitions.

Watch for
The Mid-South Tribune
31st Annual
Black History Month
Special Edition
in February 2026

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Country music legend Randy Travis visits the Grammy Museum Mississippi for sold-out, members only evening featuring conversation and music from James Dupre



It was a time to honor the talent of Randy Travis at the Grammy Museum Mississippi. Shown here are (L to R): GRAMMY Museum MS Board Member and Co-Host Zach Farnum, James Dupré, Randy Travis, Mary Travis, Board Director Emeritus and Co-Host Tricia Walker. (Photo/Courtesy: Grammy-Mississippi Museum)

“We were thrilled to welcome Randy Travis, whose contributions to country music are immeasurable, for a truly unforgettable evening,” said Emily Havens, Executive Director of GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi. “The overwhelming response from our members and the generosity shown during the auction speak to the deep connection our community feels to Randy’s legacy and to the power of music education.”

CLEVELAND, Miss. (August 8, 2025) -- GRAMMY® Award winning singer, songwriter, and actor Randy Travis — one of the most influential artists in the history of the genre — made a special appearance at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi on Tuesday, Aug. 5 as part of its An Evening With series. The exclusive members-only event, held in the Museum’s 140-seat Sanders Soundstage, sold out in less than 24 hours. Attendees were treated to an intimate evening featuring Randy Travis, his wife Mary Travis, and special guest vocalist James Dupré, who performed some of Randy’s greatest hits, including "Forever and Ever, Amen," "Three Wooden Crosses," and more. A pre-event reception welcomed guests ahead of the program, setting the tone for a memorable night celebrating the legacy of the country music icon. A highlight of the evening was a surprise live auction featuring a guitar signed by Randy Travis that went for \$15,000. Proceeds from the winning bid benefited both GRAMMY Museum Mississippi’s mission to promote music education and The Randy Travis Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness for viral cardiomyopathy and providing arts and music enrichment for children. A special thank you goes to Paul Janoush

for his generous support of these important causes. In an additional act of generosity, Janoush donated the signed guitar back to the Museum, where it will be added to the institution’s permanent collection. “We were thrilled to welcome Randy Travis, whose contributions to country music are immeasurable, for a truly unforgettable evening,” said Emily Havens, Executive Director of GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi. “The overwhelming response from our members and the generosity shown during the auction speak to the deep connection our community feels to Randy’s legacy and to the power of music education.” “We are truly honored to sponsor An Evening with Randy Travis at the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi,” said Michael Belenchia, President and CEO of Needle Specialty Products. “This museum is such a vital part of our community and our state, celebrating the rich musical heritage that connects us all. Our company is proud to support its mission and to be a part of such a meaningful event.” This program was generously sponsored by Needle Specialty Products and the Janoush Family, with additional support provided by Visit Mississippi, South-Group, Robinson Electric, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Super-



Shown here at the Grammy Museum Mississippi are (L to R): GRAMMY Museum MS Board Member and Co-Host Zach Farnum, James Dupré, Randy Travis, Mary Travis, Board Director Emeritus and Co-Host Tricia Walker (Photo/Courtesy: Grammy Mississippi Museum)

Talk Mississippi, and Regions. To gain access to future exclusive members-only programming like An Evening With Randy Travis, visit grammymuseumms.org/support for more information about becoming a Museum member.

About Randy Travis
With lifetime sales exceeding 23

million, Randy Travis is one of the most successful multi-genre artists of all time and a 2016 inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame. A member of the Grand Ole Opry since 1986, his accolades include seven Grammy Awards, 11 Academy of Country Music Awards, 10 American Music Awards, two People’s Choice Awards, seven Music

City News Awards, eight Dove Awards from the Gospel Music Association, and five Country Music Association Awards. Three of his performances earned CMA Song of the Year honors: “On the Other Hand” (1986), “Forever and Ever, Amen” (1987), and “Three Wooden Crosses” (2002). To date, he has earned 23 No. 1 singles, 31 Top

10 hits, and more than 40 appearances in feature films and television shows. His discography includes four Gold albums, four Platinum albums, one Double Platinum album, one Triple Platinum album, and one Quintuple Platinum album. In 1992, Travis was recognized by the USO for his support and Please see page 8

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MINI PLAN

The National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) offers hot information in August and gets ready for the 35th Annual NBFA Conference in Birmingham, Alabama ... from page 3

Whether you're just getting started or looking to expand your conservation efforts, the National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) is here to guide you, connect you with trusted experts, and help you unlock the full range of programs and support available to you!

The NBFA is working directly with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to ensure farmers and landowners are fully informed, engaged, and empowered to protect and strengthen their land through sustainable conservation practices.

Now is the time to get informed and take action. Join us at an upcoming NBFA and USDA NRCS informational meeting to learn how you can access valuable programs designed to help you conserve your land, boost productivity, and receive financial assistance for your operation.

- Topics Include:**
- How to create a free conservation plan with NRCS
 - What USDA programs are available to you, including funding
 - How NBFA can help you apply and stay connected
 - Real stories from farmers who've successfully used these programs

Learn about Financial Assis-

35TH NATIONAL BLACK FARMERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

UPDATES ON USDA PROGRAMS, LAWSUITS & SETTLEMENTS

WHEN:
OCT 31 & NOV 1, 2025
9AM - 5PM & 9AM - 3PM

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NATIONAL BLACK FARMERS ASSOCIATION



JOHN BOYD
Founder & President

KARA BOYD
Program Director

BEN CRUMP
Civil Rights Attorney

For more information, email to NBFA.Office@gmail.com or AmericanIndianfarmers@gmail.com or visit www.blackfarmers.org or www.nativeamericanfarmers.org

- tance Programs such as:**
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Provides payments to help implement conservation practices like cover cropping, fencing, high tunnels, irrigation upgrades, and more
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Supports producers who maintain or improve existing conservation efforts. Offers financial incentives for practices that build soil health, reduce erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat
 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Helps protect and restore wetlands or keep working farmland in agriculture through long-term easements
- These meetings are open to all types of producers, including row crop farmers, livestock producers, vegetable growers, orchardists, beekeepers, forest landowners, and beginning or urban farmers!
- This is your chance to take the next step in protecting your land, growing your operation, and making your voice heard!
- For more information, you can also visit: Get Started With NRCS

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Provides payments to help implement conservation practices like cover cropping, fencing, high tunnels, irrigation upgrades, and more

Upcoming 35th Annual National Black Farmers Association Conference in Birmingham, Alabama! Register Now!

Registration is now open for the 35th National Black Farmers Association Conference!

We look forward to welcoming farmers, families, and supporters from across the country for two days of connection, learning, and empowerment.

Marriott Birmingham
3590 Grandview Parkway, Birmingham, AL 35243
October 31, 2025 9am - 5pm
November 01, 2025 9am - 3pm

We encourage you to reserve your accommodations as soon as possible. Limited rooms are available at the conference rate.

Source: The National Black Farmers Association (NBFA)

During the Great American Farmers Market, USDA Sec. Rollins joins HHS Sec. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to remove unhealthy foods from SNAP

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 4, 2025 – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, joined by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., hosted Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds and West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey and signed six new food choice state waivers to further advance President Trump's efforts to Make America Healthy Again. The signed waivers will amend the statutory definition of food for purchase for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) in West Virginia, Florida, Colorado, Louisiana, Okla-

"For years, SNAP has used taxpayer dollars to fund soda and candy—products that fuel America's diabetes and chronic disease epidemics," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kennedy. "These waivers help put real food back at the center of the program and empower states to lead the charge in protecting public health. I thank the governors who have stepped up to request waivers, and I encourage others to follow their lead. This is how we Make America Healthy Again."

homa, and Texas, each commencing in 2026. "It is incredible to see so many states take action at this critical moment in our nation's history and do something to begin to address chronic health problems. President Trump has changed the status quo, and the entire cabinet is taking action to Make America Healthy Again. At USDA, we play a key role in supporting Americans who fall on hard times, and that commitment does not change. Rather, these state waivers promote healthier options for families in need," said Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins. "For years, SNAP has used taxpayer dollars to fund soda and candy—products that fuel America's diabetes and chronic disease



USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins signs food choice state waivers to amend statutory definitions for SNAP program. Also,, supporting the waivers were HHS Secretary Robert Kennedy, Jr., Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, and West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey. (Photo/Courtesy: USDA)

- epidemics," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kennedy. "These waivers help put real food back at the center of the program and empower states to lead the charge in protecting public health. I thank the governors who have stepped up to request waivers, and I encourage others to follow their lead. This is how we Make America Healthy Again."
- "I hope to see all 50 states join this bold commonsense approach. For too long, the root causes of our chronic disease epidemic has been addressed with lip service only. It's time for powerful changes to our nation's SNAP program," said FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, M.D., M.P.H. "The goal is simple—reduce mass suffering from diabetes, obesity, and other long term medical conditions. I applaud the leadership of Secretaries Rollins and Kennedy, and President Trump in going bold."
- "Thanks to Secretary Rollins, Secretary Kennedy Jr., and the Trump administration, West Virginia is on the forefront when it comes to Making America Healthy Again," said West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey. "We are cleaning up the food, getting active, and rewarding healthy choices. Today's signing of our SNAP waiver to remove soda as a taxpayer-subsidized entitlement is another step toward reversing negative health trends and helping West Virginians live long, healthy, and purposeful lives."
- "I appreciate the Trump Administration's focus on improving the health of Americans and am

proud that Iowa was the first state in the country to submit a waiver to pilot a Healthy SNAP initiative," said Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds. "With the USDA's approval, starting on January 1, we'll begin directing all SNAP dollars to the purchase of non-taxable food items, eliminating soft drinks, candy, and other taxable foods and beverages as eligible SNAP purchases. These changes will empower families to take charge of their health and achieve SNAP's foundational goal—meeting their nutritional needs."

"In Florida, we are ensuring SNAP supports nutritious options that help families thrive, not unhealthy products that lead to long-term health problems," said Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. "Thank you to President Trump for approving our waiver request."

"Today, because of the leadership of President Trump, Secretary Rollins, and Secretary Kennedy, Louisiana's SNAP program just became much stronger and healthier, benefiting children and families for generations to come. Gone are the days of taxpayers subsidizing unhealthy lifestyles and eating habits," said Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry. "With today's waiver signing, I am proud to say that Louisiana isn't just par-

Please see page 11



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U.S. Postal Service honors William F. Buckley, Jr. who helped to define modern conservatism with a Forever Stamp honor

The U.S. Postal Service will honor William F. Buckley Jr., a larger-than-life figure who helped define modern American conservatism as a writer, political commentator and novelist, with a new stamp to be dedicated at Yale University.

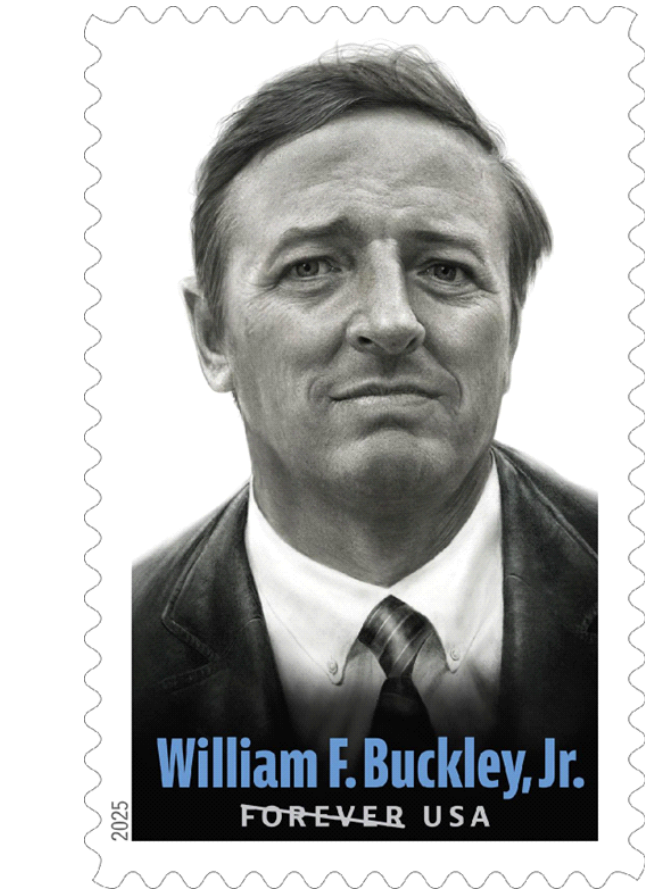
The first-day-of-issue event for the William F. Buckley Jr. commemorative Forever stamp will be held on Sept. 9 and is free and open to the public.

News of the stamp is being shared with the hashtag #WilliamFBuckleyStamp.

Isaac Cronkhite, chief processing and distribution officer and executive vice president, U.S. Postal Service will participate in the event which will be held at the Beinecke Plaza at Yale University, at 121 Wall St. in New Haven, CT 06511

Dedication ceremony attendees are encouraged to RSVP at usps.com/williamfbuckleystamp.

Background: William F. Buckley Jr. was a defining figure in modern U.S. conservatism. As the founder of National Review and host of the public television series “Firing Line,” Buckley shaped the conservative movement into a formidable political force. Known



for his eloquence, wit and ability to unite different conservative voices, his influence ranged from mid-20th-century politics to the White House.

A major part of that influence came through National Review, a magazine that Buckley founded in 1955 to strengthen conservatism at a time when liberalism

As “Firing Line” popularized conservative thought, the movement gained political momentum. By the 1970s, conservatism was influencing public policy, with Ronald Reagan adopting many of Buckley’s ideas as governor of California and later as president. Throughout this time, Buckley remained a trusted advisor, further shaping the mainstream conservative agenda.

dominated U.S. politics. He united thinkers across the spectrum to shape a relevant, non-extremist ideology. The magazine’s mission was clear: to “stand athwart history, yelling Stop.” Buckley’s earlier books, “God and Man at Yale” (1951) and “McCarthy and His Enemies” (1954), had established his rep-

utation, but National Review solidified him as the intellectual leader of modern conservatism. Within a decade, it became the nation’s most influential conservative publication.

Buckley expanded his reach beyond print by bringing his sharp intellect and humor to television with “Firing Line” in 1966. The show featured spirited conversations with guests from across the political spectrum, tackling divisive issues in a way that engaged conservative and liberal viewers alike. In 1969, “Firing Line” earned an Emmy Award, further cementing Buckley as the public face of conservatism.

As “Firing Line” popularized conservative thought, the movement gained political momentum. By the 1970s, conservatism was influencing public policy, with Ronald Reagan adopting many of Buckley’s ideas as governor of California and later as president. Throughout this time, Buckley remained a trusted advisor, further shaping the mainstream conservative agenda.

After 35 years, Buckley retired from National Review in 1990 and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1991. Although “Firing Line” ended in 1999, Buckley continued writing, publishing more than 50 books. Today, National Review carries on Buckley’s legacy, shaping conservative thought for new generations, while “Firing Line” continues its tradition of thoughtful debate with a relaunch on PBS in 2018.

Postal Products Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through USA Philatelic or at Post Office locations nationwide. For offi-

cially licensed stamp products, shop the USPS Officially Licensed Collection on Amazon. Additional information on stamps, first-day-of-issue ceremonies and stamp-inspired products can be found at StampsForever.com.

Please Note: The United States Postal Service is an independent federal establishment, mandated to be self-financing and to serve every American community through the affordable, reliable and secure delivery of mail and packages to nearly 169 million addresses six and often seven days a week. Overseen by a bipartisan Board of Governors, the Postal Service is implementing a 10-year transformation plan, Delivering for America, to modernize the postal network, restore long-term financial sustainability, dramatically improve service across all mail and shipping categories, and maintain the organization as one of America’s most valued and trusted brands.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

Rex Reagan and Max Moody of Tennessee’s Pickett County win back-to-back Strike King Bassmaster High School National Championships

EVANS, Ga. , August 2, 2025 — The Top 25 high school teams headed out for one more day on Clarks Hill Lake to determine the national champion. Slightly cooler and primarily overcast conditions presented the challenge of adjusting throughout the day.

The Strike King Bassmaster High School National Championship is the most coveted high school tournament and anglers across the country came to give

it their best shot. Due to high temperatures this week, anglers were limited to a three fish limit which tightened the weights and brought the final weigh-in to a close in dramatic fashion.

When the dust settled at the end of weigh-in, a familiar duo remained on top as Rex Reagan and Max Moody completed back-to-back National Championship victories. A 10 pound, 13 ounce final day limit clinched the title with a total of 36 pounds,

NSSF applauds Trump’s executive order ending banking discrimination and de-banking from page 12

ministration continued to illegally pressure banks to refuse banking services based on politics. However, during the prior Trump administration, large banks free from regulatory pressure simply privatized “woke” banking policies against conservative groups including members of the firearm industry. This led to a proposed Fair Access to Banking rule by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) that the Biden administration stopped in January of 2021 before it could become effective.

NSSF continues to support Congressional efforts to codify these protections against banking discrimination by the Fair Access to Banking Act, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by U.S. Rep. Andy Barr (R-Ky.) as H.R. 987 and in the U.S. Senate by U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) as S. 401, as well as the Firearm Industry Nondiscrimination (FIND) Act, introduced in the House by Rep. Jack Bergman (R-Mich.) as H.R. 45 and the Senate by Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) as S. 137.

Sec. Rollins announces local food purchases for communities in need ... from page 3

ing network. This is one of many actions USDA has taken to support smaller scale family farmers and producers. The Trump Administration is working to increase America’s economic prosperity and that includes the success of our farmers and ranchers.

“Today’s announcement continues to prioritize American commodities for families and communities in need. On the eve of the Great American Farmers Market, USDA is proud to play a role in not only connecting smaller, local farmers to families, but doing its part to Make America Healthy Again,” said Secretary Brooke Rollins. “This is yet another action by President Trump to improve the livelihoods of the American people. The Trump Administration has delivered historic tax cuts in the One Big Beautiful Bill, boosted the farm safety net, and is ensuring American agriculture will be strong, secure, and resilient for generations to come.”

Agricultural Marketing Service Section 32 Purchases On an ongoing basis, AMS purchases a variety of domestically produced and processed agricultural products as authorized by Section 32 of the Agriculture Act of 1935. These “USDA Foods” are provided to USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) nutrition assistance programs, including food banks that operate The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and are a vital component of the nation’s food safety net.

USDA AMS will purchase \$230 million of the following commodities:

- Alaska Pollock: \$100M
- Dried Cranberries: \$25M
- Dry Beans: \$50M (Black \$16M | Pinto \$13M | Kidney \$10M | Navy \$3M | Great Northern \$6M | Small Red \$2M)
- Farm-Raised Catfish: \$20M
- Fresh Apples: \$35M



Rex Reagan and Max Moody of Tennessee’s Pickett County Fishing Team have won back-to-back Strike King Bassmaster High School National Championships at Clarks Hill Lake with a three-day total of 36 pounds, 11 ounces. (Photo by Tyler Bridges/B.A.S.S.)

11 ounces.

“It’s unreal, I didn’t think it could happen, but it did,” said Reagan. Moody went on to add, “It’s kind of like last year, it hasn’t really set in on me just yet. I’m happy,

but still don’t really realize what we’ve done.”

When comparing it to last year’s National Championship victory on Chickamauga Lake, the duo found this year to be tougher.

“The reason was there were 40 or 50 boats fishing the same area,” said Reagan. “At Chickamauga we had everything to ourselves.” The previous victory did give Reagan and Moody more con-

During the Great American Farmers Market, USDA Sec. Rollins joins HHS Sec. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to remove unhealthy foods from SNAP ... from page 10

ticipating in the MAHA movement, we are leading it. Thank you, Secretary Rollins, for being a great friend to Louisiana!”

“We are making Oklahoma healthy again, and I’m grateful for the support of Secretary Kennedy and Secretary Rollins,” said Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt. “It’s common sense that taxpayer money shouldn’t pay for foods that make us sicker. I’m glad we’re finalizing this waiver for the health and well being of Oklahomans.”

“Colorado is one of the healthiest states in the nation and has the lowest obesity rate of any state. Sadly, even Colorado’s lowest obesity rate of 24.9% is too high, and obesity endangers and shortens the lives of too many Coloradans. Today’s waiver is a big step towards improving the health of Coloradans, and reducing obesity rates, diabetes, and tooth decay. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is designed to support the nutritional needs of those struggling to put food on the table, and this waiver will help to ensure that

more Coloradans participating in SNAP have access to healthy foods. Because many local grocers make stocking decisions in part based on SNAP eligibility, I’m confident that this waiver will also help reduce food deserts in Colorado by reducing shelf space for soda and increasing it for other nutritional food products eligible for SNAP. I am deeply appreciative and grateful to Secretary Rollins and the US Department of Agriculture for granting this waiver,” said Colorado Governor Jared Polis.

“To ensure the health and well-being of Texans, we must promote better, healthier food habits,” said Texas Governor Greg Abbott. “Earlier this year, I requested a waiver from the USDA to ensure SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase junk food. I applaud Secretary Rollins and the Trump Administration for their approval of this waiver to support and promote healthy eating habits. The State of Texas will continue to consider innovative ways for Texans to lead healthy and productive lives.”

These waivers are further built on top of a movement started earlier this year. Secretary Rollins has previously signed waivers for Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana, Arkansas, Idaho, and Utah.

At the direction of President Trump, Secretary Rollins is ensuring programs work harder to encourage healthy eating and improved lifestyle habits while protecting taxpayer dollars.

On Secretary Rollins’ first full day in office, she sent a letter to the nation’s governors, outlining her vision for the Department and inviting them to participate in a new “Laboratories of Innovation” initiative to create bold solutions to long-ignored challenges. Secretary Rollins and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. wrote an opinion piece in USA Today outlining their plan to Make America Healthy Again, including through SNAP waivers like the ones signed today.

fidence going into this week. “Last year showed us that we could do it, but this one showed everyone who thought last year could have been a fluke that we can do this on another place too,” said Moody.

This week was the first time the sophomores had seen Clarks Hill Lake and were faced with new conditions heading out on the final day.

“We were catching them suspended in about 150 foot of water,” said Reagan. “The rain, wind and clouds today definitely hurt them, they don’t like to suspend in the lower light conditions.”

“We used a 5-inch Zoom Winged Fluke and a Hog Farmer Smoke Shad on a 1/4-ounce Queen Tackle jig head,” said Reagan. “The main key of the week was to move faster than everyone else.”

When asked about when they thought they had a shot, Moody said. “When we got our limit, we knew we had a good shot, but we knew going into today that we had a good shot being up 4 ounces from the day before. It really hit us when we were standing in the weigh-in line listening to everyone’s weights.”

On par from the rest of the week, the Pickett County team had all solid average fish in their bag. “It’s been that way all week long, it was consistent in practice, and it was consistent in the tournament,” said Moody. “That’s really all you can ask for is consistently, that’s the way you’re going to do good in a tournament.”

Visit Columbia County hosted this event.

B.A.S.S., which encompasses the Bassmaster tournament leagues, events and media platforms, is the worldwide authority on bass fishing and keeper of the culture of the sport, providing cutting-edge content on bass fishing whenever, wherever and however bass fishing fans want to use it. Headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., the organization’s fully integrated media platforms include the industry’s leading magazines (Bassmaster and B.A.S.S. Times), website (Bassmaster.com), TV show, radio show, social media programs and events. For more than 50 years, B.A.S.S. has been dedicated to access, conservation and youth fishing.

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders concludes international trade mission with visit to United Arab Emirates Business Council

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, August 7, 2025 – Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders concluded her international trade mission last week with a visit to the United Arab Emirates.

During her time in the UAE, Governor Sanders met with business and government leaders, participated in discussions with the United States-United Arab Emirates Business Council, and promoted the economic advantages of Arkansas - low taxes, pro-business leadership, and high quality of life. Similar to Israel, the UAE is a global leader in

This mission builds on the Governor's international economic outreach earlier this summer, when she visited the Paris Air Show to recruit aerospace and defense companies. Since then, L3Harris Technologies announced a \$193 million investment in Camden to produce solid rocket motors, created 50 new jobs, and further solidified Arkansas' role in the defense industry.

technological innovation, focusing on artificial intelligence, data infrastructure, and cloud services.

This mission builds on the Governor's international economic outreach earlier this summer, when she visited the Paris Air Show to recruit aerospace and defense companies. Since then, L3Harris Technologies announced a \$193 million investment in Camden to produce solid rocket motors, created 50 new jobs, and further solidified Arkansas' role in the defense industry.



Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders and First Gentleman Bryan Sanders with G42 CEO Peng Xiao in Abu Dhabi, UAE on Thursday, August 7, 2025. (Photo credit: Will Newton)



Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders is shown here with G42 CEO Peng Xiao in Abu Dhabi, UAE on Thursday, August 7, 2025. The Governor promoted the economic advantages of Arkansas from low taxes to a pro-business environment .

(Photo credit: Will Newton.)

**NSSF
applauds
Pres. Trump’s
Executive Order
ending banking
discrimination**

From the Hunting Wire

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 11, 2025 — NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, applauds President Donald Trump’s signing today at The White House the Executive Order Guaranteeing Free and Fair Banking for All Americans. Today’s executive order enforces a firearm industry priority to end banking discrimination against individuals and entities based on political beliefs. For years, members of the firearm industry have been denied banking and financial services by banks espousing “woke” anti-Second Amendment policies. “President Trump is yet again delivering on his promise to protect Americans’ rights. This time by ensuring that banks cannot discriminate against firearm-related businesses based on unaccount-

See full text of Pres. Trump’s Executive Order on Discrimination in Banking and De-Banking on front page

able corporate executives trying to impose a “woke” gun control agenda beyond what the law requires,” said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. “American businesses, and firearm businesses in particular, must have fair access to essential banking services that are based on an objective criteria and creditworthiness. Politics should not enter into a bank’s lending decision. NSSF is encouraged that President Trump is today putting an end to ‘woke banking.’” President Trump’s Executive Order highlighted attempts by the previous administration to illegally surveil Americans lawfully exercising their Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms through the willing cooperation of corporate banks. The president also noted the illegal “Operation Choke Point,” executed by the Obama administration, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and the Department of Justice (DOJ), along with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), to deny essential banking services to firearm-related businesses based on an ill-defined and amorphous “reputational risk” criteria. These banking discrimination efforts had a devastating effect on firearm-related businesses, both large and small. Recent news reports, though, show that banking regulators during the Biden ad-

Shannon Hauf, Bayer Crop Science executive and agriculture leader, joins 4-H Club board of trustees

By National 4-H Council

WASHINGTON, DC -April 29, 2025–The National 4-H Council Board of Trustees welcomes Shannon Hauf, Senior Vice President and Head of North America, Australia and New Zealand Product Supply at Bayer Crop Science.

As a Minnesota 4-H alum, Hauf has built a career focused on innovation, sustainability and supporting women in the sector. She has a lifelong connection to agriculture, having grown up on a corn, soybean and livestock farm in southern Minnesota where she remains actively involved in her family’s farming operations.

At Bayer Crop Science, Hauf leads a team responsible for delivering the highest quality crop protection and seed products to farmers. Her impact in the agriculture sector has been recognized through multiple industry awards, including honors for leadership in agriculture technology and contributions to sustainable farming practices.

“Shannon’s long track record of leadership in agriculture makes her a great addition to our Board of Trustees,” said Mark Berven, 4-H Council Board Chair and President & COO of Nationwide Insurance. “We’re certain as she creates more career opportunities for women in the industry, she will help 4-H cultivate the next generation of leaders who are Beyond Ready for success.”

At Bayer Crop Science, Hauf leads a team responsible for delivering the highest quality crop protection and seed products to farmers. Her impact in the agri-



Shannon Hauf culture sector has been recognized through multiple industry awards, including honors for leadership in agriculture technology and contributions to sustainable farming practices. She will leverage this experience and passion to help prepare youth for success in work and life.

About Shannon Hauf, Senior Vice President of Bayer Corp Science

Hauf is actively involved as a 4-H leader in Missouri where her children are members. “I’m exactly where I want to be, at the crossroads of innovation and the farm and 4-H helped me get there. Those early programs taught me strategy planning, communications and confidence. On the Board, I will use my leadership and influence to help prepare youth for the evolving needs in the ag industry.”

ABOUT 4-H

4-H, the nation’s largest youth development organization, grows confident young people who are empowered for life today and prepared for careers tomorrow. 4-H programs empower nearly six million young people across the U.S. through experiences that develop critical life skills. Through Beyond Ready, 4-H will increase that number to ten million youth annually. 4-H is the youth development program of our nation’s Cooperative Extension System and USDA and serves every county and parish in the U.S. through a network of 110 public



universities and more than 3,000 local Extension offices. Globally, 4-H collaborates with independent programs to empower one million youth in 50 countries. The research-backed 4-H experience grows young people who are four times more likely to contribute to their communities; two times more likely to make health-

ier choices; two times more likely to be civically active; and two times more likely to participate in STEM programs. Learn more about 4 H at 4-H.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X. Visit the 4-H Club website at <https://4-h.org> .

Source of article: 4-H Club Website

4-H Pledge

I pledge my head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
and my health to better living,
for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

See article on page 3 about the upcoming National Black Farmers Association 35th Annual Anniversary on October 31- November 1, 2025 in Birmingham, Alabama. Registration now open.

Cultivating Resilience

The National Black Farmers Association is a national organization that advocates for family farmers. We are hosting the 35th Annual NBFA Conference on Friday, Oct 31 & Saturday, Nov 1, 2025 at the Marriott Birmingham located at 3590 Grandview Parkway, Birmingham, AL 35243

Don't Miss This Important Event!

Get the latest updates on USDA lawsuits and settlements, along with vital information on programs, services, and Farm Bill changes that could directly impact your farm operation.

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www.womenfarmers.net

Please see page 11