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THURSDAY
July 29,
2021

Weather



KADEMI

Sunny
High: 98 Low: 73

Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 10 percent.

What's doin'

TODAY

- 9:00 a.m. – Dairy Cattle Show, Cattle Arena
- 9:30 a.m. – Political Speaking, Founders Square
- 8:00 p.m. – The Jordan Davis Show, Grandstand

Complete schedule, page 12A

Inside



- Musicians keep Fairgoers entertained, **1B**.
- Cabin 314 known for having big meals, **2C**.
- World War II vets brought Fair back, **2D**.



Philadelphia native **HARDY** performs to a massive audience Tuesday night.

Williams adds local talent to rodeo

By Duncan Dent

There's a strong enough rodeo tradition in this area that John-Thomas Williams thought it important enough when he moved back a few years ago to bring local talent to the Rodeo.

Williams has been around hard farm work and rodeo events for most of his life but seriously took to team roping when he was 20 years old.

A lot of things can go wrong during team roping. Each team is made up of two men on horseback, a header and a heeler who follow a steer that is let loose in a pin.

The header is charged with roping the head or horns and "turning the steer." The heeler then tries

to rope the hind legs of the steer. The team is timed and winners are decided based on the shortest times.

In the competition on Friday night he missed and on Saturday he said he caught the head but his heeler missed. Despite that, Williams said the eight-team local event was a real crowd pleaser at the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association event.

"Everyone did great. We had a wonderful time," Williams said. "The crowd went crazy over the local folks."

Williams has a few tattoos and the signs of hard work on his body though despite those weathered qualities he looks youthful even considering his 35 years. He gives off an energy that

says he has barely even started.

Organizing the roping for the Fair has been a humbling experience. Despite all the hard work and sweat equity Williams has put into the team roping event, he gives all the credit to God.

"Without God, none of this would be possible," Williams said. "None of this is worth it without Christ."

Born and raised in Neshoba County, Williams moved back home in 2016 to be close to family. He works at the iconic family store, Williams Brothers. He represents the fourth generation in the store.

Since he has moved back he has asked anyone who will listen about having a team roping event

See **COWBOY**, page 6A

Coaches to speak at Pavilion this afternoon

By Steve Swogetinsky

It might not be a Neshoba County Fair first, but no one seems to remember when the head football coaches from Ole Miss, Mississippi State and Southern Miss have appeared together.

Lane Kiffin of Ole Miss, Mike Leach of Mississippi State and Will Hall of USM will appear together at the Fair today for a roundtable discussion starting at 2 p.m.

“To my knowledge, it’s a first,” said Scott Bounds a member of the Fair Board. “I thought if we were able to get them together and pull it off, it would be unique. This is probably a one-time thing but it could turn into something, maybe not annual but every few years. I thought it would be something a little bit different.”

The three coaches will be at the Pavilion from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. SuperTalk Mississippi is going to broadcast it for one hour uninterrupted.

Sid Salter will moderate the discussion. It will be a round-table format with each coach being able to talk about their team and upcoming season. They will take questions from the radio audience and they will take questions from the Fair audience.

“This is something we have been working on for a few months,” Bounds said. “It just takes time to put it together.”



Lane Kiffin



Mike Leach



Will Hall



Front left, Shaun Seales, Ward 4; Mayor James Young; Alderman at Large - James Waltman
Back left, James Tatum, Ward 3; Jim Fulton, Ward 2; Justin Clearman, Ward 1

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The Fair Times is published daily during the Fair. On Wednesday, The Neshoba Democrat is also delivered. If your area is having problems with Fair Times delivery, please contact us at (601) 656-4000 or text (601) 416-5117. The Fair Times is free and extra copies are available in bright yellow racks at the northeast entrance to the Square and along the road to the new section.

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News tips are encouraged.

Published by the staff of

THE NESHOBA DEMOCRAT



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Cowboy

Continued from page 1A

at the Rodeo. In 2019 he got his shot. He organized 10 teams, with two people on each team. Everyone paid \$100 for a shot at payouts for first and second-best times.

"I know more now than I knew back when I started," Williams said. "I had a lot of opportunities to do some roping in Texas but I think I have won more since I moved back home."

Williams roped with heels Rivers Irby and Ty Miller on Friday and Saturday respectively. Friday night other teams included Dylan Jones and Jarrett as well as Tyler Dea Lovern and Judd Young. Joiner Peoples and Chris Strickland closed out Friday evening.

On Saturday, Williams had Gaston and Peyton Strickland were followed by Meah Pinter and Wyatt McCann. Landon Beason and Brayden Welch were also scheduled to rope and Williams and Miller closed out Saturday.

"We just wanted to bring something to the rodeo at the Fair where local people would hear their names and say, 'Hey, I know them,'" Williams said.

The 2019 contest went a bit more smoothly for Williams, where he took second place on the first night of the rodeo and first place on the second night.



John-Thomas Williams and his dog Allie Cat Williams

Williams does not stop moving. Before his roping events Williams worked long shifts at the store often out front slicing bacon or cheese. Be-

fore he moved back home he had made a go at being a musician in Austin, Texas, for about three years.

During his time in Texas Williams worked as a drum tech for the Austin City Limits television program. Variously he worked as a handyman for studio and practice space at a facility in Austin for his band Nova.

Music was his first love for many ways. He said at a young age his parents had him in constant music lessons after an ADHD diagnosis. He said he studied voice and piano to focus his wandering mind and finally found drums as a way to channel his energy.

Williams has played drums locally with bands that include Pinnishook, who are set for the Pavillion for Wednesday night's selection of dance music, and Forever For Now, a local metal band that once included Michael Hardy on vocals for a time. Hardy, a rising star in country music, will be performing under his current stage name HARDY at the main stage on Tuesday evening.

Williams said his friend's music reflects the values and lifestyles of a lot of people locally in Philadelphia and Neshoba County.

"What he talks about in his country songs are really how people in Neshoba County live," Williams said. "We go to church on Sunday and work hard the rest of the week."

Williams said he works hard for his sons Calvin Wallace Williams, who was in the crowd over the weekend, and his younger son Coy Maverick Williams.

Williams is the son of Sid and Mickie Williams of Cabin 631.

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Gov. Reeves headlines final day of speeches

By Duncan Dent

Watson will have their 10 minutes to speak between 9:50 a.m. and 10:10 a.m.

Fairgoers don't have to go to the Pavilion to hear the speeches. Most can be heard locally on WHOC 1490 AM and WWSL 102.3 FM or streamed from the web at whocmedia.com.

Visit neshobacountyfair.org/politics/ for a complete listing of political speaking.

On Wednesday, Fairgoers heard from Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons. A host of local politicians including State Reps. C. Scott Bounds and Michael T. Evans and State Sen. Jennifer Branning also spoke.

Activities will continue on Founders Square after the political speaking. Coastal Mississippi Day will start promptly at 11:15 a.m.

At 2 p.m. Sid Salter will moderate a discussion between Mississippi State Head Football Coach Mike Leach, University of Southern Mississippi Head Football Coach Will Hall and Lane Kiffin, the University of Mississippi Head Football Coach. The talk will be broadcast live by SuperTalk Mississippi and will be called "Football at the Fair."

Finally, Mustache The Band is at the Pavilion with Jordan Davis's performing at the Grandstands at 9:30 p.m.

Gov. Tate Reeves headlines political speaking at the Pavillion this morning.

In 1896, Gov. Anselm J. McLaurin spoke and began the tradition of the Fair being a political stomping ground for local, state and even national politicians such as Ronald Reagan.

Reagan came in 1980 as the Republican nominee for President, Jack Kemp and John Glenn are among the other national figures who have stumped at the Fair.

Political speaking will be capped off today with remarks from the State Attorney General, Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives as well.

Attorney General Lynn Fitch will take the stage at 10:20 a.m. followed by state House Speaker Philip Gunn and Gov. Tate Reeves in "10-minute intervals."

Central District Public Service Commissioner Brent Bailey will start the day at 9:30 a.m. He will be followed by Supreme Court Justice Kenny Griffis at 9:40 a.m.

Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney, State Auditor Shad White and Secretary of State Michael



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Film crew seeking old footage of past Fairs

By Duncan Dent

came about after a conversation he had with producers Mandy and Surya Gunasekara in March.

Surya bought a website and soon after they began planning how to shoot a documentary. This will be Allen's largest project to date.

Mandy McGreevy Gunasekara grew up showing livestock at the Fair. She is from Decatur and a Newton County High School graduate.

"The simple version is that we believe the story of this place should be shared," Mandy said. "I grew up showing cows, participating in the ag competitions, and attending the Fair. It wasn't until I had moved away for some time and came back where my love of the Fair transformed into an appreciation. In discussing this with my husband who is very creative and attended the Fair for the first time in 2019, we came up with the idea of a documentary."

The Gunasekaras are both University of Mississippi Law School graduates and have spent the last 10 years in Washington D.C. Most recently

they both made stops in the Trump administration as well.

Mandy was Chief of Staff at the Environmental Protection Agency and Surya worked in various roles including Head of Policy at Customs and Border Protection. They currently live in Oxford with their two children.

In one word Allen said the Fairgrounds are "cinematic." He was struck by the ability of everyone he has met to spin a tale and "recall and understand their history."

Mandy said they hope to capture not only what the Fair is like on any given day but also the history of the event and the impact it has had.

"We hope to capture the spirit of the Neshoba Country Fair through the eyes, experiences and stories of the people who have made it what it is today," Mandy said. "We will explore the unique history, culture and politics of the Fair that helped launch the Reagan Revolution and countless other political careers."

Jake said he has had one huge problem: what

to do with all the food he is offered.

"There are only three meals in a day," he said, adding that a hallmark of the Fair hospitality has been all the poundcake he has had offered to him.

He has been in town on several occasions prior to the fair researching things in the archives at the county library and at The Neshoba Democrat.

One thing that could make the documentary definitive for the next 40 years or more would be home footage from the Fair, he said.

Anyone with old 8 mm film or VHS tapes who would share them would really help take their production to another level.

The best way to get updates on the movie or reach out with old footage is to go to theFair.ms and sign up for the newsletter. Links to their social media, a synopsis of the film and a biography of the director are also available on that page. Contact Jake at Jake@thefair.ms or (952) 393-0579.



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Drone footage shows the enormous crowd gathered for the HARDY concert Tuesday.



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Back row from left to right: Kevin Wilcher - District 4 and Kinsey Smith - District 3

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 Exhibit Hall OPEN 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Check in Goat and Sheep – Cattle Arena.
 8:30 a.m. Concert by Neshoba Central High School Band – Founders Square
 Daniel Wade, Director of Bands
 9:00 a.m. Dairy Cattle Show - Cattle Arena

POLITICAL SPEAKING - FOUNDERS SQUARE

9:30 a.m. Honorable Brent Bailey (R), Public Service Commissioner, Central District
 9:40 a.m. Hon. Kenny Griffis, Supreme Court Justice, District 1, Place 1
 9:50 a.m. Hon. Mike Chaney (R), Insurance Commissioner, State of Mississippi
 10:00 a.m. Hon. Shad White (R), State Auditor, State of Mississippi
 10:10 a.m. Hon. Michael Watson (R), Secretary of State, State of Mississippi
 10:20 a.m. Hon. Lynn Fitch (R), Attorney General, State of Mississippi
 10:30 a.m. Hon. Philip Gunn (R), Speaker, Mississippi House of Representatives
 10:40 a.m. Hon. Tate Reeves (R), Governor, State of Mississippi

11:15 a.m. Coastal Mississippi Day – Founders Square
 1:00 p.m. Concert by Neshoba Central High School Band – Grandstand / Racetrack
 Daniel Wade, Director
 2:00 p.m. "Football at the Fair" – Sid Salter, Moderator – Founders Square
 Featuring MSU Head Coach Mike Leach and USM Head Coach Will Hall.
 Live broadcast presented by SuperTalk Mississippi
 2:00 p.m. Harness & Running Horse Races – Racetrack
 Sponsored in part by Pearl River Resort
Colors presented by Neshoba Central HS Jr. ROTC
 8:00 p.m. **The Jordan Davis Show**- Grandstand
 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Dance - Music by **MUSTACHE THE BAND**, a 90's country party band.
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 1:00 a.m. **Midway and Concessions close**

Livestock Show Barns open 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., displaying top quality Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle and Sheep. The EXHIBIT HALL is open daily 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. featuring Field Crops, Garden Exhibits and Arts & Crafts.



Laney and Leslie Griffis enjoy a beautiful evening at the grandstand.



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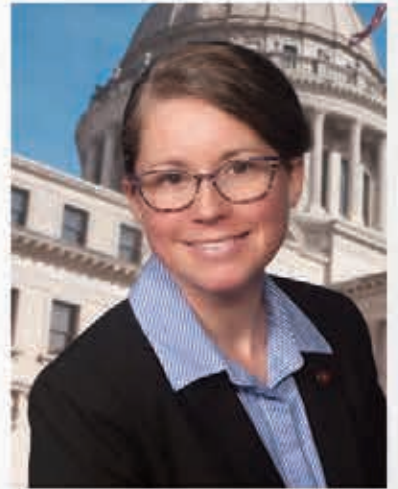
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Musicians keep Fairgoers entertained

By Duncan Dent

The music never really stops at the Fair and for the musicians who play here, it is more than just another show.

Local band Pinnishook headlined the Pavilion Wednesday night. Pinnishook keyboardist and vocalist Carrie Stokes Atkinson has been coming to the Fair since she was five weeks old and said that the first time they played the Pavilion in 2018 was a “milestone” for the band.

“We started out playing private parties and honkytonks but our goal was always to play the Fair,” Atkinson said.

The band started in 2013 and Atkinson was a founding member. Their current lineup includes Thompson on guitar with his brother, Ryan, playing bass. Tanner Davis plays rhythm guitar and Danny Smith is on the drums.

She said they play a variety of music but hopes Fairgoers are ready for a rock heavy set with lots of Rolling Stones, Janice Joplin and Black Sabbath covers on their setlist.

“It’s going to be awesome,” Atkinson said. “We have been practicing non-stop. This is kind of a reunion show. We haven’t played a show in like a year and a half so this is going to surprise some people.”

Atkinson stays in the Boarding House, Cabin 351, right on the backstretch of the race track. She said her family has been in that cabin since 1978.

Local country artist Justin Ross Snow played a set during the local musician showcase on Friday. As he took the stage he said he had been practicing a setlist for weeks but that didn’t feel like his style.

“I am going to wing it,” Snow said.

Snow and his family stay in the camper section. He said he has been a part of the local artist showcase for some time in addition to playing camper shows and even got to play the Grandstand stage with his band Justin Snow and the County Line one year during the horse races.

“Getting to play both stages is just a huge honor,” Snow said.

Even rising country music star Michael Hardy, who headlined the Grandstands under the name HARDY, said the Fair is a top bucket list venue he can now cross off his list.

Snow said the Fair is fun to play but offers some challenges. During the showcase, Snow



Justin Ross Snow plays to a crowd of Fairgoers at the Pavilion.

had some issues with his guitar connection and heavy rain made it hard to hear his monitor. Snow said emcee and musician Daniel Sharp and others who were present running sound and equipment acted quickly and got his guitar fixed.

“Everything found its way back together,” Snow said.

After it was all said and done Snow said he got a good response and the rain gave him an excuse to turn up the volume a little and live by his slogan: “Life’s a song, PLAY IT LOUD!”

Snow said that as a musician you learn to read the room and that he tries to pick songs based on his crowd. He said he noticed an older crowd out on Friday afternoon which gave him the opportunity to play some of his favorite traditional country songs and an original of his called “Outlaw Kind of Love.”

Brent Varner found his way a second time

to the Fair. Originally from Madison, he now lives in Gulf Shores, Alabama. He played with the Jess Duncan Trio, a band out of neighboring Orange Beach, at a Fair kickoff last Thursday at Cabin 305. Varner plays the bass behind Jess Duncan on guitar and vocals. The trio is rounded out by drummer Mason Holland, another Mississippi native, from Vancleave.

Varner has played a cabin show before about five years ago. He joined the trio in August 2020 and said the band booked the gig through a friend who knew one of the cabin owners.

He said the show was different from one of their usual performances at bars such as the Florabama.

“It was awesome,” Varner said. “We had a great crowd and you could tell some people were just stopping in because they heard the music. There were a bunch of people out in the dirt just dancing and enjoying the nightlife.”

Varner said “Hard to Handle” by the Black Crowes and the Allman Brothers Band’s “Midnight Rider” were hits with the crowd.

If you missed Pinnishook you can find them on Facebook. Atkinson said they hope to have some future gigs and in the meantime enjoy “trolling” and interacting with their friends and fans.

For music and performance dates for the Jesse Duncan Trio, check out jesseduncanmusic.com or Brent Varner at [Brent Varner Music](http://BrentVarnerMusic.com) on Facebook.

Justin Snow is currently working on an album with BadWolf Studio in Jackson. It is called “Outlaw Kind of Love” after the song he sang at the Pavilion and will be the single track. He hopes to have the album completed and streaming on all digital music outlets sometime next month. For updates check out Justin Snow Music on Facebook.



Hadley Hayman,9



(L to R): Tinsley Rounsaville (5), Ty Rounsaville (3), Mary Clayton Byars (4), and Ava James Byars (9)

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Maggie Taylor

15-year-old artist enjoys painting

By Audrey Hall

Fifteen-year-old Maggie Taylor entered her untitled oil painting into the Exhibit Hall's student exhibit on a whim this summer. The young artist most often works with acrylics, so the oil painting was a challenge that turned out beautifully.

"That painting took a week to finish," Taylor explained. Taylor, who is a sophomore at Neshoba Central High School, has never taken an art class at school, but has been painting since she was very young.

Amy Taylor explained that her daughter entered the art world by participating in the 4-H club's Arts and Crafts exhibit and the Clothesline Art Contest at the Fair. After Maggie Taylor outgrew those venues, her mother encouraged her to submit to the student exhibit, which she finally did this year.

The painting shows a woman with long black hair coming out of a pool of water. Taylor found inspiration on Pinterest, a social media platform that often inspires her. "I'll see something and think, 'That'd make a good painting, why don't I paint that?'" Taylor said.

The student exhibit where Taylor's painting now hangs provides a venue for younger student painters to show off their work before they

can participate in the competitive exhibits, which have an age requirement of 18-years-old or older.

Taylor has had competitive success elsewhere, however. In 2019, Taylor won second place in sculpture at the state convention level of the National Jr. Beta Convention and then went on to compete at the national level. In 2020, she won fourth place in sculpture and first in fiber arts at the state convention.

Taylor hopes to pursue her passion for the arts in college, whether in painting, sculpture or another area. Her preferred art style is pop art, a movement in the '60s and '70s popularized by Andy Warhol. She particularly likes Keith Haring's minimalist approach.

But the exhibit hall isn't the only part of the Fair that Taylor enjoys. Said Taylor on the Fair, "It's the hottest week of the year, but it's the best week of the year." Taylor's family can be found escaping the heat in Cabin 178.

Amy Taylor said, "I encouraged her to put something in for the student exhibit and this painting is one of my favorite things she's ever done, I think it's beautiful." Taylor's long history with the art world began with the Fair and will continue to grow here, with opportunities like the adult art contests on the horizon.



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Arlos Parsons and Camille McCoy have a water fight at the cabin.



Caroline Posey Wiggs takes in some good horse races at her first Fair. She also snagged a picture with the "Legend," Speedy Barrett!

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Derby party held at Fair for bride-to-be

By Sarah Watkins

Cabin 356 had a Kentucky Derby party to honor Anna Spears and Jordan Davidson, who will marry in August.

Anna Spears of Philadelphia came up with the clever idea to have the Kentucky Derby bridal shower on Sunday of the Fair.

"I thought it fit the Fair," Spears said.

Anna Spears is the daughter of Melanie Spears and Terry Spears.

The guest list included approximately 25 of Anna's closest friends and her mother-in-law and sister-in-law, Megan Sanderson and Alexis Wilcox of Alabama.

Megan Sanderson had never attended the Fair and got to experience horses for the first time at the bridal shower.

Spears' aunt, Sheila Anderson, orchestrated the whole event, and Spears' mother, Melanie Spears, put together a charcuterie board.

All the ladies who attended the bridal party wore Kentucky Derby hats purchased online or in-store.

To make the bridal shower a little competitive, Spears decided there should be the best hat winner.

The winner of the best hat was Shelby Greenwood of Neshoba County with her big black hat.

Spears went to Ole Miss, where she got a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. She is now applying to different medical schools. Her fiancé Jordan Davidson is a contractor.

The couple plan to honeymoon in Barbados and are hoping to one day reside in Dallas, Texas.



Pictured are (Back row, left to right) Shelby Greenwood, Laken Winstead, Natalie Goodin, Destiney Wilcox (Front) Zoey Sanderson, Abby Hedgepeth, Courtney McNair, Anna Spears, Lakelyn Darby, Anna Bowen and August Gurry.

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Taylor Hayman , 7



Nora Edwards has fun playing with blocks at her camper.

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Kynlie Anderson, 13



Campbell Stribling, 3, and Hallie Grace Stribling, 17, do some front porch bonding with popsicles.



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Ellington Connerley, 11, Cabin 600



Cousins Coltin Clay and Avie Phillips visit on the porch of Cabin 935.



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Rivers Mae Travis and Minden Kay Presley of Cabin 909 go on a night excursion.



Finley Connerley, 8, Cabin 600



Banks Petty, 8, enjoys the bumper cars.



Lilly Bassett, Olivia Hall, Makayla Sanderson and Anderson Smith hang out with HARDY.



Olivia Hedrick and her daddy, Blake Hedrick, watch the horse races.



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Color the Fair



Caroline Davis, 9, Cabin 270

Cabin 314 known for having big meals

By Audrey Hall

The Clearman Cabin has seen its fair share of family, whether blood-related or “Fair family” come and go over the years.

This year, Mark Lee and his family are visiting Cabin 314, and the Fair itself, for the first time. Lee’s friend Wade Breazeale has been coming for 40-plus years.

“I’m having a good time,” Lee said. “These are my kind of people.”

The pair of friends are from Flora and work in contracting.

Breazeale’s favorite part of the Fair is catching up with family and friends and watching the horse races. He also looks forward to the food served.

“We have a menu,” he said. “Last night was chicken spaghetti, tonight will be steaks, Sunday will be fish fry.”

Every Saturday, a big family reunion is held at Cabin 44 and the family reunion revolves around an enormous sumptuous lunch.

“Everything from fried chicken to peas and butterbeans, turnip greens, green beans, desserts, it’s a potluck,” Breazeale said.

Lee is looking forward to the horse races. His wife and daughter are first-timers and his daughter is excited for the horse races, too.

Paula Clearman remembers back when her cabin was one of only two on that side of the Racetrack.

“Everybody told us we were crazy for building over here,” she said.

During those years, her family rode horses often and would bring their horses to the Fair and tie them to the trees behind the cabins.

A long-running inside joke within the cabin has been the story of an occupant who frequently fell off the top bunk, shocking awake everyone else in the cabin. After three years of him routinely falling off the top bunk, said occupant has finally been relocated to a regular bed.

Whether first-timers, family members, or anything in between, the Clearman Cabin has food and stories for everybody.



Paula Clearman, Mark Lee, Rose Thomas, Mabry Thomas, Angie Breazeale, Abigail Thomas, Jordan Clearman and Wade Breazeale relax on the front porch of Cabin 314.



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Brylee Jones, Neely Wolverton, Ryleigh Wolverton and Macie Peebles head out to watch the Pageant.



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Mamie Walker Davis, 2, daughter of Chris and Ashley Davis, enjoys swinging.



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Above, William Boatner turns 13 years old today. At right, Ryne, Cooper and Leighton Davison enjoy the horses.



Newly-crowned Miss Neshoba County Fair Abby Seale hugs a young girl that ran up to her.



Miss Tina's girls dance on the stage.



Above, Ashton Davison and Rene Woodward watch the horse races. At left, Ret. Sgt. Maj. Ennis E. "Chip" Bailey of Philadelphia spoke at the Veterans memorial service on Tuesday.



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Winsteads celebrating new granddaughter

By Audrey Hall

The Winstead-Shepherd Cabin stays busy all Fair long. Children keep their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents on their toes, which is why several hand-made baby swings are hanging on the front porch.

The Winsteads take pride in their newest generations, most especially the very newest: Sallyanne, who has arrived at the Fair for the first time at only 4 months old.

Sally Winstead, Sallyanne's grandmother and namesake, said it is the opportunities to visit family that make the Fair special. She also mentions Granny's homemade biscuits and Tammy's lasagna. "No one makes biscuits like Granny does," said Sally Winstead.

Granny, also known as Glenda Winstead, added that a tradition in the Winstead-Shepherd household is having every generation of children help her with the biscuit-making. Eventually, young Sallyanne will join the rest of her generation

in learning hands-on the sacred recipe.

Other memories that have been passed down include the time Trace Atkins spent time at their cabin. Pictures of him chatting with the family are all over the cabin walls.

Trace Atkins talked to Glenda's husband for a long time about how much he liked the Fair. "He wasn't like most of those bigshots," said Jeff Winstead. "He was just as nice as he could be."

The races and the Flea Market are highlights for the Winstead family. The younger family members like to watch from the second story porch, but the women and the babies usually stay on the first floor's porch.

Kent Winstead and Jeff Winstead helped make the baby swings where the newest family members can hang out. The Winstead family has a lot of little ones, most of them 6 years old and under. They make sure to take a big family picture every year to memorialize the occasion and save memories for every new generation.



Sally Winstead, Sallyanne Winstead and Glenda Winstead

 A photograph of a horse race in progress on a dirt track. Several horses and jockeys are visible, competing. In the background, there are spectators and structures. Overlaid on the top of the image is a large, stylized banner that reads "The Fair is Back!".

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 A close-up photograph of a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a blue polka-dot dress, smiling broadly with her hand near her chin. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a fair setting.

*"Daydreamin' about
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Hannah and Richard Day of Cabin 286A explore the Midway at night.



Miss Neshoba County Fair Abby Seale makes an appearance at Cabin 896 with Gentry Holley.

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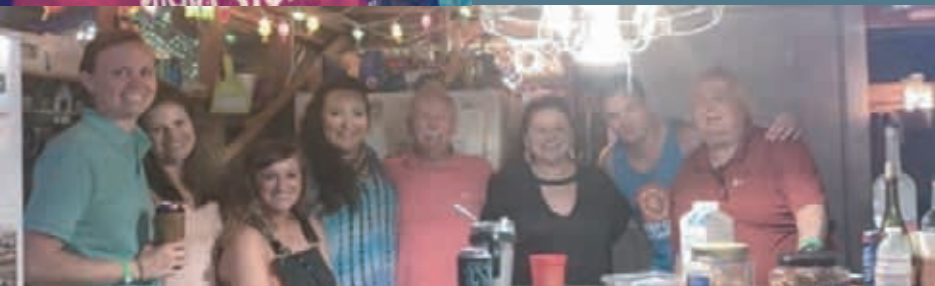
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LIFE'S A SANDBOX, DIG IT



Brooks Martin has fun in the sandbox at Cabin 404.

World War II vets brought Fair back

By Payton Bishop

Longtime Fairgoer Buddy Dees of Vicksburg recalled the story of how his father, Anse Dees, helped reopen the Fair after returning from World War II.

The Fair was closed down for four stints from to 1942-1945.

About a dozen servicemen, including Anse Dees, Gilbert Donald and George Dees, decided to bring back the Fair, Dees recalled.

“They did not fight for nothing, they fought to have their institutions back like the Neshoba County Fair,” Dees said.

The men took it upon themselves to cut down the growing trees and repair the infrastructure. They worked through the hot months of May through July to ensure the 1946 Fair would happen.

There was only one issue that the men encountered, he said. They did not have the money to bring people to the horse track. As a way to compensate, they offered up moonshine to the racers to help start up the racetrack, said Dees of the Dees Laird Murphy Cabin 210.

Many Fairgoers like Dees can recall a thriving moonshine business around the barns after the war.



Buddy Dees



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Joyner Applebee, 2, picks up a duck at the Midway.

Meet your Fair neighbor

Cabin #247

- **Where are you from?** Philadelphia but I currently live in Nashville.
- **What is your favorite Fair meal?** The chicken spaghetti my mom makes every year.
- **What's one thing you especially look forward to at the Fair?** The horse races on Sunday afternoon and the Late Night Sing!
- **How many people stay in your cabin during the week?** About 18

– By Caleb Gamblin



Caleb Gamblin



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Enjoy your time at the fair!

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Jerry Phillips, Becky Phillips Nancy Walker set up early to get premium seats for Monday's Miss Neshoba County Fair Pageant.



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Cousins Farrah Fulcher, Laila Fulcher, Camden Fulcher, Max Adkins and Mason Adkins from Cabin 618 enjoy a night at the Midway.



Ryan and Dana Quick are enjoying this year's Fair with their grandchildren, Lillie Ryan Moore and Grady Moore.



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Travis Cater, 8, visits the Fair from Starkville.



Cohen Miller enjoys playing in the rocks.



Fair friends Lauren Addy, Alexis Gaines and Sarah Sanders dress up for the Miss Neshoba County Fair Pageant.



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STRAWBERRY ANGEL FOOD DESSERT

Prep Time: 15 mins

Total Time: 15 mins

Servings: 18

Ingredients:

1 (10 inch) angel food cake

2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened

1 cup white sugar

1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed

1-quart fresh strawberries, sliced

1 (18 ounce) jar strawberry glaze

Crumble the cake into a 9x13 inch dish. Beat the cream cheese and sugar in a medium bowl until light and fluffy. Fold in whipped topping. Mash the cake down with your hands and spread the cream cheese mixture over the cake. In a bowl, combine strawberries and glaze until strawberries are evenly coated. Spread over cream cheese layer. Chill until serving.

HOT FUDGE SUNDAE DESSERT BARS

Prep Time: 1 hour

Cook Time: 8 mins

Yield: 1-9x13 inch dish

Servings: 20

Ingredients:

1 pound chocolate sandwich cookies, crushed

½ cup margarine, melted

1 ¾ cups confectioners' sugar

1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated milk

1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

½ cup margarine

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

½ gallon vanilla ice cream

1 ½ cups dry-roasted peanuts

Combined crushed cookies and melted margarine and press into a 9x13 inch dish. Chill 1 hour in refrigerator. In a saucepan over medium heat, combine confectioners' sugar, evaporated milk, chocolate chips and ½ cup margarine. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly, and boil 8 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Set aside to cool. Slice



vanilla ice cream into ¾ inch slices, and place them in a single layer over the chilled crust. Smooth the cream over the seams. Sprinkle the peanuts over the ice cream. Top with the cooled chocolate sauce. Cover and freeze 8 hours or overnight.

THE ULTIMATE BERRY CRUMBLE

Prep Time: 15 mins

Cook Time: 40 mins

Additional: 30 mins

Total: 1 hr 25 mins

Servings: 8

Ingredients:

For the Crumble:

2 cups all-purpose flour
¼ teaspoon fine salt
¾ teaspoon baking powder
¾ cup white sugar
¾ cup frozen unsalted butter
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
2 large egg yolks
1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar, or as needed

For the Fruit Mixture:

1 cup blueberries
1 cup raspberries
1 cup blackberries
1 teaspoon lemon zest
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
1/3 cup white sugar
2 teaspoons cornstarch

1 pinch cayenne pepper

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Combine flour, salt, baking powder, and sugar in a bowl. Whisk until thoroughly combined. Grate in the frozen butter, stopping occasionally to toss the butter into the flour mixture until coated. Drizzle in vanilla extract; add egg yolks. Stir with a fork until egg is mostly absorbed. Add vinegar; mix briefly. Use your hands to finish mixing, squeezing until clumps but mixture remains mostly dry. Add 1 teaspoon vinegar if needed. Combine blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries in another bowl. Add lemon zest, lemon

juice, sugar, and cornstarch. Sprinkle in cayenne pepper. Mix until sugar and cornstarch are mostly dissolved. Place about ½ of the crumble mixture into the bottom of a 2-quart baking dish. Press mixture down using a flat cup until well compacted. Spread the berries over the crust. Sprinkle the remaining crumble on top, squeezing some of it into clumps. Bake in the preheated oven until top is beautifully browned and berry syrup bubbles on the surface, 40 to 45 minutes. Let cool room temperature, about 30 minutes.



Fair baby Briggs Rushing is pumped to have won a toy at the Midway.



Horseman and Cowboy Church members stand in front of a horse painting, which was later bid on for \$400 by Fairgoer Josh Barret. Pictured, from left: David Alvarez, world champion jockey rider for Quarter Horse, Ken Butler, horseman and horse trainer, Adam Mars, guest speaker for the service, Ruth Ann McDonald, director of the cowboy church, and Horse Chaplain Edward Smith.

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It is sometimes very difficult for banks, credit unions, utilities, and even retail stores to find the rightful owners of money. People move, families lose touch, and sometimes the money just sits there. After five years, these entities are required to turn that money over to the state to find the rightful owners, which is what our Unclaimed Money team does.



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Cousins Landers, Lida Hawkins, and Ladner Lewis, Emma Cate Ledford and Baler Cade spend time together at the Fair.



Remi Donald, Ruthie Donald and Evie Shepherd of Cabin 333 have fun in the rain.



Brynlee Jones, Emery Floyd and Natalie Floyd.

*Wishing all a safe
and happy Fair!*





Four-month-old Lawson Dickerson, son of Spencer and Jessica Dickerson, says Fair baths are so much fun.

Three-year-old Ansleigh Grace Dickerson, daughter of Spencer and Jessica Dickerson, loves the motorcycles at the Midway.

You're Invited!

Special Occasions invites you to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony/Building Opening to be held on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at 1:00PM to celebrate twenty-five years in the formal-wear business, and for the dedication of the new building location in Philadelphia, 1034 Holland Avenue.

Special Occasions' new building has a beautiful bridal showroom area where bridal gowns are featured in the new Bridal Boutique Gallery. Our passion is to feature many great couture line for pageants and prom. The shoppe also has its own hair and makeup salon, tanning salons, little girls gowns in the Cinderella Room with accessories to complete.

Special Occasions will open a second location in Newton, MS after Labor Day to better accommodate our shoppers. Special Occasions continues to be the #1 formal-wear shoppe for bridal, prom, pageant and children's gowns for in-state and out-of-state customers.

Say YES to the Dress!



Special Occasions will give away FREE Special Occasion t-shirts to those who visit our new shop, enjoy refreshments, after the ribbon cutting ceremony, and sign-in to tour our newly renovated building.

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Claire Smith and Pop Pop Larry Smith ride the carousel.

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BIRTHDAY GIRL



Fair baby Lundyn Stokes turns 13 today. She celebrated a little early with a Fair Party and scavenger hunt.



The Neshoba County Fair Post Office opened in 1982.

Fair Post Office mails out souvenir cards

By Payton Bishop

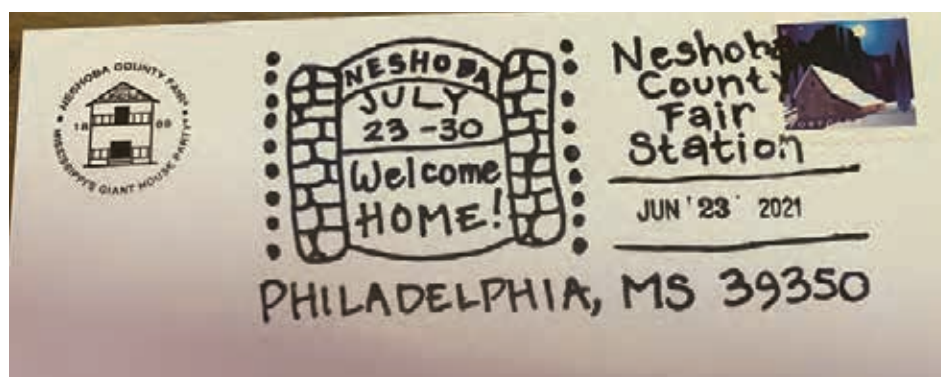
Fairgoers can send souvenir letters or postcards from the Fairgrounds bearing a special Neshoba County Fair Post Office postmark.

Established in 1982, the Fair has one of the only temporary Post Offices in the country and it is open from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day only during the Fair.

When most Fairgoers can send mail or a message from their phone, the Post Office harkens to a different era when letters were delivered first by horseback across the country and eventually trucks and airplanes.

The Fair postmark is created every year by a local artist, and this year it's Kim Mills Kilpatrick of Kademi.

The Fair Post Office is in a small wooden structure located next to Lindsey's Lemonade



Kim Mills Kilpatrick created the stamp for this year's Fair.

Stand on the south end of the Grandstands.

Anyone can send mail out of the Post Office and it will be sent bearing the special Fair post-

mark that day.

The cost to mail a letter is 40 cents. People can also buy a souvenir card across the street

and only pay 36 cents for a stamp. All of the mail that is taken from the Fair each day is shipped out the same day.

Letitia Banks decided to send her parents a postcard this year at the Fair. "This is their first year not being at the Fair so I wanted to send them a postcard," said Banks.

Mandy Guess has been helping run the Fair Post Office for the past 16 years. In the first hour on Tuesday, she already had 20 letters ready to go. Guess enjoys interacting with Fairgoers to get letters and packages to their family and friends.

Packages can also be sent out as long as it follows the Post Office guidelines from padded boxes to 20"x10."

More than 1,000 letters are sent out from the Neshoba County Fair Post Office during the Fair.



Gracie and Levi Dees with their winning horse trophy from the 4th running race -for Yankee's Son.

Katelyn Watkins and Bruce Watkins prepare to take a "Journey to Mars."



JOHNE. STEPHENS CHAPEL FUNERAL SERVICES



Four-month-old Hayes Bruce enjoys his first Fair at Cabin 532.



Velma Jo Barham and Mac Coward find some shade under a tree.



Sutton Webb cruisin' through her first Fair.

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We wish you all a safe and happy week!



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Sisters Dawn Neely and Cheryl Sanders enjoy the fellowship at the Bridges Cabin.



Brax Boulden, Amzie Boulden, Atley Boulden, Gray Sledge and Mattie Sledge of Cabin 317 have a mud war.



Sarah Sanders and Alexis Gaines enjoy the late night music.

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Joy Byrd, 6



Lainy Rea, 6



Madison Todd, 7, James Todd, 5, Mollie Todd, 5, and Mary Todd, 5, enjoy some snow cones on a very humid day.

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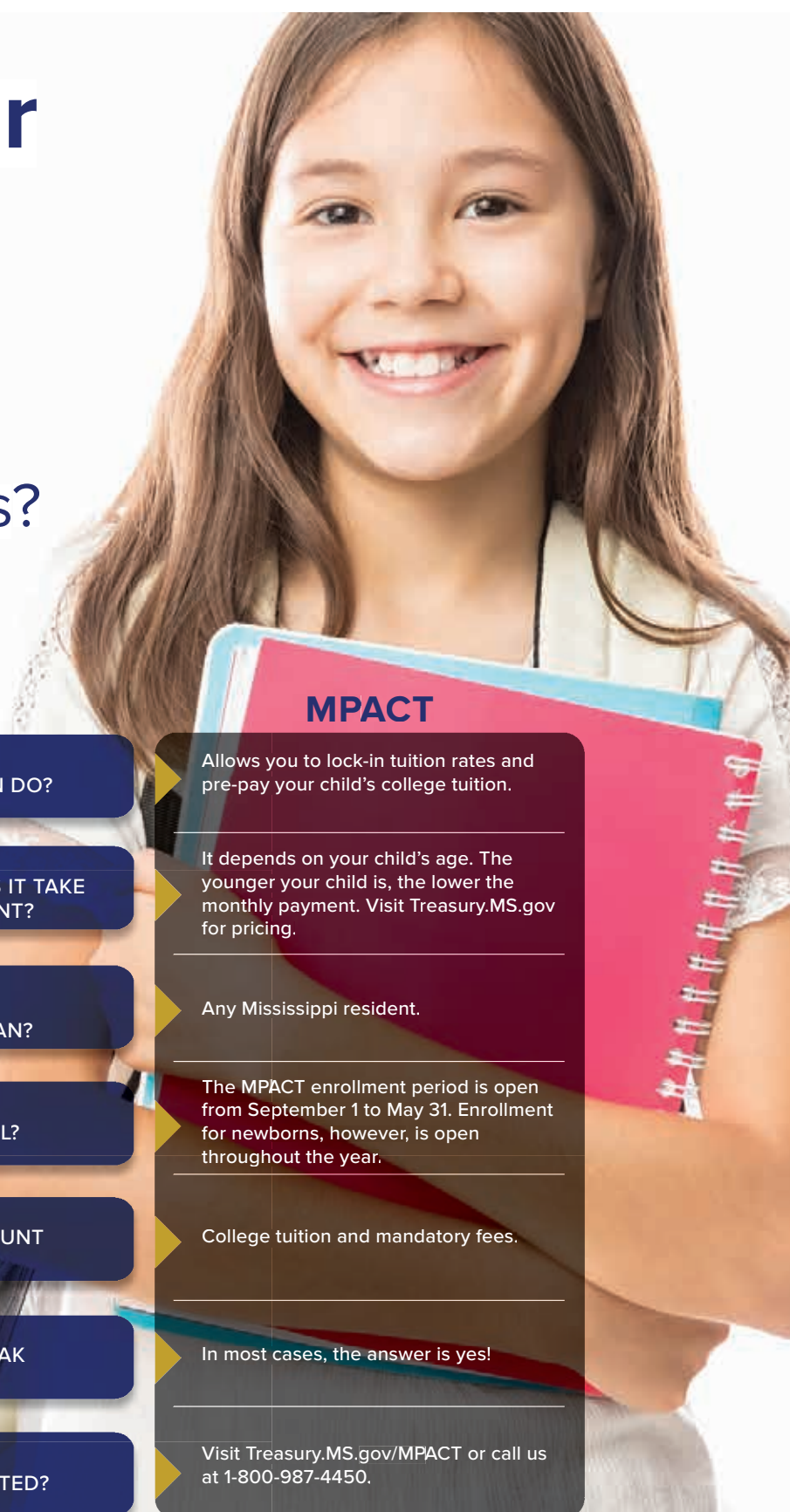
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