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Special Section — Inside

COOK OF THE WEEK
ADAMS ENJOYS USING
FAMILY RECIPES

Meredith Adams — Page 9A



THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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Philadelphia, Mississippi

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

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Photos by Coleman Eakes

Owner Dr. Azhar Pasha and his wife Dr. Lina Bouayad, led the groundbreaking for Doc's Toyota on Mississippi 16 west across from Bumpers Drive-In Friday while local officials, a Toyota representative, and general managers of all of his other dealerships turn dirt in back.

Doc's Toyota

Groundbreaking held Friday for new dealership

Philadelphia's W G Yates & Sons Construction Company is the contractor for the new Doc's Toyota. The dealership is located across from Bumpers Drive-In on Mississippi 16 west.



LEGISLATURE

A historic teacher pay raise sent to Reeves

By STAFF and WIRE REPORTS
 news@neshobademocrat.com

A bill sent to Gov. Tate Reeves would give the state's public school teachers their largest pay raise in years.

The House voted 118-4 last Tuesday to pass the final version of House Bill 530. Senators voted 51-0 to pass it Thursday.

The bill would provide an average increase of about \$5,100 — a jump of more than 10% over teachers' current pay. Reeves, a Republican, has said he supports increasing teacher pay as a way to attract and retain classroom professionals.

Mississippi has long had some of the lowest teachers salaries in the nation.

Nancy Looe is executive director of the Parents' Campaign, a group that lobbies for policies boost public schools.

In a mass email Tuesday, she praised lawmakers for sending the teacher pay raise bill to the governor.

The average teacher salary in Mississippi during the 2019-20 academic year was \$46,843, according to the Southern Regional Education Board. That lagged behind the average of \$55,205 for teachers in the 16 states of the regional organization. The national average was \$64,133.

Under the bill, teachers' base pay would increase by a few hundred dollars most years, with larger increases with every fifth year of experience and a more substantial bump at 25 years.

A beginning Mississippi teacher with a bachelor's degree currently receives a \$37,000 salary from the state, and the local school district can provide a supplement.

Under the bill, the base pay from the state would be \$41,500. Teachers with higher degrees and more experience are paid more.

Teachers' assistants would receive a \$2,000 increase over two years, taking their pay from \$15,000 to \$17,000.

Neshoba Centra's Jason Broom has been in education for 19 years. During his career, he has taught social studies and history and coached.

"That's a big positive and gives some confirmation about how important our state is looking at our education system being. For years, we have seen the fixes from the state being more about putting more regulations and testing and more oversight on the schools. In my opinion, you are taking away more of the power and trust from the professionals you employ to do the job to make a difference.

"To me, this is the first step I have seen in my 19 years as a teacher that the Legislature has taken to send the impression that, 'hey if we feel like if we have good people doing the job, then they can get it done.'

"Investing in teachers is a big positive. I know over the course of the last few years as a teacher, you see fewer kids coming through high school making plans to major in education and go into teaching. It has caught up with schools all over the state with the huge teacher shortages. And I think the most logical way to fix that, is to put the pay where it reflects the time and effort and expertise it takes to become a teacher and do this job.

"I think you will see the ranks of who is
 See RAISE, page 2A

REMEMBRANCE

Elsie Kirksey was like a mother at Philadelphia PD

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
 sveve@neshobademocrat.com

Elsie Kirksey was remembered as a sweet soul who was, during her three decades in dispatching, like a mother to the men and women of the Philadelphia Police Department.

Kirksey was the face — and the voice — of the Philadelphia Police Department and will be dearly missed by all, Police Chief Eric Lyons said.

Elsie Linda Hill Kirksey, 64, died last Tuesday night unex-

pectedly at Neshoba General. The Philadelphia Police Department announced Kirksey's death Wednesday morning on Facebook, saying:

"It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that The Philadelphia Police Department share with you the untimely passing of Elsie Kirksey. Elsie was an employee of the City of Philadelphia Police Department serving as Dispatch Supervisor for over 30 years. Elsie was a courageous and dedicated employee and will be missed by

many — well beyond the doors of the Police Department and throughout the community.

"In all that she did, Elsie brought a level of energy, drive, and optimism that was like no other. She had plans of retiring in June of 2022 and looked forward to spending time with her family whom she loved dearly.

"Elsie was much more than an employee and friend to many at the Police Department, she was family. We will miss her tremendously and hope to forever honor her memory."

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 30, at the Neshoba County Coliseum.

Funeral services will follow at noon in the Coliseum with the Rev. Stevie Mosley officiating.

Interment will follow in the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Cemetery in the Longdale community.

See KIRKSEY, page 2A

Elsie Linda Hill Kirksey, 64, died last Tuesday night at Neshoba General.



OPINION
 Rich Lowry

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JUST AMONG FRIENDS
 Marianne Enochs PAGE 9A

OPINION
 Patrick Buchanan PAGE 4A



Nancy Yates honored as Rotary Champion

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Philadelphia's Nancy Yates has been named one of the 2022 Women in Rotary Champions of Change.

She was honored in Rotary District 6820 for her exceptional and trailblazing social, community, and organizational change efforts.

Rotary District 6820's 7th Annual Women in Rotary celebration and awards event was held March 8 at the Country Club of Jackson with a packed house of 190 attendees who enjoyed fellowship, friendship, and a rousing good time.

Past District Governor Barbara Travis started the event in 2016 and hosted Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, the first female Rotary Club President, as keynote speaker.

Each year, the celebration has continued to grow as it highlights female Rotarians'

outstanding leadership and accomplishments throughout the district.

"In my wildest dreams, I would never have imagined how big this event would become. I'm overwhelmed and humbled at the ongoing support from our clubs, the business community, and partnering non-profit organizations. Together, we rock!" said Barbara Travis.

Nancy Yates has been heavily involved in many different organizations and activities within Philadelphia and Neshoba County. She has been an advocate for education for many years.

She was a teacher at Neshoba Central and Bogue Chitto Choctaw Tribal School in Neshoba County in her younger years. In recent years she has been a volunteer reader for the Head Start preschool children and pre-k classes at Philadelphia Elementary



Nancy Yates

School, and in 2016 her efforts earned her the distinction of Volunteer of the Year for the Neshoba County Literacy Council.

Nancy is a past president of the Philadelphia Public School District's Board of Trustees. Her dedication to education is ongoing as she continues to support activities within the schools.

Nancy has humbly served in various capacities in the community as a Boy Scouts Den Leader, Girl Scout Brownie Leader, vice president of the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Arts Council, vice president of the Home Arts Club, president of the Philadelphia-Neshoba County United Way, and co-chairperson of the Neshoba County American Cancer Association.

She is an active member and Paul Harris Fellow of the Philadelphia Rotary Club. Nancy was a significant leader in establishing the Diamond Dreams ball field for disabled children in Neshoba County. In 2019 Nancy was named Citizen of the Year in Neshoba County.

She has served in the life of the First United Methodist Church as a member of the Trustees, Leadership Team, Administrative Board, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee,

president of the United Methodist Women, chairperson and treasurer of the Mary Moss Circle, past chairperson of the kindergarten committee as well as a Sunday School Teacher and as a Vacation Bible School Teacher.

Outside of Neshoba County, Nancy has served as a board member of the Mississippi International Ballet Competition, Ohr O'Keefe Museum of Art, the Governor's Mansion Foundation, and a past trustee of the Mississippi School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Trust.

She was a charter member, regional director, and served on the Mississippi Board of Directors for the National Museum of Women in the Arts. She has been a board member of the Mississippi Museum of Art and a member of the Mississippi Arts Commission.

She has been involved in the Gallery Guild, Inc., a member of the Jackson Symphony League, and the Meridale Girl Scout Council.

Nancy graduated from Mississippi University for Women with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, and in 2005 she was awarded an honorary doctorate from MUW.

She is also an MUW Foundation Trustee Emeritus. In 2020 Nancy established a fellowship program at MUW to assist students with their summer intern work.

Nancy lives in Philadelphia. She is married to William (Bill) G. Yates, Jr. Her children are William Yates, III, married to Tara Yates with children Abby and Gully; and Carolyn Yates Voyles, married to Jason Voyles, with sons Jack and Charlie.

Kirksey

Continued from page 1A

Beck Funeral Home of Philadelphia is in charge of arrangements.

Kirksey is survived by her husband, Charles; a daughter, Shayla Kirksey Robertson (Randy); two grandchildren, Destiny Kirksey and Kamdon; three brothers and two sisters.

Pallbearers will be members of the Philadelphia Police Department.

Her daughter remembered the full life her mother lived.

"She was part of The Philadelphia Coalition that brought justice for the civil rights workers," Robertson said. "She was active in the Democratic Party. She loved flowers. She loved family, And

she loved the police department."

Her dedication was recognized in the community.

"Elsie in particular was a driving force among the women of Mt. Zion who were such a vital part of The Philadelphia Coalition," said James E. Prince III, co-chairman at the time and who has been editor and publisher of *The Neshoba Democrat* for two decades.

"Elsie shared with the Coalition a childhood memory of having to go into a separate waiting room at the Moore Clinic because of the color of her skin, a clinic where I went as a child. That was particularly

impactful, I mean really, really moving. I'd known Elsie since my high school days at the Democrat as such a sweet, sweet person and for me, as an adult, to realize she was carrying that burden of rejection deep down behind her smiling face caused my heart to ache. I have seen racism differently from that day forward because my friend Elsie was impacted."

Kirksey had a green thumb and grew any kind of flower she wanted. She liked to garden and she loved the big sunflowers because they kept the bugs away.

She was lay leader in her church and was a lay speaker. She was active in church conferences. "She was in so much," her daughter said.

In the 1980s, Kirksey worked at Neshoba Central as a secretary and at U.S. Motors. Then she went to work for the police department.

"I can't stress enough how she loved the police department," Robertson said.

Her longtime friend Jewel McDonald called Kirksey her living angel.

"I have known her since she was a baby, but we moved

away for 30 years," Mrs. McDonald said. "She was a sweet person. You couldn't meet anyone better. She would do anything for you."

McDonald gets around in a wheelchair and she said her husband walks but not well.

"We are handicapped and don't get out that much. She would always call and check on us," said McDonald.

"If we needed to go to the doctor, she would take us. She would call and ask if we needed anything from the grocery store and would bring it by. And if we said no, she would bring it anyway. And she would never let us pay her for the groceries. She would say we would talk about it later.

"She would buy me clothing because she knew I couldn't get out. She would see something she thought I might like and bring it by. And never took a penny. She was an angel.

"Sometimes she was like a sister to me. Sometimes she was like a daughter. Just such a sweet person."

Two former police chiefs remembered Kirksey's friendship and kindnesses.

"Ever since I got that call

last night I've been trying to put the words together to express my feelings," said retired Philadelphia Police Chief Julian Greer in a Facebook post.

"For over 29 years you were more than a 'work Mom,' you've been my counselor, my biggest supporter, my biggest critic. You pulled no punches, you said what you felt."

He said there "never was there any doubt that you cared and loved us all."

Former Police Chief Grant Myers said he developed a strong friendship with Kirksey by the time he left.

"When I walked into the Police Department as chief she became my employee, when I left there I had gained a special friend," he said.

"I'll miss our random text messages about everything from politics to gardening and everything between."

He's usually by the PD several times a week as an investigator for the District Attorney. "I'd still stop by from time to time to check in with my friend. I went by the day after she passed and realized walking into building will never feel

quite the same."

PPD Investigator Desmond Jones said on Facebook last week: "I can't put into words how I feel right now! Elsie was more than a dispatcher for the Philadelphia Police Department, she was our work mom! She raised mostly all of us, including me in 2007 a young 24-year-old trying to start a career in law enforcement and be positive for the community!"

Chief Lyons said if officers needed motherly advice, Kirksey was the go-to.

"Elsie was the first person you saw and talked to when you walked in the door," said Lyons, who worked with her for nearly 15 years.

"She worked with a lot of people. She saw a lot of people come and go. To say she was well-known is an understatement.

"She was very active in the police department and helped anyway she could. She knew where everything was in the department. If you needed something, you could talk to Mrs. Elsie and she would help you. We are going to miss her."



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Raise

Continued from page 1A

in the profession improve and start seeing the losses that the

profession has taken from not having that monetary draw, to make a young person feel, 'hey, if I go into this, I can live comfortably to where it will be worth the time.'"

David Frey teaches health, driver's ed and PE at Philadelphia High School.

"It has been needed for a long time. I am excited about it. I

sure a lot of teachers are.

"I do think a lot of schools are struggling finding teachers these days and this might help a little. Everyone is having trouble finding teachers.

Maybe this will lead more young people to becoming teachers. It will be another route for them to consider."

(USPS 377-160)

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Harrison, Lillis retire as city dispatchers

By JOHN LEE
john@neshobademocrat.com

Sharon Harrison was a Philadelphia Police Department dispatcher for 20 years and just retired in December.

"I had a lot of scary calls and bad situations," Harrison said. "I remember dispatching officers when someone got shot, a building exploded, and when a semi-truck ran into the back of a car. Those memories aren't pleasant, but it's what we have to deal with as dispatchers."

Her friend Brenda Lillis retired as well and they agree they always had to be ready for anything and deal with it the best you can.

Harrison is now enjoying life with her husband Tim, two children, Darla and Brian, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, and working part-time at the Deanco Auctions Company in Philadelphia.

Harrison was born in Lauderdale County and moved to Neshoba in 1977. Her first job was Nemaco, Inc., which was her job for 15 years until

she moved to Wells Lamont. She began her career at the PPD in December 2001.

She said she first applied since the department was looking for dispatchers. She went in for an interview and got hired right off the bat.

"I think they hired me so quickly because they saw I was an honest, trustworthy, and dependable person," Harrison said. "When I applied, I didn't know what the job was all about. I knew I needed to protect the officers, and over the years, I learned how to deal with the phone calls, how to dispatch officers, and help the callers if we could."

Harrison said the one thing to keep in mind while being a dispatcher is that all situations are different, and you must listen carefully and decide the severity of the call. She said people would call in screaming and panicking, and it was her job to calm them down and keep her cool at the same time and send the officers in the right direction as quickly as possible.

She added that she bonded with the other men and



Brenda Lillis (left) and Sharon Harrison (right) stand with their plaques honoring their retirement from the Philadelphia Police Department after years of service as dispatchers.

women at the department as if they were her brothers and sisters.

"The officers were all great, and as I watched them grow up, I always went into

mother mode when a bad situation happened and made sure they were safe. I enjoyed my 20 years there and I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my life and what I'm going to be doing in my senior years."

Lillis, a Neshoba native, began working with the department in December 2004 and retired in December 2021 along with Harrison.

"I was working at a daycare at the time, and I didn't have insurance," Lillis said. "I needed a job with insurance, and a few friends told me about how the PD was hiring. Here I am 17 years later, and me being able to help so many people while working there has stuck out to me."

Lillis said the stress of the bad calls is the most challenging part of being a dispatcher, especially when panicked people don't give correct directions.

She recalled dealing with bad wrecks that you wouldn't

think would happen inside the city limits.

"There are a lot of times where people tell you locations that are not exact, and you have to learn to ask the right questions to get the right information. It takes a little while to learn that," Lillis said. "Being able to assist the officers and build a bond with them is something I will always treasure. It's always rewarding when you're able to help someone."

"One of the hardest adjustments for me was my sleep schedule, but it's a rewarding job, and if you're one of those people who can handle those all or nothing type days or days where everything is going on at once, you'll be able to do it," Lillis said.

Lillis is enjoying retirement and enjoys spending time with her three grown children, Michael Lillis, Kimberly Thompson, and Valerie Lillis, and her seven grandchildren.

Deputies arrest woman for stealing chainsaws

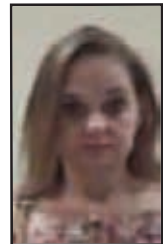
By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A Union woman has been arrested and charged after allegedly stealing several chainsaws from a trailer in Sandtown on March 14.

Kimberly Duell, 45, of 11371 Highway 15 South, Union, was arrested and charged with two counts of grand larceny and one count of burglary of a dwelling.

Sheriff Eric Clark said that Duell was arrested on March 14 at about 2:30 p.m. at her Highway 15 home.

"It was a pretty quick arrest," Clark said. "We arrest-



Kimberly Duell

ed her the same day we got the call."

Clark said Duell was arrested in connection with three chainsaws stolen from a residence at the Goforth Trailer Park in Sandtown on Road 482. He said that the tools were reported stolen earlier that day.

Clark said that the chainsaws have been recovered and returned to their owner.

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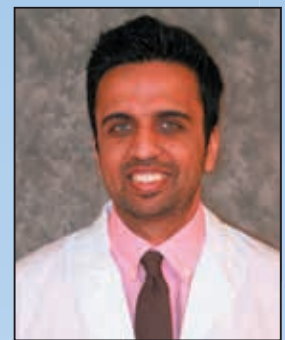
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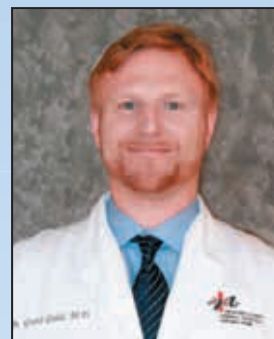
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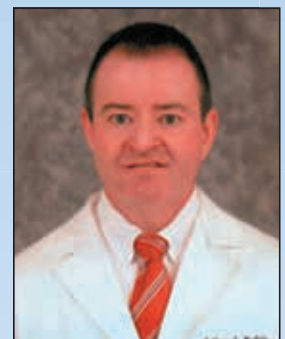
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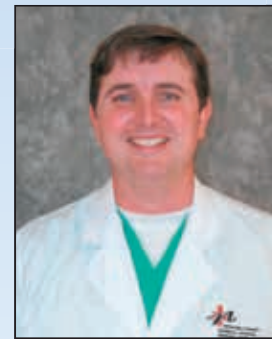
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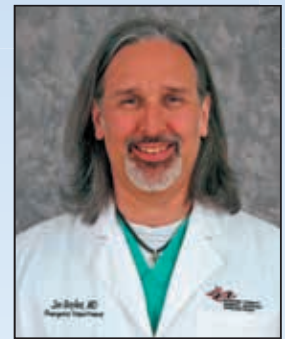
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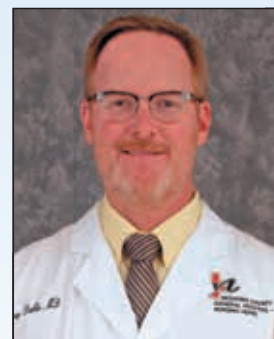
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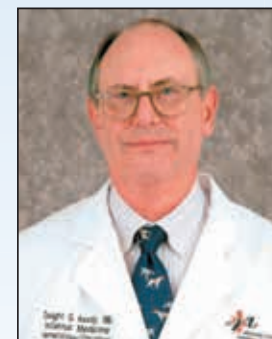
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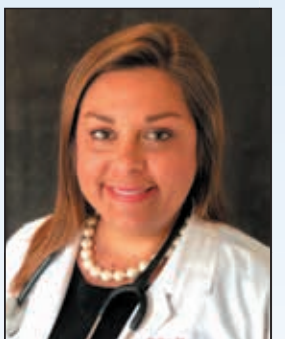
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Opinion

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THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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STEVE SWOGETINSKY, *Sports Editor*

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EDITORIALS

Opt out of marijuana for now

Buried deep in Mississippi's Medical Cannabis Act, if a city or county does not opt out within the first 90 days — that would be May 3 — there will never be another opportunity to do so, so for that reason Philadelphia and Neshoba County should opt out of medical marijuana for now and evaluate options thoroughly.

Cities and counties can always opt in after officials have had time to enact local ordinances and regulations governing the time, place and manner of medical cannabis establishment operations and penalties for violating such ordinances or regulations.

Law enforcement will have to get prepared. There is a tremendous risk of crime surrounding businesses that cultivate, distribute or dispense medical cannabis.

What's more, the black market production of counterfeit identification cards, the allowable weights that can be legally possessed, and the inability to distinguish between medical and non-medical cannabis found in a card carrier's possession are all situations looming over law enforcement.

Noxapater, Ridgeland, Pass Christian, Brandon, and Gluckstadt are among cities opting out so far to see what happens.

If an opt-out decision is made, a petition containing at least 20% or 1,500 signatures (whichever number is less) of qualified electors can trigger a special election to override the opt out.

The election must be held within 60 days from the date the petition is filed with the Secretary of State, but no sooner than 15 days from the publication date of the first of three required newspaper notices of the petition filing and upcoming special election.

Once an election is held, no matter the outcome, no subsequent election can occur sooner than two years from the date of the first election.

Opting out is not a local government's only option to try to curtail medical cannabis establishment operations, but 90 days is a very short time to act on such an

important matter.

The act allows municipalities and counties to:

- Pass specific zoning restrictions applicable to medical cannabis establishments;
- Require local registrations, permits, or licenses to operate a medical cannabis establishment;
- Enact local ordinances or regulations governing the time, place, and manner of medical cannabis establishment operations and penalties for violating such ordinances or regulations.

- No ordinance or regulation can prohibit dispensaries in a manner that makes their operation impracticable in that locale.

The Medical Cannabis Act in its entirety is hundreds of pages long and only allows counties and cities the 90 days from the effective date that began ticking Feb. 2.

Cities and counties can always choose to opt in at any point and that's what Philadelphia and Neshoba County should consider following thorough study.

Initiative 65 the Supreme Court overturned was highly targeted to marijuana users on their devices by the big money influencers given the incredible power to target voters digitally.

Taking into account registered voters statewide, Initiative 65 passed by only about 40%, so the margin of victory being touted is deceptive, but who has ever known a drug addict to lie? Well, of course you have.

To be sure, there are individuals who will be significantly better off with access to medically prescribed doses of cannabis allowed under the new law, so all the more reason to get this right.

Given Neshoba County's drug epidemic, the enormous suffering seen over the decades and a jail overflowing with addicts now, city and county leaders have a serious obligation to take their time and get medical marijuana right. Opt out of medical marijuana in Philadelphia and Neshoba County for now and get it right.

FLASHBACKS

MARCH 27, 1942

Stating that oil from peanuts and soybeans is urgently needed in the production of explosives for the war program, T. M. Patterson, State AAA Administrator, addressed a mass meeting attended by approximately 400 farmers in the Courthouse auditorium Friday morning.

The Japanese stepped up the fury of their assault on the Manila Bay area Wednesday, sending over 27 big bombers and lesser aircraft which again concentrated on Corregidor and other bay fortifications.

MARCH 28, 1952

The annual lady's night of the Rotary Club will be held at the Golf Club House Thursday night, April 17, according to the President Vernon Gamblin. All members are urged to take note of the date and be present.

MARCH 27, 1962

The Cemetery Committee of Sandtown Methodist Church is directing attention elsewhere in this edition of the paper, to all people who have loved ones buried there, to please come by the cemetery and sink the foot markers, even with the top of the ground.

Dock Savell is calling a meeting of all people interested in the Babe Ruth Baseball League, to meet at the Neshoba County Courtroom Saturday night, March 31st, at 7:30

o'clock. This league will be made up of players thirteen years and over.

MARCH 26, 1972

A Bi-Racial Advisory Committee to the West Side Community Center has been organized by the Philadelphia, Neshoba County Park Commission. The Committee has started meetings to work ways to assist the director of the center in making maximum use of the facility.

The regular monthly singing will be at Center Hill Baptist Church on March 25 at 7 p. m. All singers are invited.

MARCH 27, 1982

A public meeting of citizens interested in halting drug abuse in Neshoba County will be held on March 30 at 7 p. m. in the gymnasium at Neshoba Central High School. The purpose of the meeting will be to organize a Neshoba County Branch of DREAM.

There will be a car wash on Saturday, March 20, at Midland Federal Savings and Loan beginning at 10 AM and going until late that afternoon. The car wash is sponsored by Salem Baptist Church youth group.

MARCH 27, 1992

Because of the interest from several major Nashville record labels, Pearl River — a local area band formerly known as the Dean Wooley

Band — performed a showcase at Nashville's 12th and Porter Playroom last week and drew rave reviews for their effort.

The Neshoba County Republican Party will hold its precinct caucuses and county convention on April 18. Precinct caucuses will begin in each precinct at the regular polling place at 10 a. m.

MARCH 27, 2002

Police believe the weekend robberies of a bank and a fast-food restaurant were committed by the same individual. Authorities have video of the suspect, captured in the process of committing the restaurant robbery, and say federal authorities will assist in the investigation by enhancing the video.

MARCH 28, 2011

Three Philadelphia companies and one Tribal entity were the apparent low bidders on some aspects of the new \$19 million county hospital. Bids were taken under advisement last week for review by officials of W. G. Yates and Sons Construction Co.

A veteran law enforcement officer will return to the Neshoba County Sheriff's Department as Chief Deputy after he was hired Monday by the Board of Supervisors. Kenny Moore will leave his position as Police Chief in Carthage to become Chief Deputy here on April 26th.

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Is nuclear war worth it?

During the 70 years that the Soviet Union existed, Ukraine was an integral part of the nation.

Yet this geographic and political reality posed no threat to the United States. A Russia and a Ukraine, both inside the USSR, was an accepted reality that was seen as no threat for the seven decades that they were united.

Yet, today, because of a month-old war between Russia and Ukraine, over who shall control Crimea, the Donbas and the Black and Azov Sea coasts of Ukraine, America seems closer to a nuclear war than at any time since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

Why? Time to step back and reflect on what is at stake.

Exactly what threat does Russia's invasion of Ukraine present to us that is so grave we would consider military action that could lead to World War III and Russia's use of battlefield nuclear weapons against us?

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly hinted at the use of such weapons, should NATO intervene in the Ukraine war and Russia face defeat, or in the event of an "existential" threat to the Russian nation.

We hear from our moral elites that morality commands us to intervene to save the Ukrainian people from the ravages of a war that has already taken thousands of Ukrainian lives.

But what would be the justification for U.S. military intervention in Ukraine, absent a congressional authorization or declaration of war?

Consider. The year the Liberal Hour arrived in America with the New Deal, 1933, a newly inaugurated Franklin D. Roosevelt formally recognized Joseph Stalin's murderous regime as the legitimate government of a Russia-led USSR.

FDR met personally with Soviet Foreign Minister Maxim Litvinov even as the Holodomor, the forced starvation of Ukrainian peasants and small farmers, the kulaks and

Is victory for Ukraine worth the U.S. risking nuclear war?

their families, was far advanced.

Walter Duranty, the New York Times reporter in Moscow, won a Pulitzer for covering up that crime of the century with its estimated 4 million dead.

The question remains: When did the relationship between Russia and Ukraine become a matter of such vital interest to the U.S. that we would risk war, possible nuclear war, with Russia over it?

How did we get here? We got here by exploiting our Cold War victory as an opportunity to move NATO, our Cold War alliance, into a dozen countries in Central and Eastern Europe, up to the borders of Russia. Then, we started to bring Ukraine into NATO, the constituent republic of the old Soviet Union with the longest and deepest history with Mother Russia.

Thus, while Putin started this war, the U.S. set the table for it. We pushed our military alliance, NATO, set up in 1949 to contain and, if necessary, fight Russia, 1,000 miles to the east, right into Russia's face.

In the 1930s, when Britain's Lady Astor was asked if she knew where Hitler was born, she answered: "Versailles."

At the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, which produced the Versailles Treaty, millions of Germanic peoples and the lands they had inhabited were severed from German rule and distributed to half a dozen nations across Europe.

When we get back on our feet, we will take back all that we have lost, said Gen. Hans von Seeckt of the German General Staff.

We hear warnings that if Russia uses chemical weapons in Ukraine, NATO will react militarily. But if no NATO ally is attacked, why would NATO

respond to a Russian attack on Ukraine?

Though outlawed today, chemical weapons were used by all the major participants in World War I, including the Americans.

As for atomic weapons, only Americans have used them.

And while we did not introduce the bombing of cities — the British and Germans did that — we did perfect the carpet-bombing of cities like Cologne, Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden and Tokyo.

The Ukrainian war, now a month old, has demonstrated the utility of nuclear weapons. Putin's credible threat to use them has caused the U.S. and NATO to flatly refuse Kyiv's request to put a no-fly zone over Ukraine.

And as Russia's threat to use nuclear weapons has deterred NATO from intervening on Ukraine's side in this war, other nations will not miss the message: Possession of nukes can deter even the greatest nuclear powers.

The longer this war goes on, the greater the suffering and losses on all sides. Thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians are already dead, with 10 million uprooted from their homes, a third of that number having fled into neighboring states of Eastern Europe.

The longer the war goes on, the greater the likelihood Putin resorts to indiscriminate bombing and shelling to kill off the resistance, and the greater the possibility that the war expands into NATO Europe.

Meanwhile, in the secure American homeland, 5,000 miles from Kyiv, there is no shortage of foreign policy scholars beating the drums for a "victory" over Putin's Russia and willing to fight to achieve that victory — right down to the last Ukrainian.

Patrick J. Buchanan is the author of "Nixon's White House Wars: The Battles That Made and Broke a President and Divided America Forever."

RICH LOWRY

Putin and the fragility of order

An invading army surrounds a European city, cuts off its supplies, bombards it, and demands surrender.

Is it 1346? 1631? 1870? 1941? Or 2022?

The answer is any of the above, and all of the above. The Russian siege of Mariupol is shocking not because it is unprecedented, but because it is so traditional — a form of war that is grinding, brutish, and all too typical in European history.

If you refer, say, to the siege of Vienna, the next question, is which one? The siege of 1485 (during the Austro-Hungarian war), 1529 (during the first Ottoman attempt to take the city), 1683 (during the second), or 1945 (when the Soviets drove westward at the end of World War II)?

The Hundred Years' War featured countless sieges. Henry V, the English king of Shakespeare fame, conducted more than two dozen from 1417-1419. Joan of Arc became a legend at the Siege of Orleans and was captured at the Siege of Compiègne.

"No form of land-based combat has been more commonplace than the siege, through the sweep of human history from the earliest known wars to the investment of Leningrad in 1941-1944," Paul Lockhart writes in his compelling new history of military technology, "Firepower."

During Vladimir Putin's first invasion of Ukraine in 2014, then-Secretary of State John Kerry said that he was behaving "in a 19th-century fashion." The truth is that Putin is behaving in a 19th-century, 20th-century and 21st-century

Human nature means that remorseless and power-hungry men will always be with us, no matter how advanced we believe we have become.

fashion. He is confirmation of the fact that progress is not inevitable, and peace and order are fragile. Human nature means that remorseless and power-hungry men will always be with us, no matter how advanced we believe we have become.

Russia's operation in Mariupol, the strategically located port city on the Sea of Azov, has been blatantly bloody-minded. It hasn't even made a pretense of honoring basic decency, let alone the modern rules and norms around warfare. The Russians have cut off food, electricity and medical supplies, and been reducing the freezing city to rubble.

By some estimates, 80% of the residential buildings in the city have been damaged. The Russians, notoriously, shelled a maternity ward and a theater and a school where people were sheltering. Authorities have been forced to bury the accumulating dead bodies, wrapped in carpets or bags, in a mass grave.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that the siege of the city is a "terror that will be remembered for centuries." It certainly deserves to live in infamy, although it's hardly a new phe-

nomenon.

The Prussians — cynical empire-builders like Putin but considerably more competent — besieged Paris in the Franco-Prussian war in 1870. Starving Parisians ate cats and dogs, and when the siege dragged on, the Prussians shelled the Left Bank of the city, forcing people to flee, killing civilians, and hitting hospitals. The Prussians eventually prevailed, and proclaimed William I the German emperor in the Palace of Versailles in 1871, a stark humiliation for the French.

Although much of Europe has left behind this kind of machtpolitik, neither Russia nor China has. Putin's brutalizing of Ukraine is a reminder of how essential it is to support the Western order — the alternative is so much worse. It is a reminder of how human affairs can easily slide backwards — the history of civilization is of folly, catastrophe and decline, as well as of enlightenment, achievement and progress. And it is a reminder that when a nation is determined to rule by blood and iron, hard power is the only deterrent and recourse — if anything saves Ukraine, it will be missiles, drones and artillery, not norms or treaties.

No matter how much we wish it were so, Vladimir Putin is not a figure from the European past. He is a man of his present, and if not met with clear-thinking and resolve, of its future as well.

Rich Lowery is editor of National Review, a leading conservative magazine founded by William F. Buckley.

LETTERS

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BIBLE SELECTION

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

— 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

Mississippi lawmakers pass largest-ever tax cut

By EMILY WAGSTER PATTUS
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi, one of the poorest states in the nation with perpetually underfunded schools and struggling rural hospitals, had its largest-ever tax cut passed by lawmakers Sunday.

The Republican-controlled state House and Senate voted by wide margins to pass a bill that would reduce the state income tax over four years, beginning in 2023. The bill goes to Republican Gov. Tate Reeves. He has indicated he will sign it into law.

"This affects every Missis-

sippian that gets up and goes to work," Senate Finance Committee Chairman Josh Harkins, a Republican from Flowood, said Sunday.

Supporters say a significant tax cut could spur economic growth and attract new residents to Mississippi, which was one of three states that lost population during the decade before the 2020 Census.

"This tax cut will make Mississippi one of the most work-friendly states in the nation," said Republican House Speaker Philip Gunn.

Opponents say reducing the income tax would mean less money for schools, health care, roads and other

services, especially hurting Mississippi's poor and working-class residents.

Sen. David Jordan, a Democrat from Greenwood, said he is concerned legislators won't be able to pay for expected government services if the state cuts taxes.

"I don't want all of us hanged in effigy," Jordan said.

The Mississippi income tax accounts for 34% of state revenue. Wealthy people would see the biggest financial boost from eliminating the income tax, because they're the ones paying the most now. The poorest residents would see no benefit because they are already

earning too little to pay state income tax.

Starting next year, the 4% income tax bracket would be eliminated. The following three years, the 5% bracket would be reduced to 4%.

After the first year, the tax-free income levels would be \$18,300 for a single person and \$36,600 for a married couple, lawmakers said.

Harkins said the tax cut would reduce state revenue by \$185 million the first year. By the final year, the figure would be \$525 million. The state-funded portion of the budget is nearly \$7 billion.

Mississippi has enjoyed robust tax collections the past several months, partly

because of increased federal spending during the COVID-19 pandemic. But the state also faces expensive budget items, including a long-running court case that requires improvements to the mental health system. Legislators have rarely put all the required money into a school funding formula that has been in law since the late 1990s. The state's corrections system came under federal investigation after riots in late 2019 and early 2020 focused attention on shoddy living conditions in prisons.

Nine states don't have an income tax and one more, New Hampshire, only taxes interest and dividends,

according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Opponents of reducing the Mississippi income tax point to Republican-led Kansas, which enacted big tax cuts in 2012 and 2013 but repealed many of them in 2017 after large and persistent budget shortfalls.

Under current laws, a single person with no dependents in Mississippi currently pays no tax on the first \$12,300 of income. Because of tax cuts approved years ago, the tax-free amount will increase to \$13,300 after this year. The state has a 4% tax on the next \$5,000 of income and a 5% tax on all income above that.

OBITUARIES

Brown Larry Storey

Funeral service for Mr. Brown Larry Storey will be held 7 PM Thursday, March 31, 2022, at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. Kip Barrier and Tony Kirkland officiating. Cremation to follow. Visitation will be 4-7 PM Thursday, March 31, 2022, at John E. Stephens Chapel.

Mr. Storey, 60, passed away Sunday, March 27, 2022, at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian, Ms. He lived most of his life in Neshoba Co. and was a Christian man. He loved his grandkids.

He is preceded in death by his father, Grady Lee Storey and his great-grandson, Walker Scott James.

Survivors include his mother, Dorothy Brown Storey; daughters, Logan Marie Parker, Ashley Lea Barrier (Lizzie), Emily Barrier; sons, Bryan Lee Storey (Tiffanie), Joshua Kayne Storey; sister Brenda Lynn Allen; brothers, Billy Lee Storey, Barry Luke Storey, Benny Lloyd Storey; (8) grandchildren; (1) great-grandchild.

Theresa A. Rodgers

Funeral service for Mrs. Theresa A. Rodgers was held 3 PM Sunday, March 27, 2022, at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. Mike Skinner officiating. Cremation was to follow. Visitation was 11 AM till time for service at John E. Stephens Chapel.

Mrs. Rodgers, 59, passed away Tuesday, March 21, 2022, at Laird Hospital in Union, MS. She lived most of her life in Neshoba Co. and was a member of Linwood Baptist Church. She loved her family and flowers.

She is preceded in death by her father, James S. Boatner Jr. Survivors include her husband of 42 years, Raymond Rodgers; mother, Annette Boatner; daughter, Ashley Ward (Ken); son Jammie Rodgers; brothers, David Boatner (Cheryl), Keith Boatner (Paula); (4) grandchildren, Jenna, Addy, Aiden, Averleigh; (1) great-grandchild, Finley.

John Burkes

Graveside services for Bro. John Burkes was held Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. from McLain Chapel Cemetery with Bro. Walt Tessier officiating. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangement.

Bro. John Burkes was born on July 15, 1928 and died March 20, 2022, on Sunday Eve of Saint Joseph feast Day. John was the third child of Roscoe and Mary Burkes deceased. He was a resident of Kemper Care Center. John and his wife Joyce were pastors and teachers. He served in the COH 508th PAR INF REGT 82 Div as a paratrooper of WWII. Bro. John is survived by his son, Rev. JC Burkes; four

grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sister, Ethel; brother, Ollie L.; brother-in-law, Jean; sister-in-law, Linda Carol; numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Bro. Burkes was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce and his young son Buddy.

Mattie Ruth Kelly

Funeral services for Mattie Ruth Kelly were held Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Linwood Baptist Church with Bro. Mike Skinner officiating. Burial followed in Linwood Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Kelly, 81, of Union, MS, died Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

Mattie was born in Neshoba County and lived here all her life. She worked at U.S. Motors, Wal-Mart and Midland Shirt Factory. She loved to cook, garden and spend time with her family. Mrs. Kelly was a member of Linwood Baptist Church.

Survivors include daughters, Gatha Skinner and Beverly Bassett; son, Eugene Franklin; stepdaughter, Kimberly Kendall; step-sons, Robby, Allen and Chris Kelly; 12 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sisters, Louise Amnett and Alice Pitt.

Mrs. Kelly was preceded in death by husband, James Kelly; sons, Kenneth and Bobby Franklin; great-grandson, Abram Lane Wilkerson; brother, Lavelle Harkey; parents, Augustus Harkey and Gladys Burton Wilson.

Delma Ruth Slawson

Graveside services for Delma Ruth Slawson was held Friday, March 25, 2022 at 1 p.m. from Harmony Cemetery with Rev. Jerry Lundy and Rev. Tommy Jones officiating. Visitation was held Friday, March 25, 2022 from 10 until 12 at McClain-Hays Funeral Home. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Slawson, 93, of Louisville, MS died Thursday, March 24, 2022.

She was a native and longtime resident of Nanih Waiya, a community of Winston County. Formerly worked at Spartus Plant in Louisville, MS. Mrs. Slawson was a member of Harmony Baptist Church.

Survivors include daughter,

Margaret Marie McFarland of Louisville, KY; son, Joel Slawson of Nanih Waiya; two grandchildren and their families.

Mrs. Slawson was preceded in death by husband, Boyce Slawson; son, Bobby Slawson.

Samuel Bradford "Brad" Kempton, Jr.

Private memorial services for Mr. Kempton will be held at a later date.

Mr. Kempton, 89, passed away on Monday, March 14, 2022 at his new home in Philadelphia MS. He lived most of his life in Palm Bay, Florida where he was a long time member of First Baptist Church of Melbourne.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Judith Kempton; son, Lee Kempton (Deborah) of Minnesota; daughter, Cynthia Kempton of Philadelphia, MS; four grandchildren, Joshua, Curtis, Kayla and Kathryn; two great-grandchildren, Charlotte and Winry.

Grady Lee Ellingburg

Funeral services for Grady Lee Ellingburg was held Sunday, March 27, 2022 at 3 p.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Pastor James Daniels officiating. Interment was held Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 1 p.m. at Greenville Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Ellingburg, 93, of Philadelphia, died March 25, 2022.

Grady was a native of Neshoba County and former resident of Greenville, MS. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Mr. Ellingburg was a member of First Church of God in Philadelphia.

Survivors include daughters, Ann Bennett, Sheila Scribner and Carol Hanks; sons, Grady Michael and Kenneth Ellingburg; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sister, Leora Nicholson; numerous nieces, nephews.

Mr. Ellingburg was preceded in death by wives, Martha Ellingburg and Willodine Farmer; sisters, Annie Mae Nicholson and Janelle Atkinson; brothers, Randolph "Buddy" Ellingburg, John D. "Dub" Ellingburg and J.T. Ellingburg.

Min. Tommy S. Boler

Funeral services for Minister Tommy Steve Boler will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2022, at 11 A.M. from Jerusalem Temple Church with Minister Ricky Boler officiating. Burial will be at Springhill M.B. Church Cemetery in Union. Beck Funeral Home, Inc is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Boler, 53, of Philadelphia, passed away on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at Rush Hospital in Meridian.

He is survived by four children, Kiara Boler of Decatur, AL, Tashiana Boler of Kosciusko, MS, Tomias Boler and Tydarius Boler both of Philadelphia, MS, two sisters, Janet Boler lmes of Fayetteville, NC and LaSandra Boler Hudson of Hattiesburg, MS, one brother Ricky Boler of Hattiesburg, MS, and five grandchildren.

The brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity will serve as pallbearers

Elsie L. Kirksey

Funeral services for Mrs. Elsie Linda Hill-Kirksey will be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 12 P.M. from The Neshoba County Coliseum with Rev. Stevie Mosley officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Cemetery. Beck Funeral Home, Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Kirksey, 64, of Philadelphia, passed away on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at Neshoba General Hospital.

She is survived by her husband, Charles Kirksey of Philadelphia, MS, one daughter, Shayla Kirksey Robertson of Philadelphia, MS, two grandchildren, Destiny Kirksey and Camden Robertson both of Philadelphia, MS, three brothers and two sisters.

The Philadelphia MS Police Department will serve as pallbearers.

Richard Earl Cotton

Funeral service for Mr. Richard Earl Cotton will be held at 2 PM Sunday, March 27, 2022 at Crystal Ridge Gym with interment in Dancing Rabbit Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10 AM Saturday, March 26, 2022 at

Crystal Ridge Gym. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Cotton, 56, passed away Thursday, March 24, 2022 at his home. He enjoyed running track, playing football and stickball for Beaver Dam.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Helen Cotton.

Survivors include daughters, Clymene Johnson; sons, Merrick Bacon, Sr., Richie Cotton, Colton Wilson; sister, Kathleen Phillips; brothers, Robert Cotton and Bobby Phillips; 6 grandchildren.

Pallbearers: Daven Willis, Justin Willis, Saethell Willis, J.D. Bell, Tyler Cotton, Wensley Wesley, Arrius Martin, Adrian Frazier.

Frances Lenell Kent

Ms. Frances Lenell Kent, 64, passed away Saturday, March 26, 2022, at her home in Philadelphia, Ms. She lived in Greenwood most of her life but lived in Philadelphia the last 8 years. She was Baptist by Faith, and she loved music and cats.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Harvey Durell Guest and Lucille Alexander.

Survivors include her daughter, Melissa Lindsey (Chad Harris) of Greenville, TX; sister, Rebecca White of Philadelphia, MS; brother, Michael Guest of Spring, TX; (2) grandchildren, Gabrielle Ashby, and Zuzu Harris; (2) nephews; (1) niece.

Kevin Ray Thompson

Funeral service for Mr. Kevin Ray Thompson will be held at 2 PM Thursday, March 24, 2022, at Hope Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Charles Doby Henry and Deacon Williamson Isaac officiating. Interment will be in Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10:30 AM Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at Hope Indian Baptist Church. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.



BRO. JOHN BURKES
GRAVESIDE SERVICES
MARCH 24
MCLAIN CHAPEL
CEMETERY

MRS. MATTIE RUTH KELLY
SERVICES MARCH 26
LINWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
INTERMENT LINWOOD CEMETERY

MRS. DELMA RUTH SLAWSON
GRAVESIDE SERVICES
MARCH 25
HARMONY CEMETERY

MR. SAMUEL BRADFORD "BRAD" KEMPTON, JR.
MEMORIAL SERVICE AT A LATER DATE

MR. GRADY LEE ELLINGBURG
SERVICES MARCH 27
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INTERMENT GREENVILLE CEMETERY

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Mr. Thompson, 49, passed away Sunday, March 20, 2022, at Hospice Ministries in Ridgeland, MS. He was Catholic by Faith.

He lived most of his life in the Pearl River Community. His hobbies were stickball and fishing. He also like to work on lawn equipment.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Easton Thompson Sr. and Gladys Steve; stepfather, Hamilton John; sisters, Sherry Greaves, Cynthia Wallace; brothers, Winford Morris, Robert Wayne Thompson.

Survivors include his sister, Joanne Thompson and his brother, Steve Hamilton.

Pallbearers: Terry Steve Jr., Collins Billy Jr., Jeremiah Thompson, Jonathan Cantrell, Auburn Jefferson, Christopher Thompson, Matthew Willis, Ricki Briscoe.



BEVERLY NICKY
2 PM FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2022
GRAVESIDE
HOLY ROSARY
CEMETERY

MRS. TWANA GAIL TUBBY ISAAC
2 PM SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022
PEARL RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH
ISAAC CEMETERY

MR. JESUS JOSE RIGOBERTO MELENDEZ
2 PM SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022

JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL
CREMATION

MR. LEVERN HAROLD NICKY
2 PM MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022
GRAVESIDE
HOLY ROSARY CEMETERY

MR. EDWARD L. MAY SR.
11 AM TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022

JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL
MCCCLAIN CHAPEL CEMETERY

WEEK OF 3/28/2022
MR. KEVIN RAY THOMPSON
2 PM THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022
HOPE INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
BOGUE CHITTO COMMUNITY CEMETERY

MR. RICHARD EARL COTTON
2 PM SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

CRYSTAL RIDGE GYM
DANCING RABBIT CEMETERY

MRS. THERESA RODGERS
3 PM SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022
JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL
CREMATION TO FOLLOW

FRANCES KENT
CREMATION

BROWN LARRY STOREY
7 PM THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022
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LITTLE MOUNTAIN M.B. CHURCH, UNION INTERMENT CHURCH CEMETERY
MRS. ELSIE LINDA KIRKSEY
12 P.M. WED., MAR. 30, 2022
NESHOPA COUNTY COLISEUM INTERMENT MT. ZION U.M. CHURCH CEMETERY
MINISTER TOMMY STEVE BOLER
11 A.M. SAT., APR. 2, 2022
JERUSALEM TEMPLE CHURCH INTERMENT SPRINGHILL M.B. CHURCH CEMETERY, UNION
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THE LORD'S DAY
Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.
Sunday School (All Ages)
9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Activities
Family Night Dinner
6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Bible Study and Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)
Children's Program
7:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia
"For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things, To Him be the glory forever"
533 Main Street • 601-656-4312
Pastor David Stormont
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

Philadelphia Transit provides helpful service in county

By JOHN LEE
john@neshobademocrat.com

Phyllis Brown said Philadelphia Transit is an answered prayer because she doesn't have a car.

"I've been with Philadelphia Transit since they first started, and I became aware of it when my apartment manager told us about it," Brown said. "I came to Philadelphia in 2019 and don't have a car, so it's difficult for me to get around. This organization is a Godsend."

Brown said Philadelphia Transit is very accommodating and the drivers will even help people get on and off the bus if they have any issues.

"The drivers are very nice, polite, and helpful," Brown said. "The two ladies in the office, Mrs. Sandy and Mrs. Mitchell, they are very caring and polite as well. The Lord sent someone that is willing to wait for me and know that there would be a bus waiting for me no matter how long I took."

"Philadelphia is blessed to have this transportation company, and if anyone needs a ride, I urge them to call Philadelphia Transit," Brown said. "It gives you a sense of independence."



Board and staff members of Philadelphia Transit stand in front of one of the transportation vehicles. Pictured, from left: Shanda Hillman, Dawn Goodwin, Michelle McCool, Jessica Culpepper, Sandy Morgan, and Andrea Mitchell.

You can pay and still have your dignity, which is so important for the elderly and for people who don't have a way to get around town on their own."

Philadelphia Transit is a non-profit organization that provides

transportation to the elderly, disabled, and the general public to a variety of destinations, including doctor's appointments, grocery stores, drug stores, and more.

Jessica Culpepper, vice pres-

ident of Philadelphia Transit and board member, said she and the rest of the organization realized in 2020, there was a great need for transportation, especially in rural areas.

"We got in touch with

MDOT in 2020, went through their application process, and did our soft opening in October 2021," Culpepper said. "Our grand opening was January of this year. There are a lot of challenges, mainly us being in a rural area, but we're just happy to be able to meet people where they are and be involved in everyday lives. Every opportunity for us is special."

Culpepper said she is happy to support the community and appreciates the support and turnout for the service since January.

"We're growing by leaps and bounds," Culpepper said. "We're doing our best with our resources and try to help as many people in the area as possible."

Philadelphia Transit serves six counties: Neshoba, Scott, Newton, Kemper, Winston, and Lauderdale. Each ride's rate depends on where you're going and how far the destination is.

Andrea Mitchell, project director for Philadelphia Transit, said she has always needed to help people and work with the public.

"Transportation has been a major need in our community, and when I was approached to

help with this project, I knew I needed to be part of it to help people get to the places they need to go," Mitchell said. "It's been a challenge being able to only go to places we serve, so filling in the gaps is difficult."

Mitchell said the best part of working for the organization is meeting the needs of the patients and seeing how thankful they are for the transportation.

"Helping these people meet their needs and being a source of support for them is by far the best thing about this," she said. "We've had great support from Louisville, Winston, and Neshoba and hope to continue to gain their support."

To schedule an appointment, call 601-389-8053. Philadelphia Transit is located on Line Street in Philadelphia and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Stamps may be more expensive these days, but they have a quality we should emulate: they stick to one thing until they get there.

Dime: a dollar with the taxes taken out.

Two can live as cheaply as one - for half as long.

A woman's intuition is what enables them to contradict her husband before he says anything.

Man at an airline counter: 'How can anything that goes 800 miles an hour be late?'

Byrds FURNITURE
319 Byrd Ave., Philadelphia, MS 39350
601-656-1802

COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail Docket from 3/21-3/28

- Tanya Alford, 44, of 10221 Rd 359, trespassing
- Brandon Anderson, 35, of 125 Wolf trail Conehatta, Poss. of controlled substance, failure to appear
- Brendan Bagley, 38, of 1780 East Forth St., Disorderly conduct, public profanity, public drunk, disturbing the peace
- Tamara Bell, 38, of 160 Bogue Chitto Cir, failure to appear, failure to appear
- Mahalia Ben, 30, of 112 Hunters Place, contempt of court
- Justine Billy, 25, of 115 Indian Hills Spur, driving under the influence other substance, poss. of marijuana vehicle
- Derrick Brown, 47, of 525 Deer Trail Rd, driving under the influence 1st offense
- Keewan Burnside, 21, of 407 Barham Street, failure to appear
- Kenneth Burton, 44, of 351

- Cherokee St, public drunk
- Logan Cabaniss, 19, of 5012 Attala Rd 5001, possession of marijuana 1st offense
- Dale Chickaway, 47, of 143 East Tucker Rd, hold for investigations
- Dale L Chickaway, 47, of 143 East Tucker Rd, hold for investigations
- Edward Clark, 47, of 13770 Rd 610, disturbing the peace, public profanity, hold for investigations
- Parrish Clark, 40, of 17732 15 South, grand larceny more than \$1000.00
- Kelli Davis, 37, of 11101 Rd 149, possession of firearm by convicted felon
- Tayler Davis, 30, of 10161 Bounds Ave, driving under the influence 1st offense
- Tanya Dixon, 46, of 171 Neshoba Kemper Rd, contempt of court
- Alicia Frazier, 33, of 130 Tiak Chitto Circle, possession of con-

- trolled substance
- Jimmy Gaddis, 72, of 551 Road 737, contempt of court
- Kimberly Gray, 41, of 328 Conehatta Rd, driving under the influence/refusal to take test, child endangerment misdemeanor, endangerment misdemeanor, endangerment misdemeanor, no driver's license
- Ashley Gros, 39, of 3616 Suter Rd, indictment
- Emanuawel Harrison, 20, of 10281 Highway 16 W, failure to appear
- Willie Harrison, 58, of 647 South Raleigh St. A, public drunk
- Quincy Hill, 20, of 353 Choctaw Road, careless driving, no driver's license, no insurance, failure to yield to blue light/siren
- Amber Jefferson, 32, of 1015 Blackjack Road, hold for investigations
- Tevin Johnson, 27, of 185 Parkridge Lane, public drunk, trafficking of controlled substance
- Dylan Lara, 41, of 520 Kersh

- Circle, driving under the influence 1st offense
- Stacey Lewis, 41, of 404 Barham, possession of firearm by convicted felon
- Jeffrey Miller, 23, of 10511 Rd 632, contempt of court
- Arlana Mingo, 37, of 13800 Hwy 491, contempt of court
- Paneshia Mingo, 21, of 207 Otha Cove Conchetta, poss. of controlled substance, poss. of marijuana vehicle, possession of paraphernalia
- Dustin Morris, 39, of 13580 Hwy 491 North, failure to appear
- David Nowell, 39, of 11791 Rd 539, contempt of court
- Antonio Parrott, 28, of 106 Old Town Rd, driving under the influence 1st offense, no insurance, poss. of marijuana vehicle
- Franklin Seales, 59, of 401 Austin Street, credit card, intent to defraud-felony (More/\$250.00)
- Randall Sisson, 35, of 10340 Hwy 485, failure to appear
- Brittany Staggs, 33, of 133

- Canyon Dr, public drunk, disorderly conduct
- Kendrick Steve, 33, of 1863 Will Brown Rd, poss. of controlled substance, poss. of marijuana vehicle, possession of paraphernalia
- Marco Thomas, 46, of 986 Blackjack Road, failure to appear, hold for investigations, poss. of controlled substance
- James H Thompson, 35, of 1843 Salem Road, uttering forgery
- Valerie Thompson, 46, of 1019 Plattsburg Rd, hold for investigations
- Komelious Triplett, 20, of 427 Coleman Street, murder-capital, robbery-armed
- Sean Tubby, 31, of 128 Palmer Road, public drunk
- Bailey Vance, 28, of 11854 Hwy 16 West, possession of paraphernalia, poss. of controlled substance
- Jalen Williams, 19, of 220 South Oswald Rd

SPRING IS HERE & WE ARE STOCKED UP FOR IT

LAWN & GARDEN ITEMS - WIND CHIMES - SILK BUNCH FLOWERS BY THE 1,000'S - FABRICS 1,000'S YARDS ASSTD PRINTS - MAIL BOX COVERS - GARDEN FLAGS & FLAG HOLDERS - RIBBON 100'S OF ROLLS - 10" & 21" FLORAL MESH MANY COLORS - CRAFT ITEMS - WEDDING SUPPLIES

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BIG SHIPMENT SILK BUNCH FLOWERS & ANOTHER SHIPMENT IS ON THE ROAD FROM CALIFORNIA

Jerome Tank
Season-2-Season, Inc.

1115 E. MAIN STREET
PHILADELPHIA
1 MILE FROM DOWNTOWN
601-656-7104



SCAM ALERT MEDICARE CARDS

Senior Medicare Patrol is warning Medicare beneficiaries of a new scam involving Medicare cards.

Scammers are posing as Medicare, calling beneficiaries and offering to send new, plastic Medicare cards.



- **Do not** share your Medicare number with anyone who calls, emails or texts.
- Medicare will **never** call you to ask for your Medicare number.
- **Review** your Medicare statements to be sure all claims belong to you.

If someone calls and asks for your Medicare number or other personal information, **hang up** and call your local SMP.

877-272-8720

Tired of seniors being targeted with scams like this one? Join SMP in the fight against Medicare fraud. Volunteer to give short talks to small groups about healthcare fraud and scams or volunteer to spread awareness about the SMP program at community events in your area. Call today to find out how you can help in the fight against Medicare fraud!

www.stopmedicarefraud.org



SMP is funded by a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, supported by grant number 90MPPG0023, 90MPPG0024 & 90MPPG0049.

Public Notices

Notice to Bidders

The Neshoba County School District will receive Competitive Sealed Proposals for Educational Assessments by mail, by hand delivery, or electronically until 2:00 pm, on April 19, 2022. All written responses shall be placed with two signed hard copies of Proposals, enclosed in a sealed envelope marked "Proposal for Assessments," and submitted to Neshoba County School District, Office of the Superintendent of Education, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350. Electronic proposals can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions regarding the electronic bidding process, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814 or info@centralbidding.com.

Official Requests for Proposals can be downloaded at www.neshobacentral.com or downloaded at www.centralbidding.com. It shall be incumbent upon each bidder to understand the specifications and requirements. Questions, interpretations, clarifications, or communication regarding RFP Educational Assessments must be submitted to Deirdre Manning at dmmanning@neshobacentral.com by April 6.

Responses to questions and requests for clarification shall be the responsibility of Deirdre Manning, NCSd Director of Federal Programs. Contact made with any other Neshoba County School District personnel may be considered grounds for disqualification.

It is not the intent of the specifications to limit the bidding to any particular provider of services, but rather to select services to fill specific needs. Any reference to name-brand materials or services is intended to establish standards only and proposals submitted on materials, or services thereto shall be considered. The owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive irregularities.

Publish Wednesday, March 23, and Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The NESHOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS will receive competitive Reverse Auction Bids to be submitted electronically via the Neshoba County website at www.neshobacounty.net with said Reverse Auction occurring from 8:00 AM on Friday, April 29th, 2022 until 10:00 AM, local time, on Monday, May 2nd, 2022, from qualified vendors in response to this solicitation for acquiring the following equipment:

One (1) or more, new, 2022 or newer Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD Vehicle(s)

Detailed specifications for the above described equipment and bid forms may be obtained from the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors office at the Neshoba County Courthouse, 401 Beacon Street, Suite 201, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350, by calling 601-656-6281 or by Neshoba County's website at www.neshobacounty.net. Neshoba County, Mississippi will determine if compliance with the specifications exist before accepting any bid.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS:

All responses to this solicitation for said vehicles shall be returned, with detailed proposals including therewith, including the fixed price amount to be bid, in a single file, PDF document format, and submitted electronically via the reverse auction at www.neshobacounty.net/bids under the correct bid solicitation between 8:00 AM on Friday, April 29th, 2022 and 10:00 AM on Monday, May 2nd, 2022.

It shall be incumbent upon each bidder to understand the specifications as listed herein and to obtain clarification when necessary. It is not the intent of these specifications to limit the bidding to any particular make or manufacturer of equipment or provider of services, but rather to select such equipment and services to provide for specific needs and specific tasks including vehicles for emergency response as solicited under this request. Any reference to name-brand materials or equipment is intended to establish the minimum necessary standards only and bids submitted on materials and equipment equal thereto, at the sole discretion and determination of Neshoba County, shall be considered.

The Neshoba County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to accept or reject any / or all bids and waive informalities and irregularities. No bid, upon submission, may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days.

Published by Order of the Board of Supervisors of Neshoba County, Mississippi on the 21st day of March 2022.

/s/ GUY NOWELL
GUY NOWELL, CLERK
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Publication dates: March 30th and April 6th, 2022

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF HELEN AGENT MYERS, DECEASED

GARY AGENT, EXECUTOR

NO. 2022-48-JK

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been Granted on the 23rd day of March, 2022, by the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the undersigned, Gary Agent, upon the Last Will and Testament of

Public Notices

Helen Agent Myers, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the date of the first publication of this Notice or they will be forever barred.

This the 24th day of March, 2022.
/s/Gary Agent, Executor of The Estate of Helen Agent Myers, Deceased

ROBERT L. THOMAS, MSBN 8159
ALFORD, THOMAS & THOMAS, PLLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
POST OFFICE BOX 96
PHILADELPHIA, MS 39350
601/656-1871 TELEPHONE
601/656-0189 FACSIMILE

NESHOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS EXPENSE SUMMARY FOR: 03/21/2022

001-100 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 2839.14 001-101 CHANCERY CLERK 67.65 001-102 CIRCUIT CLERK 135.39 001-105 TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR 525.52 001-120 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR 283.80 001-151 MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING/GROUND 21430.33 001-152 DATA PROCESSING 4557.54 001-154 VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE 447.95 001-160 CHANCERY COURT 144.03 001-161 CIRCUIT COURT 3351.61 001-163 JUVENILE COURT 2633.95 001-164 JUVENILE DRUG COURT 336.64 001-165 LUNACY COURT 625.00 001-166 JUSTICE COURT 4873.43 001-167 CORONER/MEDICAL EXAMINER 1277.43 001-169 COUNTY ATTORNEY 37.11 001-170 PUBLIC DEFENDER 41.34 001-180 ELECTIONS 22126.59 001-200 SHERIFF ADMINISTRATION 17793.18 001-220 CUSTODY OF PRISONERS 11418.72 001-232 MEDICAL SERVICE - PRISONERS 1247.36 001-260 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 1311.89 001-450 WELFARE ADMINISTRATION 330.50 001-452 COUNCIL ON AGING 241.23 001-540 RECREATION/COLISEUM 1359.78 001-631 COUNTY EXTENSION 3466.25 001-676 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTH 68.85 097-265 COUNTY WIDE E-911 1809.05 097-890 CO WIDE E-911 - LEASE/PURCHASE 9757.79 104-172 LAW LIBRARY 256.21 106-250 FIRE DEPARTMENT 1919.21 106-251 COUNTY LINE VFD 125.00 106-255 DIXON VFD 3630.00 115-205 FOREFEITURE MONIES 300.00 120-221 INMATE CANTEN FUNDS 3094.82 130-540 COLISEUM EXPENSES 10245.37 150-300 COUNTY UNIT ROAD 64012.49 150-890 CO UNIT RD - LEASE/PURCHASE 880.24 160-300 COUNTY WIDE BRIDGE & CULVERT 191203.39 160-890 CO WIDE BRIDGE-LEASE/PURCHASE 3806.92 400-340 SOLID WASTE 6414.07 400-890 SOLID WASTE - LEASE/PURCHASE 5628.69 650-000 ASSESSMENTS 2312.50 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: 408367.96 THIS IS A SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES FOR PERIOD ENDING MARCH 21, 2022 LISTING THE TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS BY EACH DEPARTMENT/FUND PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MISSISSIPPI CODE ANN. § 19-3-35. A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL EXPENDITURES REPRESENTING THESE TOTALS IS RECORDED IN THE DOCKET OF CLAIMS AND IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION IN THE CHANCERY CLERKS OFFICE OR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS. /S/ GUY NOWELL CLERK OF THE BOARD NESHOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Philadelphia Utilities
Philadelphia, MS
Wastewater Lagoon Erosion Repairs
Philadelphia Utilities (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
Wastewater Lagoon Erosion Repairs
72355

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the office of Philadelphia Utilities located at 435 Myrtle Street, Philadelphia, MS, until Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 10:00 AM local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project includes the following Work:
Earth fill and rock rip-rap installation at the wastewater lagoon levees and related items
Bids are requested for the following Contract: Wastewater Lagoon Erosion Repairs.
The Project has an expected duration of 120 days.
Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:
<https://www.allenhoshallplanroom.com>

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

A copy of the plans and specifications may be examined at: the office of the Engineer, Allen & Hoshall, 1675 Lakeland Drive, Suite 207, Jackson, Mississippi, 39216 and at the office of Philadelphia Utilities, Philadelphia, Mississippi.
Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to operate in the

Public Notices

State of Mississippi, in the amount of 5% of the total bid price, as a guarantee that if the bid is accepted, the Bidder will enter into a contract and execute the Performance and Payment Bonds in the form and within the time specified.

The successful Bidder will be required to execute a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the Contract, issued by a Surety Company licensed to operate in the State and shall be named in the current list of "Companies Holding Certificates of Authority as Acceptable Sureties on Federal Bonds and as Acceptable Reinsuring Companies" as published in Circular 570 (amended) by the Audit Staff Bureau of Accounts, U.S. Treasury Department.

Each Bidder shall have a Certificate of Responsibility to bid on contracts for public projects in which the bid price exceeds \$50,000.00 and for private projects in which the bid price exceeds \$100,000.00 as required by the laws of the State of Mississippi. Each Bidder shall show on the outside of the envelope containing his bid: his current certificate of responsibility number and expiration date or if applicable, a statement certifying that the bid enclosed does not exceed \$50,000.00 for a public project or \$100,000.00 for a private project. Failure to show these items on the outside of the envelope containing the bid will result in the bid being returned to Bidder unopened. No Bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of sixty (60) days after date of actual bid opening, without Owner's consent.

Philadelphia Utilities reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received to waive any informalities in the bids received, and to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to Philadelphia Utilities. This Advertisement is issued by: Owner: Philadelphia Utilities By: Kirk Morgan Title: Manager Date: Publish on March 30, 2022 and April 6, 2022.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LAURA C. MARCANGELI, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2021-16

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 1 st day of March, 2021, by the Chancery Court of the County of Neshoba, Mississippi, to the undersigned Executrix, upon the Estate of Laura C. Marcangeli, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of said Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days of the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred. This, the 21 st day of March, 2022.

Yancey Mason Harrington
YANCEY MASON HARRINGTON, EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF LAURA C. MARCANGELI, DECEASED

DATES OF PUBLICATION: March 30, 2022 April 6, 2022 April 13, 2022

PREPARED BY: RINGER, LINGOLD, & SPENCER
DAVID RINGER, MSB# 5364
125 EAST MAIN STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 737
FLORENCE, MISSISSIPPI 39073
(601) 845-7349/FAX (601) 845-6799
G:\ESTATES\EXECUTOR\MARCANGELI\NOT2CRED.wpd

Notice to Bidders

The Neshoba County School District will receive Competitive Sealed Proposals for Supplemental Instructional Programs by mail, by hand delivery, or electronically until 2:00 pm, on April 21, 2022. All written responses shall be placed with two signed hard copies of Proposals, enclosed in a sealed envelope marked "Proposal for Supplemental Instruction," and submitted to Neshoba County School District, Office of the Superintendent of Education, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350.

Electronic proposals can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions regarding the electronic bidding process, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814 or info@centralbidding.com.

Official Requests for Proposals can be downloaded at www.neshobacentral.com or downloaded at www.centralbidding.com. It shall be incumbent upon each bidder to understand the specifications and requirements. Questions, interpretations, clarifications, or communication regarding RFP Supplemental Instructional Programs must be submitted to Dr. Penny Hill at phill@neshobacentral.com by April 6.

Responses to questions and requests for clarification shall be the responsibility of Dr. Penny Hill, NCSd Assistant Superintendent. Contact made with any other Neshoba County School District personnel may be considered grounds for disqualification.

It is not the intent of the specifications to limit the bidding to any particular provider of services, but rather to select services to fill specific needs. Any reference to name-brand materials or services is intended to establish standards only and proposals submitted on materials, or services thereto shall be considered. The owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive irregularities.

Publish Wednesday, March 23, and Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The NESHOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS will receive competitive sealed bids and proposals in the Office of Chancery Clerk Guy Nowell, for the Board of Supervisors of Neshoba County, Mississippi, at the Neshoba County Courthouse, 401 Beacon Street, Suite 107, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350 or electronic bids and proposals submitted at www.neshobacounty.net until 10:00 AM on the 2nd day of May 2022 for the purposes of acquiring the following equipment, services and contracts:

Twelve (12), new, Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW) (TASER) with cloud-based evidence management system and accessories to provide a complete CEW program for the Neshoba County Sheriff's Department with warranty, support and maintenance for a five (5) year period.

Detailed specifications for the above described equipment and bid forms may be obtained from the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors office at the Neshoba County Courthouse, 401 Beacon Street, Suite 201, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350, by calling 601-656-6281 or on Neshoba County's website at www.neshobacounty.net. Neshoba County, Mississippi will determine if compliance with the specifications exist before accepting any bid.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS:

All responses to the solicitation for Conducted Energy Weapons shall be returned, with detailed proposals included therewith, with the fixed price amount to be bid on the official bid form, in a single PDF document, and submitted electronically at www.neshobacounty.net under the correct bid solicitation, by 10:00 AM, local time, on Monday, May 2nd, 2022 or alternatively the detailed proposal should be placed in a sealed envelope marked "2022 CEW Program Bid" along with the date and time of said bid opening, and filed with the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors C/O Chancery Clerk Guy Nowell, 401 Beacon Street, Suite 107, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350 by the same date and time. It should be noted that the cost for this five-year program is not anticipated to exceed the required reverse auction bid threshold amount. Should the cost exceed the threshold amount, respondents will be invited to participate in the reverse auction for this acquisition.

It shall be incumbent upon each bidder to understand the specifications as listed herein and to obtain clarification when necessary. It is not the intent of these specifications to limit the bidding to any particular make or manufacturer of equipment or provider of services, but rather to select such public safety equipment and/or services to provide for specific needs and specific tasks. Any reference to name-brand materials or equipment is intended to establish the minimum necessary standards only and bids submitted on materials and equipment equal thereto, at the sole discretion and determination of Neshoba County, shall be considered.

Published by Order of the Board of Supervisors of Neshoba County, Mississippi on the 21st day of March 2022.

/s/ GUY NOWELL
GUY NOWELL, CLERK
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Publication dates: March 30th and April 6th, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY having been granted on the 3rd day of March, 2022, by the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the undersigned, upon the Estate of Edward Earl Wilson in Civil Action No. 2022-27JK, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present same to be proved and registered according to law within ninety (90) days from this date or they will be forever barred. This the 16th day of March, 2022. By: /s/ Ellen Joiner Wilson, Executor Prepared by: Lori C. Baird (MS Bar No. 104145) ROSEN HARWOOD, P.A. 2200 Jack Warner Parkway Suite 200 (35401) Post Office Box 2727 Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 Telephone: (205) 344-5000

Publication Dates: 03/23/22, 03/30/22 and 04/06/22

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN RE: L.C.A., A MINOR

MELISSA ANN BELL
PETITIONER
VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2022-83
TERESA COTTON ANDERSON AND LOIS HICKMAN AND DAVID HICKMAN
AND ASHLEIGH THAMES and ANY UNKNOWN FATHERS RESPONDENTS

SUMMONS

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

TO: ANY UNKNOWN FATHERS, whether resident/ non resident of the state of Mississippi, claiming to be the father of the minor child, L.C.A., whose mother is Teresa Anderson.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

THE COMPLAINT OR PETITION

Public Notices

WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint, petition or motion at 10:00 a.m., on the 4th day of May, 2022, in the courtroom of the Choctaw Tribal Court in the Smith John Justice Complex located on the Pearl River Reservation, Choctaw, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint, petition or motion.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this Court, this the 16th day of March, 2022.

/s/Kristina Jim
TRIBAL COURT CLERK

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN RE: GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR, H.M.A.

MELISSA ANN BELL
PETITIONER
VS.
CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2022-84
TERESA COTTON ANDERSON AND LOIS HICKMAN AND DAVID HICKMAN
AND ASHLEIGH THAMES and ANY UNKNOWN FATHERS RESPONDENTS

SUMMONS

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

TO: ANY UNKNOWN FATHERS, whether resident/ non resident of the state of Mississippi, claiming to be the father of the minor child, H.M.A., whose mother is Teresa Anderson.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

THE COMPLAINT OR PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint, petition or motion at 10:00 a.m., on the 4th day of May, 2022, in the courtroom of the Choctaw Tribal Court in the Smith John Justice Complex located on the Pearl River Reservation, Choctaw, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint, petition or motion.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this Court, this the 16th day of March, 2022.

/s/Kristina Jim
TRIBAL COURT CLERK

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN RE: T.C.A., A MINOR

MELISSA ANN BELL
PETITIONER
VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2022-83
TERESA COTTON ANDERSON AND LOIS HICKMAN AND DAVID HICKMAN
AND ASHLEIGH THAMES and ANY UNKNOWN FATHERS RESPONDENTS

SUMMONS

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

TO: ANY UNKNOWN FATHERS, whether resident/ non resident of the state of Mississippi, claiming to be the father of the minor child, T.C.A., whose mother is Teresa Anderson.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

THE COMPLAINT OR PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint, petition or motion at 10:00 a.m., on the 4th day of May, 2022, in the courtroom of the Choctaw Tribal Court in the Smith John Justice Complex located on the Pearl River Reservation, Choctaw, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint, petition or motion.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this Court, this the 16th day of March, 2022.

/s/ Kristina Jim
TRIBAL COURT CLERK

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF OBAID HASSAN ELNAHAM, DECEASED CAUSE NO.: 2021-277 ZAKI OBAID ELNAHAM PETITIONER

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi, on the Estate of Obaid Hassan Elnaham, Deceased, on the 10th day of March, 2022, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the said Estate to have their claims probated and registered by the Clerk of the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, and that failure to probate and register their claims with the Clerk within that time will forever bar the claim. WITNESS MY SIGNATURE this the 10th day of March, 2022.

/s/ Zaki Obaid Elnaham
ZAKI OBAID ELNAHAM

Prepared by:
DOUGLAS J. GRAHAM
SETTLEMIRE & GRAHAM, PLLC
410 East Beacon Street
Philadelphia, MS 39350
(601) 656-9597
MSBN: 101965

SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF NESHOPA
WHEREAS, on February 26, 2016, Kevin Tindol and Melissa Tindol executed and delivered a certain Deed of Trust unto Jenifer Branning, Trustee for the benefit of Charles W. Burch and wife, Jo Carmen Burch, to secure an indebtedness therein described, which Deed of Trust is recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi in Book 2016 at page 1816; and WHEREAS on the 10th day of March, 2022, Terry L. Jordan was substituted as Trustee by instrument recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi, in Book 2022 at page 2234, and WHEREAS, default having been made in the payments of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, and the holder of said Deed of Trust having requested the undersigned to go to do, on March 31, 2022, I will, during legal hours (between the hours of 11 o'clock a.m., and 4 o'clock p.m.) at public outcry, offer for sale and will sell, at the North front door of the Neshoba County Courthouse at Philadelphia, Mississippi, for cash to the highest bidder, the following described land and property situated in Neshoba County, Mississippi, to-wit: Beginning at the Southwest corner of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 24, Township 11 North, Range 12 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi (said point also being the Southwest corner of Lot 3); Run thence East for 571.9'; Run thence North 993.5'; Run thence West for 71.8'; Run thence North for 231' to the South row of County Road 626; Run thence Southwesterly along said South row for approximately 650' to the West line of Section 24; Run thence South for 809.3' back to the Point of Beginning. Containing 15 AC, more or less, in Section 24, Township 11 North, Range 12 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi. AND ALSO: Beginning at the Southwest corner of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 24, Township 11 North, Range 12 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi (said point also being the Southwest corner of Lot 3); Run thence East for 571.9'; Run thence North for 993.5'; Run thence West for 71.8'; Run thence North for 231' to the South row of County Road 626; Run thence Northeasterly along said South row for approximately 72'; Run thence South for 234.7' back to the Point of Beginning. Containing 0.4 AC, more or less, in Section 24, Township 11 North, Range 12 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi. Witness my signature, this the 10th day of March, 2022. s/Terry L. Jordan, Substituted Trustee State of Mississippi County of Neshoba This day personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named Terry L. Jordan, who after having been first duly sworn, deposes and says that all of the matters in the above and foregoing instrument are true and correct as therein stated. This the 10th day of March, 2022. s/Peggy M. Barfoot, Notary Public SEAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KENNY BERT GILMORE CIVIL ACTION NO.: 22-0023-KK

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 11th day of February 2022 by the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Kenny Bert Gilmore, Deceased, being administered in Civil Action File No.: 22-cv-0023-KK, on the docket of said Court, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred. THIS THE 8th day of March, 2022.

/s/Benita Carleen Gilmore
Executor of the Estate of
Kenny Bert Gilmore, Deceased

HONOR ROLL

NESHOBA CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten

Highest Honors: Waleed Aissaour, Breland Alexander, Laney Alford, Ayden Alle, Bayla Amos, Kolson Baysinger, Talia Ben, Laklyn Blair, Emmett Branning, Joseph Breland, Tyrone Broxton, Bailey Butts, Khanaan Cleveland, Emma Closson, Bryleigh Cotton, Mason Cress, Kody Currie, Koah Darby,

Rodney Davis, Tarya Davis, Hadley Dellapenna, Corbin Dertinger, David Do, Dylan Donald, Eciason Dougherty, Lelly Eakes, Foretra Ealy, Addaline Ellingburg, Harlie Ellingburg, Hazel Ellington, Sawyer Fairchild, Letty Floyd, Zoey Franklin, River Goforth, Chandler Greer, Jaxon Griffin, Kynnedii Gully, Nikola Hallows, Sydney Harris, Aubree Harrison, Anderson Hibbler, Caden Higginbotham, Josie Holley, Piper Holley,

Sydney Hollingsworth, Vicor Hunt, Brantley Ingram, Mackenzie Irons, Cheyette Isaac, Sahyimmie Isaac, Mila Isom, Emma Jackson, Leia Jackson, Lexi Jackson, Paxtyn Jackson, Eiyana Jimmie, Emma John, Andy Johnson, La'Kayla Johnson, Chip Joiner, Jesse Jolly, Isaac Jones, Harmonie Junior, Isabella Kelly, Mathan Kilcrease, Aleigha King, Conner King, Cooper King, Maddox Kirkland, Kaislyn Latimer, Aiden Le, Braxton Lewis, Jayven Lewis, Kaylani Lewis, Naya Lewis, Wyatt Little, Laklynn Long, Haze Lovern, Tristan Luke, Alexander Mabon, Evangeline May, Lilly McAdory, Mia McAfee,

Kaison McCarty, Saydee McCrory, Mckenzie McDonald, Adalie McFarland, Taylor McGahey, Honor McGowen, Corbin McKee, Josie Meadows, Weston Moorehead, Della Morgan, Lukas Neal, Kemper Nelson, Konner Nelson, Ross Nicholson, Ryleigh Overby, Parker Ovitt, Ziya Pace, Adalyn Parker, Darrin Patrick, Maddeleigh Permenter, Paisley Perry, Katherine Petty,

Avie Phillips, Tyler Pickens, Jaxon Pilgrim, Piper Pilgrim, Eli Pinter, Cody Pitts, William Polk, Tinsley Rounsaville, Baylee Sanders, Amelia Savell, Arizona Shannon, Lucia Sharp, Kinsley Skinner, Ambrey

Smith, Conner Smith, Edward Smith, Kiely Smith, Logan Smith, Kourtland Spivey, Jack Stewart, Ryleigh Stokes, Dorothy Storey, Jayden Sullivan, Easton Talamantes,

Knox Tate, Marleigh Taylor, Bradley Thibodeaux, Sophia Thrash, Sophia Tran, Ella Triplett, Alexa Turner, Leyton Turner, Bennett Webb, Ja'nyla Wells, Raiun Wilkerson, Zaylee Williams, Emmaleigh Williamson, John Cole Williamson, Sabrina Williamson, Cooper Willis, Braylin Wilson, Korbin Wilson, Karceen Windham, David Withers, Kayzlen Wynn and Brynlee Yandell.

Honor Roll: Brazxtyn Agent, Treynisia Anderson, Kinsle Barrett, Lilly Bell, Michael Bematre, Amari Brown, Devin Brown, John Wayne Butler, Kaelon Clemons, Haven Coghlán, Allyson Cumberland, Riley Eakes, Sky Edwards, Brooklyn Gray, Ja'Miyah Griffin, Drae Hickman, Omar Hogan, Lai'yah Hudson, Alejandro Irvin, Averi Jobe, Grayson King, Madelyn Lewis, Maxwell Logan, Damari Lyons, Keontae McClendon,

Kenzi McElroy, Jaiden Moore, Emery Nedopak, Olyvia Nicholson, Rylie Parks, Serenity Perkins, Keelian Riddle, Bryson Savell, Keagon Shannon, Matthew Sharp, Greysen Sims, Kaylee Sims, Bryson Steele, Oakleigh Steele, Kayliee Stribling, Asher Sullivan, James Talbert, Remington Traxler, Ainsleigh Trussell, Ivyona Tubby, Ryleigh Tucker, Kenzie Twillie,

Braxton Waddell, Charlton Wade, Elias Wade, Conner Warren, Taylor Warren, Joseph Whinery, Harley White, Grayson Williams, Millie Williamson, Amicia Willis, CCilyn Willis, Makenzie Wilson and Brian Young.

First Grade

Highest Honors: Zander Abel, Ethan Adams, Cora Alexander, Makenzie Atkins, Blaze Barlow, Jensyn Bell, Lakelyn Boler, Carson Bounds, Willa Brackett, Tatum Butler, Ella Coleman, Carsyn Cremeen, Azie Cumberland, Jennings Darbonne, Noble Davis, Ryker Davis, Ember Day, Ryleigh Denton, Braysten Donald, Jaycelynn Donald, Ruthie Donald, Emerson Estes,

Christopher Farmer, Remington Fitzgerald, Benson Fortenberry, Aston Gibbons, Lizzy Goforth, Avery Goldman, Anna Hancock, Jack Hancock, Adalyn Holley, Grace-Dior Holmes, Lathan Hoskins, Hadleigh Hughes, Remindgton Ivy, Cornelius Jackson, Kadence Jenkins, Koltan Johnson, Kai Jones, Kase Kilgore, Parker Kilpatrick, William Kilpatrick, Avery King, Ayda Lamm, John David Lewis, Khloe Lilly, Aubree Long,

Maria Lopez, William Madison, Kaiden Manning, Griffin Mars, Heidi May, Callie McCombs, Alanna McDonald, Leighton McIlwain, Haley Melton, Amery Mingo, Margaret Morrow, Harley Moulds, Khloe Myers, Miles Owen, Millie Patterson, James Pinter, Caleb Pullen, Colson Rushing, Ever Sam, Trace Seward, Amireion Smiley, Mary Claire Smith, Phillip Soriano, Sarah Spears, Eli Stokes, Jase Stroud, Benjamin Thames, Jontyson Tubby, Peyton Turner, Asher Warren, Henry Wells, Parker White and Herman Young.

Honor Roll: Declan Ahlers, Grace Alford, Mercy Alford, Cordae Allen, Jazelle Bell, Maddie Blackburn, Arie Body, Zoey Boler, Ali Boyd, Ty'shun Boyd, Kaelyn Boyette, Chipper Briscoe, Chloe Brown, Kaliyah Brown, Jonathan Bryan, Kynlee Byran, Madelyn Burrage, Kayden Burton, Cooper Caples, Jasper Commer, Braycen Cutler, Karley Edwards, Arabella Elsey, Jayden Fincher, Mariah Foster, Morgan Franklin, Mary Margaret Garner, Cameron Gates, Colsten Gill, Bentley Gilmer,

J'Kryn Graham, Jaxon Gusman, Azlee Hardy, Ketcher Harrington, Blake Haston, Harper Hillman, Addilyn Hunter, Aiden John, Ashlynn King, Madalynn King, Kenan Ladd, Katherine Lofton, Jordan Madison, Lainey McCrory, Maci McCullar, Nicholas McKinney, Ivan Morris, Liam Mowdy,

Genesis Patrick, Kellan Posey, Eliana Rangel, Jayden Riley, Owen Robertson, Kara Robinson, Ryker Robinson, Emma-Leigh Savell, Parker Savell, Hoyt Stepp, Bill Stockwell, Ja'lila Thompson, Landen Tucker, Heaven Williams, Kysyn Williams and Aizlyn Wilson.

Second Grade

Highest Honors: Ayda Alexander, Braxton Anderson, Linsford Baker, Mason Belk, Kaylee Billie, Elaina Brekeen, Madeline Breland, Addie Burks, Cassidy Chamblee, Ashlyn Chrest, Emery Comans, Deacon Edwards, Mackenzie Edwards, Jamie Fortenberry, Arabella Harris, Emma Henley, Easton Holmes, Sierra Howard, Skyler Howe, Zy'terrius Ingrum, Journeigh Isaac, Chase Jackson, Huck Joiner, Brooklyn Jones,

Kallie Kilpatrick, Keller King, Sidney King, Viktoria Klauck, Savanna Klootwyk, Aarav Marwaha, Josiah May, KaVonte McCarty, Leia McCown, Za'nyah Nowell, Anna Pike, Weston Pike, Lexi Pope, Caroline Rouse, Kaiser Rushing, Parks Sansing, Talan Schooler, Daniel Skipper, Micah Skipper,

Kadence Smith, Keaton Spears, Conway Stevens, Ava Tadlock, Ja'Marion Thompson, Readen Townsend, Tinslie Turner, Emery Vance, River VanNortwick, Ricker Warren, Marin Williams and Emily Wright.

Honor Roll: Sophie Bigham, Tyra Brazzle, Paris Chamberlin, Hallie Cockrell, Houston Cotton, Robert Cox, Kaylee Cumberland, Elle' Auna Dougherty, Madysn Duett, Peyton Dunn, Jonathan Flannigan, Dylan Fuller, Tessa Fulton, Emily Gibson, Hayes Gordon, Caleb Griffin, Bracie Hancock, Zaine Harvey, Serenity Henson, Kaylin Higgingotham, Johnathan Hopson, Luke Howdell, Reed Huffman, Jordee Jackson, Carter Johnson, Braxton Kessinger, Ali King, Devin Lamb,

Kamiya Lewis, James Manning, Eva McGee, Mason McGee, Slade Myers, Nyla Naylor, Blaine Nowell, Kali Pearson, Hadli Peters, Sybil Ragsdale, Bema Reynolds, Adleigh Sanderson, Cing'Stan Sherrod, Eliza Simmons, Michael Sims, Kirkland Spivey, Ryder Stepp, James Stokes, Aria Thornton, Elijah Townsend, Andrew Wilkerson, Connor Williams, Facility Williamson, Billy Wright and Ryker Zimmerman

Third Grade

Highest Honors: Jordyn Alford, Linnea Bake, Lily Barrett, Keysean Beamon, Selah Ben, Sutton Blackstock, Rivers Bounds, Paisley Bozeman, Zachary Broom, Jacee Burnside, Haven Calloway, Layton Coward, Liam Cumberland, Ava Garrett, Cayleigh Gates, Karsyn Germany, Trinity Gray, Alyssa Higginbotham, Kati James, Dalton Larson, Jaiden Lewis, Jacob McCullough, Bentley McDaniel, Jenny Moore,

William Nowell, Patton Phillips, Rivers Pope, Charleigh Ridout, Gregory Seward, Christian Stokes, Andrew Taylor, Charlie Thomas, Jaxson Vaughn, Jacob Wallace, Emely Ward, Darren Warren and McKenzie Williams.

Honor Roll: Calen Barrett, D'Mariyon Butler, Layken Butler, Roxie Clark, Caroline Cumberland, Skyler Curtright, Gracelyn Davis, Miley Dees, Abbie Dertinger, Hallie Downey, Jeb Flake, Collins Fortune, Nyin Frazier, Chase Garcia, Journi Garcia, Jagger Gibbons, Connor Goodwin, Easton Graham, CJ Grantham, Kerrigan Gully, Kooper Herrington, Brycen Higginbotham, Anthony Holley, Ausum Isaac, Envy Isaac, Posey Jackson, Christian Kirkland, Rylee Lashley,

Emma Learmonth, Lincoln Lovern, Capalyn Manning, Addlynn Massey, Mason McFee, Megan McWilliams, Princess Medford, Lucas Miller, Avery Myers, Amzie Patridge, Iszabella Pearson, Gannon Perry, Rebel Phillips, Anthony Plum, Jermeriah Plummer, Brad Purvis, Kash Robertson, Emmalee Robinson, Andrew Rumerly, Rocco Sam, Christopher Savell,

Alynnah Seals, Peyton Sharp, Jerry Sikes, Amelia Soriano, Sophia Stokes, Alexis Sullivan, Silas Taylor, Katie Tucker, Malaya Tullos, Khol Vance, Blakely Ward, Addisyn Watkins, Brayden Webb, Harper White, Avery Wilcher, Eli Winstead, Joel Withers, Margaret Young and Tushka Zimmerman.

Fourth Grade

Highest Honors: Hadleigh Adkins, Cooper Baysinger, Hallie Blackburn, Jonathon Cannon, John Parker Cockrell, Kiersten Cotton, Tredarion Curtis, Kaden Donald, Amzie Eakes, Leilani Faulkner, Terriah Fowler, Isabella Glass, Brayden Gunn,

David Hickman, Asher Holley, Benton James, Elijah Jayroe, James King, Jax Allan Lovern, Mirian Marshall, Mady Quinn Morrow, Kensington Pope, Brianna Singleton, Tracy Singleton, Raelyn Skinner, Laney Snuggs, Zachary Stewart, Bella Thrash, Mason Thrash, Skylar Vance, Jacob Vaughn, Aiden Ward, Darby White and Kyliyah Wilson.

Honor Roll: Lillian Adams, Ellie Ainsworth, Alaina Alford, Hannah Apperson, Rayden Avent, Blakely Barnes, Noah Billie, Miley Blair, Mckaelyn Boyd, Azaria Brantley, Maraget Brewer, Joseph Buckley, Braxton Byars, Kingston Carter, Callen Chandler, Avery Chapman, Iason Chickaway, Aubry Clossom, Joseph Cumberland, Phoenix Cumberland, Lakelyn Darby, Cooper Dellapenna, Geovanny Duell, Braxton Ellingburg,

Elijah Ferguson, Hunter Flake, Princeton Fortenberry, Eric Fulton, Payton Gascoigne, Sadie Gray, Kloey Grayson, Emily Hathorn, Mackie Huffman, Victor Hunt, Ariel Hunter, Jaidyn Hunter, Khyli Hunter, Kemjajya Johnson, Monteze Johnson, Preston Kilgore, Morgan Kirkland, Gavin Lamb, Nicholas Lewis, William Mars, Maddox McBeath, Myli McCallum,

J'Kaylen McWilliams, Caisne Melton, Amari Moore, Jumea Morse, Logan Murphy, Jacob Myers, Ashley Najera-Perez, Kitty Norwood, Ryder Overby, Noah Parker, Sawyer Petty, Taylor Petty, Amy Pham, Maria Pham, Peyton Posey, Aldrick Rattler, Kamdon Robertson, Aubree Russum, Parker Sanderson, Emma Seale, Emma Shelton, Lillian Smith, LynnKathryn Smith, Elizabeth Spears, Aubree Stokes,

Redainne Thomas, Aiden Townsend, Tessa Tubby, Layla Turner, Javier Virola, Joseph Ward, Miles Ward, Elliot-Bri Warren, Kali Watkins, Skyline West, Hadleigh Williamson, Elliyah Wilson, Huntley Winstead and Amelia Withrow.

Fifth Grade

Highest Honors: Piper Adams, Kyler Alford, Liam Amos, Mckenna Baldwin, Blakely Blackburn, Lauren Boler, Alaina Burnham, Alyssa Burnham, Zachary Burt, Lillian Chrest, Jennifer Copeland, Trinity Donald, Ayden Edwards, Maddex Ferguson, Raygan Gibson, Jacksyn Hibbler, Daniel Hicks,

Elaina Hill, Christopher Johnson, Lilly Johnson, Linnie Kilpatrick, Cameron King, Keller King, Presley Knight, Ashton Le, Hoang Le, Rhett Lewis, Caroline Mars, Robert Martin, Rhodes McCormick, Joseph Pham, Thien Pham, Myles Phillips, Wyatt Rigdon, Mylee Schooler, Lila Simmons, Braelyn Singleton, Destine Smiley, Logan Spears, David Steele, Tate Stroud, Kennedy Wade, Eli Warren and Ava Woodson.

Honor Roll: Azariah Baldaras, Yahmeir Beamon, Claire Billie, Benjamin Black, Kelley Blair, Kady Boatman, Bricyn Boyd, Don Catling, Yuxuan Chen, Jacob Copeland, Destiny Culbertson, Britt Cumberland, Dakotah Curtis, Koltan Dunn, Maggie Edwards, Madelyn Flake, Trinity Fraizer, Britney Fulton, Caitlynn Fulton, Brycen Gill, Jaythan Giffin,

Collin Hall, Lucy Hantzis, Rodney Harris, Eugene Hayes, Hunter Herrington, Brayden Johnston, Jadan Jones, Bentley Keller, Ezekiel Kirk-Harris, Kenley Kirkland, Marquai Kirkland, Dazlynn Langford, Trent Lilly, Ryan Long, Adam Mars, Jaxon Mars, Hayden May, Jamie McKinney, Kaden McKinney, William McKinney, Lindsey McKinney, Jerry Moore, Carter Peavy, Kelsey Peebles, Eli Pendleton,

Carmen Perez, Mason Rushing, Tanner Savell, Wendell Scarbrough, Evan Sharp, Adalynn Smith, Zackary Smith, Hayden Spencer, Austin Stacy, Braxton Stepp, Enez Stumblingbear, Everitt Thompson, Hilohah Truss, Noah Turk, Hadleigh Turner, Aubrie Viverette, Addelyn Ward, Xander Williams, Awan Wilson, Romy Wright and Caleb Yarbrough.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

After over 4 years of brilliant moves and great progress, it is sad and very disappointing that the Neshoba County School Board has resorted to attendance tracking intimidation of our students to enhance their State subsidies. As a result, several other wise solid Seniors on honor rolls, are being punished by not being allowed to attend the Prom or participate in graduation ceremonies which are once-in-a-lifetime events. It seems that COVID is a valid medical excuse for absence, but all other ailments do not count. Are we really telling our students that it is "just your tough luck" if you become ill? Worse

yet, do we want them to come to school with a contagious condition and infect other students and staff when a medical doctor has told them to stay home?

Even more disturbing is the recent change in policy that discontinued the option for a parent to attend a Board Meeting and speak for 3 minutes. To get on the Meeting agenda, a parent must complete a request form in person several weeks before the scheduled meeting which must be approved by the Superintendent. This is blatant censorship depriving a voice for anyone critical of the School Board. Furthermore, the meeting time was changed from 5:00 PM to

11:00 AM which intentionally excludes working parents from attending the meeting.

The real questions we should be asking are: how do several higher rated school districts provide more services while spending less per student than Neshoba County, and why do we continue to overlook students attending Neshoba Central that do not reside in the county? The school taxes paid by their parents are going elsewhere while Neshoba bears the cost burden.

David Carter

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Henry's Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery
This is a reminder that if someone needs a grave spot in the cemetery you must contact JAMES CHANEY before going and selecting a spot on your own. The regular cemetery is at capacity; therefore, a new section has been opened below the old cemetery for people to utilize and purchase. Especially do not place a marker without checking with JAMES first. You could have a plot someone else has chosen and paid for. You don't want to have to

move your marker to another spot. Do not decorate the grave sites with fences or other types of ornaments. This makes it very hard for our cemetery crew to cut and maintain the space. Do not throw old flowers being removed from the graves over the fence. This causes confusion from the land owners because they must be cleaned up. Please make sure you check new family grave sites to make sure they have not shifted and caved in. This also consists of removing dead flowers. These duties are not the cemetery crew's

responsibilities to take care of. To maintain a neat cemetery that everyone can be proud of, please follow the rules to make this area be something that is special for our loved ones who are buried there and for all of us.

If you would like to contribute to the up keep of the cemetery, you can make your donations to JAMES CHANEY
10890 Rd. 383
Philadelphia MS 39350
601-656-6019 H
601-416-2692 C

Thank you for your attention to correcting these issues.



Choctaw Tribal Schools
Support Services for Students & Families
601.650.7302
601.663.7643

Choctaw Child Find

The goal of Choctaw Tribal Schools is to provide full educational opportunity and a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities ages birth through twenty-one (21).

Through screening and referrals the Child Find project helps locate, evaluate, and initiate education or other needed services for Native American children and youth.

Specifically, the **Early Education Intervention Program** has made a commitment to identify and serve disabled, developmentally delayed, and at-risk Choctaw children ages birth to five (5).

For more information about Early Education Intervention services, call Mrs. Angie Gordon, at **601-663-7655** or send an email to **angie.gordon@choctawtribalschools.com**.

Persons knowing of a child who may need special education or gifted educational services should contact

Nell Adkins, Child Find Coordinator,
122 Division of Schools Drive,
Choctaw, MS 39350,
telephone number (601) 650-7302,
or by email at

nell.adkins@choctawtribalschools.com.

SOCIETY

Adams enjoys using family recipes

By COLEMAN EAKES
news@neshobademocrat.com

Meredith Adams is a pageant girl who has always had a sweet tooth and a values her family over everything.

The first things she learned to cook was actually manicotti when she was seven — which is still one of her favorite dishes to this day. It's even her mom's, Monica Adams, favorite dish.

"I finally got my mom to teach me how to cook manicotti because we had a project for school and we could cook something as a part of it so she finally taught me," she said.

When she was younger she would go to her grandmother's, Judy McCray, where she had lemon trees. The two would always pick the fresh lemons and Adams would ask every time she went over if the lemons were ready to be picked.

Adams and her brother Jackson Adams would always have foam sword fights at her house because Jackson loved Ninja Turtles and The Power Rangers and he always had it playing on the TV.

"I love going to my Juju's house and picking lemons and when I was younger we'd pick them and make fresh lemonade and lemon pie," she said.

Her grandfather, Donald Belvin, always grew a garden while Adams was growing up and he would always let her help him out and they'd grow watermelons together. He always made her feel like she grew them all by herself.

"My pappy bless his heart he'd always make me feel like I grew it all by myself but he really did all the work but he would always do most of the work," she said.

Adams loves to make cornbread using her pappy's recipe and when she goes to see him she always asks for him to make it.

Adams has always wanted to compete and even had to convince her mother to let her.

Her mother is a fourth-grade teacher at Leake Academy and her dad, Russell, is a forester at Shuqualak Lumber.

Meredith Adams will be graduating from Leake Academy this spring of 2022 and will then go to MSU. She will also be competing in the Miss Mississippi Teen USA pageant this coming weekend.

FRUIT SALAD
1lb fresh strawberries, chopped
1 lb. chopped fresh pineapple
12 oz. fresh blueberries
12 oz. red grapes, sliced into halves



Meredith Adams

4 kiwis, peeled and chopped
3 mandarin oranges
2 bananas, sliced, optional

Honey lime dressing
1/4 c honey
2 tsp lime zest (zest of 2 medium limes)
1 1/2 fresh lime juice
Add all fruit to a large icing bowl. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together the

COOK OF THE WEEK

honey, lime zest and lime juice. For over fruit and toss to evenly coat, serve immediately.

CHICKEN SALAD
2 boneless, skinless chicken

breasts or use rotisserie chicken breast chopped
Lemon pepper to taste

1 cup red grapes halved
3/4c sliced almonds, toasted

1 c mayonnaise
1tbsp sour cream
1 1/2 tbsp. honey
1 1/2 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
1tsp dried basil

1/4 tsp dried rosemary
Add all ingredients and mix everything until well combined.

MEDITERRANEAN FETA DIP

6 oz. crumbled feta cheese
2 c chopped tomato
1 c chopped cucumber
1/2 c chopped green onion
3-4 tbsp. lemon juice

1/2 tsp dried basil
1/4 tsp garlic powder
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp black pepper
1/8 tsp dried dill
1/8 tsp dried oregano leaves

Chop vegetables, which together olive oil lemon juice and spices, pour over vegetables and mix well. Enjoy with your choice of dipper.

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

Happy Anniversary to Dwayne and Judy Sharp who celebrated their 50th Anniversary on March 22! It was a Golden Anniversary for this couple who together have worked at full-time careers and made it to retirement. They reared 2 fantastic children, a daughter, Cindi Sharp Kennedy, and a son, Jody Sharp.

Cindi and her husband, Kyle Kennedy, have three children, Dees Kennedy Simmons, Lynna Clair Kennedy, and Lynzie Kennedy. Jody and his wife, Sarah McMillan Sharp, are the parents of Paxton and Peyton Sharp.

The month of June will usher in a new chapter in Judy and Dwayne's lives when their granddaughter, Dees Kennedy Simmons and her husband, Cody Simmons, present them with a great-granddaughter who will be named Kennedy Lynn Simmons. It seems as though there are wonderful things in store for the Sharps! Congratulations!

It's tulip time again! The gorgeous red flowers raise their colorful blooms to the sun in the flower beds at the old Quality Hospice Care office where they have bloomed for many years.

The tulips are planted in honor and in memory of the patients and their families who have received care from the Quality Hospice through the years. Rex and Jo Ann Tinsley Rounsaville began the tradition and expanded the plantings with the help of Mac Burt. He and Adriana Burt have set out the black wrought iron chairs which look charming against the red flowers. Blankets are also great for very small babies which can

be spread on the grass with tulips in the background.

One very recent picture was of Kaya Murray in a bright pink dress and matching hair bow sitting on a wrought iron chair with a mass of red tulips behind her. She looked adorable. Her grandmother, Linda Murray, shared her picture. Everyone is welcome to come and take pictures at 340 Byrd Avenue.

Choctaw Central High School senior, Makayla Hickman, has been selected as STAR Student for the 2021-2022 school year by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEO) M.B. Swazey Foundation Sponsor of the Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. The STAR student is chosen based on ACT scores and academic grades.

A STAR teacher is chosen by the student according to the person who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement. The STAR Teacher chosen by Makayla is Andy Hardy. Congratulations to Makayla and Mr. Hardy!

Chris Vowell and his family will be moving to Greenville where he will be the pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. He and his wife, Stacey Learmonth Vowell, and their son are excited about this opportunity but will miss Philadelphia as much as it will miss them. His friends send prayers and best wishes for a wonderful experience. Congratulations!

Four years ago in March of 2018, Burgin McClellan went on a 5-day Mexican cruise during spring break to celebrate her graduation from Philadelphia High School. Her parents, Robin

and Randy McClellan accompanied her.

They went on a 5-day cruise to Mexico on a Carnival ship. Her dessert one evening was a beautiful confection served on a large plate with the word, "Congratulations", written in chocolate on the plate.

It is now spring break four years later and Burgin went on another 5 day Carnival cruise to Mexico. This time her parents and her friend, Stephen Lombard went along for the fun. They enjoyed Cozumel and Costa Maya and other port cities. The time spent on the cruise ship was also awesome. There were lots of activities and swimming pools among other things to enjoy.

This cruise was to celebrate Burgin's graduation from Ole Miss in May. She replicated her dessert at dinner with a delectable confection on a white plate with "Congratulations" written across the plate in chocolate! According to Burgin, they had a "blast!"

Once again the elementary gym at Neshoba Central Elementary School was transformed into a magical world of make-believe for the annual kindergarten Fairy Tale Ball. There were white pillars with ivy twining around them and castles in the background on the walls which looked so realistic. Balloons were grouped in bunches in appropriate places with tables covered in colorful cloths holding refresh-

See FRIENDS, page 10A
Call in your news to Just Among Friends, 601-656-4000, or mail it to the Democrat, P.O. Box 30, Philadelphia, 39350; friends@neshobademocrat.com

HEY GRADUATES!

LETS MAKE YOUR REGISTRY

Make an appointment online or give us a call.
Receive extra freebies when you book an appointment April 4th - 8th!

kademi

We're OPEN Mon. - Fri. 9 - 5:30
and Sat 10 - 5 • www.kademi.com
Follow us on Social Media
@kademi today!

401 Center Ave N
Philadelphia, MS 39350
(601) 656-5400

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

Engagements & Weddings

There is no charge for engagement and wedding announcements. Submit them to weddings@neshobademocrat.com.

The deadline for submitting engagements and weddings is at noon on Friday before the Wednesday publication.

Every effort will be made to run the announcement on the date requested, but space requirements and time sometimes prohibit it.

Wedding copy must not exceed the equivalent of more than two 8 1/2 x 11 inch pages.

The Democrat reserves the right to edit articles to fit space requirements and style.

News of parties relating to engagements or weddings can be submitted.

Obituary policy

The Democrat publishes a standard format obituary at no charge.

The standard obituary includes: service, burial and funeral home details, date of death, age, place of residence, a sentence or two of personal information (no opinionated comments) detailing occupation, education, church affiliation, military service, listing spouse or children, immediate survivors (list only spouses, children, siblings, number of grandchildren, number of nieces and nephews) and pallbearers. In-laws, aunts, uncles, friends and honorary pallbearers are not included in the free listing. The standard obituary may be up to 150 words in length.

To list extended family and more details, there is a charge of \$125 for up to 300 words total; \$250 for up to 500 words total; \$500 up to 1,200 words total. Photos may be included for an additional charge of \$25.

Obituaries must be submitted electronically by funeral homes to obituaries@neshobademocrat.com no later than Tuesday at noon for publication in Wednesday's edition. Any obituary not submitted electronically is subject to a \$25 charge.

School and community news

The Democrat welcomes school and community news. Send to news@neshobademocrat.com or neshobademocrat.com/submit.

Of Local Interest

Let us know about your events at least a week in advance. Send announcements to local@neshobademocrat.com

Tips and breaking news

Let us know when you see news happening. Send tips to tips@neshobademocrat.com. News tips are encouraged and can be kept confidential.

Sports

Headed to a sporting event with a camera or have sports news, contact Sports Editor Steve Swogetinsky: sports@neshobademocrat.com

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor expressing your views and opinions (please limit them to 250 words or less) are welcome and encouraged: neshobademocrat.com/submit or directly to Jim Prince at jprince@neshobademocrat.com.

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Founded in 1881

The Democrat was founded in 1881 and has been locally owned ever since.

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The Democrat reserves the right to reject or edit any or all advertising. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Neshoba Democrat, P.O. Box 30, Philadelphia, MS 39350.

Engagements

Holly Elise Ray to wed James Kyle Peebles April 9

David and Jill Ray are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter Holly Elise Ray to James Kyle Peebles, son of Mark and Stephaine Peebles of Philadelphia.

Holly is a 2017 graduate of Neshoba Central High School and a 2020 graduate from Meridian Community College where she earned her degree as a Radiologic Technologist.

Kyle is a 2009 graduate of Neshoba Central High School. Kyle is the owner of Kyle Peebles Inc. where he is an independent operator with Flowers Baking Company.

Holly is the granddaughter of Jones and Deborah Brantley of Philadelphia and the late J.W. and Ava Nell Ray of Plattsburg.

Kyle is the grandson of Larry Ward and the late Wanda Ward and the late Billy and Earlene Peebles all of Philadelphia.

The wedding will be April 9, 2022 at Bridges The Venue in Philadelphia.



James Kyle Peebles and Holly Elise Ray

Of Local Interest

FALLEN VETERANS MONUMENT BRICKS

The Monument Replacement Committee continues to sell bricks and pavers to be placed at our new Fallen Veterans Monument located in DeWeese Park adjacent to the Neshoba County Library. Bricks are \$125.00 and Pavers are \$200.00 each. Every effort will be made to get any orders received by the 15th of April shipped in and installed before our Memorial Day ceremony scheduled for May 30, 2022. For more information and order blanks you can visit our "Fallen Veterans Monument Replacement" group on Facebook, picking up order blanks from the Depot in Philadelphia, sending an email to rrcrocker@netdoor.com or calling Ray Crocker at (601) 663-6674.

PRE-K PROGRAM

The Pre-Kindergarten Program is located at the Neshoba County School District, Office of Federal Programs/Pre-K building at 1125 Golf Course

Road. Students are screened for enrollment by a pre-kindergarten test. The program is designed to serve those children with the most academic/developmental needs, and will be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2022. The classes will begin and end to coincide with the regular school term at Neshoba County Schools. Participating students' parents will be required to provide transportation to and from the center. As other students in the school district, pre-k students will be offered breakfasts and lunches by the Neshoba County School District Food Services.

Registration and testing will be conducted from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm, on May 23 – 25. We ask that one parent attend with the child being tested.

For more information, call the office of Federal Programs/Pre-K @ 601-656-4484 or email Deirdre Manning at dmanning@neshobacentral.com or Sheila Goss at sgoss@neshobacentral.com.

COUNTY RECEIVES TWO GRANTS FOR FOOD, SHELTER PROGRAM

Neshoba County has been chosen to receive grants to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The county received \$26,690 in ARPA-R (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) Act funds from the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board. In addition, the county received a \$8,636 grant from the federal government to supplement the food and shelter programs.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross; United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the churches of Christ in the U.S. A.; and United Way of America. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local board made up of the Mayor, United Way, a minister,

and other agencies will determine how the funds awarded to Neshoba County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

Public or private voluntary, non-profit or faith based and government agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact 601-663-8505 or email to karowell@bellsouth.net for an application.

The deadline for applications to be received is Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

NOWELL FAMILY REUNION

Saturday April 9, 2022 – In Memory of Chester and Gladys Nowell. Please join us for our annual Family Reunion to begin at 10:00am on Saturday, April 9, 2022. Please attend at Northside Park Senior Citizens Center: 100 Burt Drive, Philadelphia, MS 39350

march of kings, queens, princesses, knights, and other fairy tale characters. They entered two by two through the double doors into fairytale land. There were several parents who attended and enjoyed the festivities with their children. The principal, Tiffany Plott, was also in attendance observing and enjoying the fun. The teachers, assistants, and volunteers worked hard to make this an awesome event for the Kindergarteners.

Friends

Continued from page 9A

ments for the little guests. Activity stations were set up in strategic spots for the children's participation. Each child decorated a picture frame to hold a photo from the ball as a memento of the occasion. A photo spot was set up for pictures of the children dressed in their costumes.

The ball began with the grand

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“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
— 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

It is the Lord who builds his church

This is a lengthy, seemingly diverse passage, but the unifying theme is Christ growing and providing for his church as he promised. In this passage (Acts 18: 12-28) we see the conclusion of Paul's second missionary trip, the beginning of his third, and the appearance of a great gift to the church—a man named Apollos.

We also see the protective love Christ has for his church. Paul is still in Corinth. He was fearful and on the verge of leaving due to the opposition he faced, but the Lord appeared to him in a vision and promised to protect him while he was in Corinth. So Paul stayed, and the gospel spread.

In Acts 18:12-17, we see the Lord keeping his promise to Paul. The Jews decided to take Paul to court, apparently in an endeavor to get the pro-counsel, the ruler in the province, named Gallio, to rule that the Christian religion was not Jewish and therefore not recognized by the Roman government.

But Gallio not only dismisses the charges, he is indifferent to the beating the Jewish synagogue ruler receives from the crowd after the ruling. So the Lord not only keeps his promise to Paul but portends the vengeance he will take upon all his enemies in due time.

We also see the Lord's providing love in this passage. Paul will suffer abuse from men in the future and eventually die at the hands of men. But at the end of his life in his last book (2nd Timothy), he recounts to Timothy how the Lord had delivered him from the “lion's mouth,” meaning the attacks of Satan upon his faith. So Paul, in prison and awaiting his execution, writes, “The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom.”

This will be the testimony of all the Lord's people. The Lord provided for me. In verse 23 we read that Paul began his third missionary trip by visiting churches in Galatia to “strengthen the disciples.” Paul had told the churches they must endure much tribulation, so how did he strengthen them? He provided God's word, and the truth about Christ; things that point to the greatness of salvation in Christ.

Though Joseph's brothers wronged him, when they returned to him, he loved them and fed them. Jesus calls himself our

“brother.” We threw him into a pit by our sin, but he made known to us the famine of our souls and called us back to himself. And now he feeds our souls with his word. Paul said Christ loved him. How did Christ love him? He gave himself for me, the apostle says.

This is where you find a feast in a wilderness. Christ died that I might live. He has paid my bill, taken all my debt away, and clothed me in righteousness that I may have boldness to stand in the majesty of God. And nothing in this world can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

This passage again reminds us it is the Lord who builds his church. In verse 21 when Paul is leaving Ephesus, he tells the church he will return to them if “the Lord wills.” The Lord had stopped him from going to Asia earlier and directed him to Greece. He was run out of Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. He would have left Corinth, but the Lord kept him there 18 months. It is little wonder that Paul tells the brothers in Ephesus he will return “if the Lord wills.”

The Lord is the supreme commander of building his church. He is sovereign over where the gospel goes, who will hear it, and what the results will be. It is he who pours out his grace. In verse 27 we don't read that the ministry of Apollos greatly helped those who through their own wisdom had believed. Rather, we read “he greatly helped those who ‘through grace’ had believed.” Therefore honor the Lord for your faith, or seek his help if you have none. It is he who provides.

We see the fruitfulness of Paul's ministry and also that of Apollos (verses 24-28). But you don't have to be a minister to be fruitful. All Christians are to be fruitful. The Lord tells us how. We must have faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Put your faith into practice, first by loving Christ your Redeemer. That was the secret to Paul's diligence, obedience, and faithfulness. Love is not just on one side; it is on both sides. In a loving relationship there is both a giving and returning of love. So seek to do good out of love to Christ.

The Rev. Chris Shelton is pastor of Union's First Presbyterian Church.

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— Proverbs 27:1 (ESV)

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”
— 1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

SPORTS

Lady Rockets improve to 12-2 with two wins

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Neshoba Central Lady Rockets went 2-1 last week and entered this week with a 11-2 record.

Neshoba Central opened the week with a 12-0 win over Choctaw Central. They dropped a 4-0 decision to Hernando in the South Jones tour-

namment. They then blasted host South Jones 15-0.

Lady Rockets 12 Choctaw Central 0

Lanayah Henry pitched a no-hitter as the Lady Rockets defeated Choctaw Central.

Neshoba Central scored two in the first, three in the second and seven in the third. Tenly Grisham hit a double

and a single. She scored three runs and knocked in two more. Charmayne Morris hit a triple and a single. She scored two runs and knocked in two more. Sa'Nya Jackson hit a double and knocked in three runs. Miley Thomas had two hits, scored two runs and knocked in two more. Hama'ya Fielder had two hits, scored one run with 1 RBI.

Hernando 4 Lady Rockets 0

Hernando outhit Neshoba 10-3 to take the win.

Morris hit a triple to pace the Lady Rockets. Grisham and Morris both had one hit.

Lady Rockets 15 South Jones 0

Neshoba Central rebounded to defeat South Jones in

three innings.

The Lady Rockets scored four in the first, six in the second and five in the third.

Mauhree Jones was the winning pitcher. K.K. Goodin also pitched.

Henry led with a home run and a single. She scored three runs and knocked in three more. Jackson hit a double and a single. She scored two

runs and knocked in another run. Miley Thomas hit two doubles and scored two runs. Mya Willis had three hits, scored three runs and knocked in two more. Morris and Grisham both had two hits and scored two runs.

Leake Academy baseball team drops series to Winston

By ROBBIE ROBERTSON
sports@neshobademocrat.com

The Leake Academy Rebels opened district play last week with rival Winston Academy in a three-game series.

Winston took game one of the series on Monday 12-2 but Leake bounced back and took game two 9-4. The Patriots then took the deciding third game 4-3 on a walk-off home run in the ninth inning to take the series.

Leake returns to play on Tuesday as they host Simpson County Academy on Tuesday and will travel to Mendenhall on Thursday for the return trip.

Simpson comes back to Friday.

Winston 4 Leake 3

The Patriots got a walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth to take the series from the Rebels on Friday.

Leake led for most of the game as they scored two in the second and one in the third to go up 3-0. Winston then scored two in the fifth and one in the bottom of the seventh to send the game into extra innings. After a scoreless eighth, Winston got a walk-off home run from Trey Williamson to take the win.

Winston outhit Leake 11-5

in the contest. Riley Myers doubled and scored for Leake while Kade Marble singled and scored. Jake Freeny singled and drove in a run while Rhett Atkinson walked twice and scored a run.

Aiden Watkins started on the mound and pitched seven innings, giving up three hits on eight walks and four walks while striking out three. Whitt Welch pitched one inning and gave up three hits and one run to take the loss.

Leake 9 Winston 4

After falling behind early, the Rebels finished scored in

four straight innings to take a five-run win over the Patriots to even up the series on Thursday.

Winston scored two in the first and one in the third to lead 3-0. But Leake answered with two in the third, three in the fourth and two in the fifth and sixth to take the win.

Each team had seven hits in the contest while Leake took advantage of nine walks. Riley Myers was 2-for-3 with two doubles and three RBIs to lead Leake at the plate. Whitt Welch singled and drove in two runs. Kade Marble also scored two runs.

Bishop Hardin started on

the mound and pitched seven complete innings and gave up four runs on seven hits and four walks while striking out three in 115 pitches.

Winston 12 Leake 2

The Patriots took an early 7-0 lead and took a six-inning, run-rule win over the Rebels in the first game of the series on Monday.

Winston scored two in the first and five in the second to lead 7-0. Leake scored two in the third while Winston answered with one in the third and fifth. Winston finished with three in sixth to take the

win.

Winston outhit Leake 7-4 and took advantage of 11 walks. Bishop Hardin was 2-for-2 with a double and one run scored while Jake Freeny was also 2-for-2 with a run scored. Riley Myers also had two stolen bases.

On the mound, Bryce Watkins started and lasted only 1 1/3 innings and gave up seven runs on one hit and five walks. Matthew Nowell came in and pitched 3 1/3 innings and gave up two runs on one hit and five walks while striking out five. John Cross Beckham pitched the last inning and gave up three runs on four hits.

Rockets win two games on the diamond, improve to 11-3

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Neshoba Central baseball team won two of three games last week and entered this week with an 11-4 record.

The Rockets dropped a 10-0 decision to Brandon. They bounced back to beat Ridgeland 6-5 and Kosciusko 8-7.

The Rockets were to play at East Webster on Thursday and host Louisville on Saturday.

Brandon 10 Rockets 0

Brandon kept up a steady attack as they knocked out the Rockets.

The Bulldogs scored four in the first, three in the third, one in

the fourth, one in the fifth and one in the sixth.

Jordan Davis went 2-for-3 to lead the Rockets. Jesse Hancock took the pitching loss.

Rockets 6 Ridgeland 5

The Rockets took the lead and held on to beat Ridgeland. Neshoba Central scored one

in the first, one in the second, two in the fourth and two in the fifth. Ridgeland scored two in the third, one in the fifth and two in the sixth.

Will Williams had two hits, scored two runs and knocked in another. Bryceton Spencer hit a double and a single. He scored one run and knocked in another. Jordan Davis had two hits,

scored a run and knocked in another.

Rockets 8 Kosciusko 7

The Rockets scored in the seventh to take the win over Kosciusko.

Neshoba Central scored three in the first, one in the third, one in the fourth, two in the fifth

and one in the seventh. The Whippets scored six in the second and one in the fifth.

Mason Whitehead picked up the win in relief.

Reed Hall had three hits, scored two runs and knocked in two more. Will Williams and R.B. Hardin both hit a double, Jordan Davis hit a double and scored two runs.

Lady Warriors softball team win two games, stand at 9-5 on season

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors picked up two fast-pitch wins and entered the week with a 9-5 record.

The Lady Warriors lost two games, falling 12-0 to Neshoba Central and 12-0 to West Lauderdale. They bounced back to beat Jefferson County 12-2 and Pearl 9-5.

The Lady Warriors were to host Neshoba Central on

Monday, host Kosciusko on Thursday and visit Houston on Friday.

Choctaw Central 12 Jefferson County 2

Tori Henry struck out eight batters to pace the Lady Warriors past Jefferson County.

Choctaw Central scored three in the first, one in the second, two in the third and six in the fourth. Jefferson County scored two in the third.

Leia Phillips hit a home run, Tyra Billy hit a triple, and Tessney Morris hit a double.

Choctaw Central 9 Pearl 6

Delycia Cunningham hit a double and a single to pace Choctaw Central past Pearl.

The Lady Warriors scored two in the second, four in the third and three in the sixth. Pearl scored two in the first, one in the second and three in the three in the sixth.

Tyre Billy had three hits, Malaka Morris hit a double and a single.

In games played the previous week, the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors split a pair of fast-pitch softball games.

The Lady Warriors dropped a 9-5 decision to Ethel and then defeated Northwest Rankin, 9-4.

Ethel 9 Lady Warriors 5

Ethel came on strong in the

later innings to defeat Choctaw Central.

Choctaw Central scored three in the second and two in the fifth. Ethel scored one in the third, three in the fourth, three in the fifth and one in the sixth.

Lauren Frazier took the pitching loss. Railey Perry hit a triple.

Lady Warriors 9 Nanih Waiya 4

The Lady Warriors banged out eight hits as they knocked off Nanih Waiya,

Choctaw Central scored three in the first, three in the fourth and three in the fifth. Nanih Waiya scored three in the first and one in the second.

Frazier was the winning pitcher.

Perry had two hits, scored two runs and knocked in another run. Kaisley Hernandez hit a single and scored two runs. Tayla Willis had three hits, scored a run and knocked in two runs.

Clarkdale sweeps Union

By ROBBIE ROBERTSON
sports@neshobademocrat.com

The Union Yellowjackets returned from spring break and got in a pair of Division 5-3A games last week.

The Yellowjackets dropped a pair of division games to Clarkdale, falling 11-0 on Monday and 12-2 on Friday.

Union will return to division play this week as they play at Morton on Tuesday and host the Panthers on Friday. Union will then play at Raleigh on Saturday in a 1 p.m. contest.

Clarkdale 12 Union 2

The Bulldogs scored five runs in the first inning and took

a six-inning, run-rule win over the Yellowjackets on Friday in division play.

Clarkdale outhit Union 12-5 in the contest. Kolton Cockerham and Colt Smith each singled and scored while Riley Martin, Cameron Sanderson and Hayden Dolan each singled. Samuel Allawine also walked twice.

Jacob Freeman started on the mound for Union and pitched 2 1/3 innings, giving up eight runs on seven hits and three walks. Martin pitched the last three innings and gave up four runs on five hits and three walks.

Clarkdale 11 Union 0

The Yellowjackets went hitless as the Bulldogs took a five-inning, run-rule win on Monday in division play.

Clarkdale opened up a big early lead as they scored seven in the second and four in the fourth.

Colt Smith started on the mound and pitched three innings, giving up nine runs on eight hits and three walks while striking out three. Kaleb Casey pitched the last two innings and gave up two runs on two hits while striking out three.

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BASKETBALL REVIEW 2022





Photo by Bradley Isaac

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held a parade to recognize the Tribal members who were on championship basketball teams this season.

Tribe celebrates basketball championships

By **STEVE SWOGETINSKY**
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Chief Cyrus Ben was present earlier this month when the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors and Neshoba Central Lady Rockets claimed state girls basketball championships in their respective classifications.

The championships were won on back-to-back nights at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. The Lady Warriors

won the Class 4A state championship over Tishomingo County, 56-49 on March 3. And the Neshoba Central Lady Rockets won the Class 5A state championship on March 4.

After both games, Chief Ben reminded the players about the young girls who were watching them.

As he looked at the Gold ball that the Choctaw Central girls had just won, he said, "there is somebody that

you watched hold one of these before."

The Lady Warriors finished with a 28-4 record after winning the Girls State championship for the eighth time. The Lady Warriors have won state championships (in other classifications) in 1996, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2017, 2018 and now in 2022.

"The bar has been set by many generations," Chief Ben said. "When they start as a five-year-old in our recreation

program, their ultimate goal is to hold the Gold Ball at the Big House. You see them work for it day in, day out."

Chief Ben was proud of the Lady Warriors' victory as they overcame the loss of two starters in the semifinals to prevail in the finals.

"It was disheartening to see two starters go down in the semifinals," Ben said. "Then to see the girls refocus and put so much heart and effort on that court, speaks highly of

who they are as children of the Tribe. The next lady up. Two starters out, two more stepped up.

"But ultimately, it was a big team win and ultimately the Tribe. It was a heart breaker last year but they worked hard to get back here," Ben said.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians hosted the first Choctaw Parade of Champions March 23.

Hundreds of fans and sup-

porters lined Industrial Road in the Pearl River Community to celebrate the successes of Tribal student athletes as they competed for and won state basketball championships in their respective MHSAA and MAIS tournaments

Teams from Choctaw Central, Neshoba Central, Lake High School and Leake Academy were honored state championships.



Photo by Bradley Isaac

The Choctaw Central girls basketball team celebrates after winning the Class 4A state championship earlier this month

Lady Warriors overcome adversity

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Class 4A girls state championship.

At the start of every season, the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors' goal is to win the girls state basketball championship.

Of course, that is the goal of most high school sports teams but it goes deeper for the Lady Warriors. They are representing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and they aren't just playing for their high school, they are playing for their nation.

For the 2022 Lady Warriors team, it was mission accomplished when on March 3, they defeated Tishomingo County 56-49 to claim the

The Lady Warriors finished with a 28-4 record after winning the Girls State championship for the eighth time. The Lady Warriors have won state championships (in other classifications) in 1996, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2017, 2018 and now in 2022.

"This is always the goal," said Coach Bill Smith. "This is a totally different team from last year. But we stayed focus and played hard. We took the season one step at a time."

Coach Bill Smith only had one starter and two seniors returning from last year's team which made it to the finals of the Class 4A state champi-

onship game. The Lady Warriors' goal is always to win the state championship but Smith said they had to take it one step at a time. First, they needed to repeat as Region 4-4A champions.

"We still have some things we need to work on," Smith said at the time.

The Lady Warriors went 9-1 in the Region 4-4A and were the top seed going into the region tournament.

Choctaw Central would beat Kosciusko 51-39 in the region finals. From there, they marched through the playoffs by defeating Greenwood 67-36, Ripley 72-45, and South Pontotoc 69-48.

That put them in the state

semifinals at the Mississippi Coliseum where they faced a familiar opponent in Newton County. But then disaster hit. Senior Kyla Farmer went down with a knee injury in the first quarter. Later, sophomore starter Kylinn Bell injured her knee and the season was over for not.

With two starters out, Coach Smith turned to Jocelynn Bell and Malaka Morris step up and pick up the load. They were more than up for the challenge as the Lady Warriors defeated Newton County 49-43 and moved on to the finals against Tishomingo County.

"It was the next girl up," Smith said.

"Malaka couldn't have played better in the finals. This was her first time to start. She scored 20 points and was the MVP of the game. Jocelynn had a tremendous game, too."

Though they couldn't play, both Farmer and Bell were there to cheer their teammates on in the championship game.

"It broke our heart not to be able to play but we were going to be there for them for our team," said Farmer, who has signed to play college basketball at Co-Lin next year. "They kept carrying on and got it finished. I got to play in semifinals and I am so proud of my girls."

Bell still has two more seasons of basketball and she said

she would be back next year.

"I will be coming back harder than ever," Bell said. "It was emotional to be out but we made it."

Starters for the championship game were Joselyn Bell, Mattison Bell, Kylie Williamson, Keshahn Wallace and Malaka Morris. Others include Tori Isaac, Ashlynn Stephens, Tyra Billy, Kodi Jimmie and Taya Willis.

In his 10 years at Choctaw Central, Coach Smith has had the Lady Warriors playing in the Big House nine times. Under Smith, the Lady Warriors have been in the finals five times and have won three state championships.



Members of the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball team are, front row from left, Kylinn Bell, Ashlynn Stephens, Chesney Amos, Malaka Morris, Tyra Billy, Tayla Willis, second row from left, Mattison Bell, Kylie Williamson, Keshahn Wallace, Joyelyn Bell, Kyla Farmer, Kodi Jimmie, Nataysia Willis and Tori Henry.

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Members of the Neshoba Central girls basketball team are, front row from left, Kailyn Willis, Ariel Henry, Bo Thomas, Veronica Williams, Carly Keats, Hama'ya Fielder, Denise Denson, Mataeya Dixon, Shaylynn Hunter, second row from left, Coach Jason Broom, Nalani Thompson, A'tyia Allen, Katelin Williams, Jakaylin York, Lanaya Henry, Erica Lyons, Zharia Leflore, Coach Shannon Ruffin.

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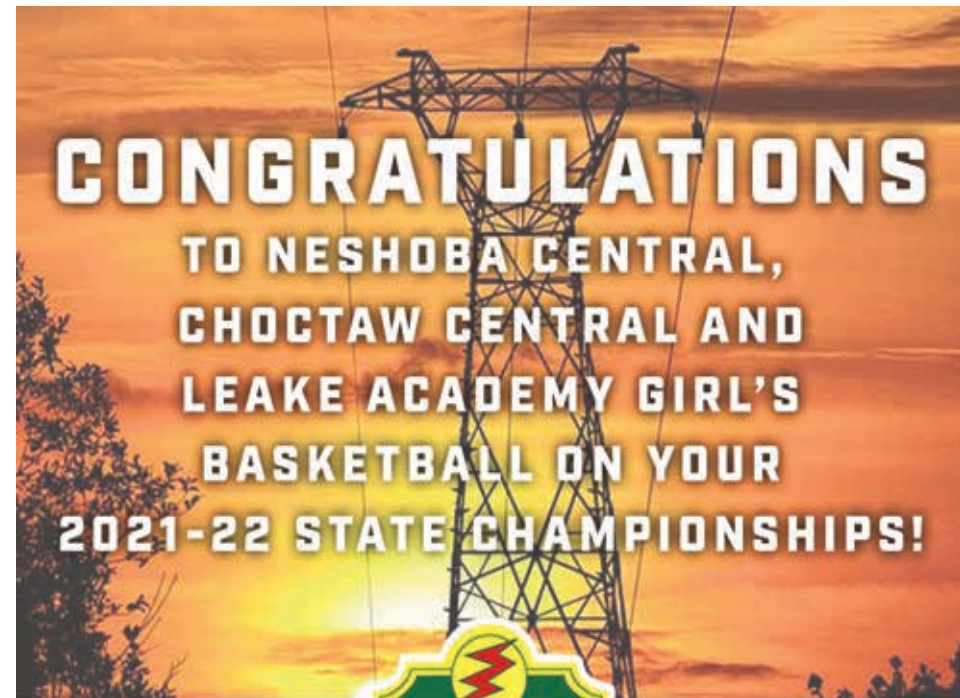


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Lady Rockets savor undefeated championship season

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The 2022 Neshoba Central girls basketball team put together a season that will long be remembered,

The Lady Rockets won the Class 5A girls state championship and finished undefeated at 33-0 under the leadership of Coach Jason Broom. They were ranked as the best team in the state in all of the final state girls overall polls.

Neshoba Central won the Region 3-5A tournament and entered the state tournament as a No. 1 seed. After getting a first round bye, they defeated Lake Cormorant 102-66. That set up a road trip to Vicksburg High School, a team the Lady Rockets had played several times before in the playoffs. The Missy Gators played hard on their home court but the Lady Rockets won 97-76 and advanced to the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, known as the Big House, and the Final Four.

The Lady Rockets defeated West Jones in the semifinals, 60-57 and advanced to the finals against Columbus.

It's hard to win a state championship and it is harder win it while you are going undefeated. But on March 4, the Lady Rockets got the job done as they defeated Columbus in the championship game, 49-41.

Looking back, Coach Broom said it was a surreal moment for him.

"It takes a while to sink in," Coach Broom said. "You don't really get to enjoy the week at the Big House because you have to keep teen-aged kids focused. All the other stuff is fun. But what it comes down to is you have to go out and play a basketball game. You have to stay focused on what it takes to win a basketball."

"After the game was over and everyone was celebrating, I don't think it really



The Neshoba Central girls basketball team celebrates after winning the Class 5A state championship earlier this month.

sank in with me until later," Broom said.

The Lady Rockets were a team with a lot of depth. Broom basically platooned with three groups. He started the first group but the second and third groups were rotating in and out throughout, keeping fresh players on the court. The Lady Rockets were always a team in motion, pressing and playing pressure defense and the level of play didn't drop off when another group came in. They were good shooters and made their free throws.

"I hadn't planned to platoon," Broom said. "But when we got in together in September and we got everyone back from volleyball, we started see potential in the second group. It got to where in practice, we started sticking to these same groups. It got very competitive. The second group would occasionally beat the first group and the third group might beat the second group. It was don't get your feeling hurt if

you aren't a starter because everyone was playing. We were going to see how far we could ride this."

Looking back, Broom said the Lady Rockets' run in November set the tone for the season. After playing a tough summer schedule, Broom knew he had a strong team that could reach greatness. When putting together the schedule, he wanted the team to be tested early so he scheduled games with Pontotoc, the defending Class 4A state champions, Germantown, which was the runners-up in the previous year's Class 6A state tournament and games with cross-county rival Choctaw Central.

"To me, I think it starts with November," Broom said. "Last year, we made it to the final four and lost to Laurel. I knew Laurel was graduating a lot. I knew Holmes was losing a lot. Brookhaven had a good team coming back.

"Looking at the landscape of Class 5A girls basketball,

we had a chance with what we had coming back to be one of the top four teams. So, I wanted us to really be challenged early. I thought we might take a couple of losses in November. This group had never beaten Choctaw Central. We were going to Pontotoc and playing Germantown on a neutral court."

The Lady Rockets beat Choctaw Central in the first game, 72-59. They defeated Pontotoc 77-50, and then took a 66-45 over the Lady Warriors. In their final test of the month, Neshoba Central stopped 64-60.

"The size of the point difference at Pontotoc was an eye opener, and beating Choctaw Central the second time by 20 was big," Brown said. "Going into the Germantown game, I felt like this was going to be a big deal. We didn't play our best but we did what we had to do to win. We missed a bunch of free throws and layups.

"I think our next big win was against Olive Branch

January 22 in the Choctaw County tournament," Broom said. "We had played the night before against Ridgeland. It was one of our worst games of the year and I didn't know what to expect. But we went and locked in and took care of business."

The Lady Rockets won that game, 86-66.

"Then having to go to Vicksburg and winning that game to go to the Coliseum was a big one as well," Broom said.

Broom said during the middle of season, the Lady Rockets weren't being pushed and that worried him.

"We had that stretch during December and part of January where we weren't having any close games," Brooms aid. "That was fun for the fans. But if you are looking at it as, 'are we getting better as a team and getting that experience that will help us later in the Coliseum,' it was scary. So, for me, us going and playing Olive

Branch after having two months of blowouts, and pulling it off in convincing fashion, I felt like it was a huge eye opener."

The Lady Rockets played a pair games with Bay Springs, which was ranked No. 1 in Class 1A. Neshoba Central had to battle to win those games, and Broom said those games and the season finale against Madison Central were good tune up games for the state playoffs.

Starters for the Lady Rockets in the championship game were Carly Keats, Hama'ya Fielder, Denise Denson, Veronica Williams and Shaylynn Hunter. Other members of the team included Mataeya Dixon, Kailyn Willis, Zharia Leflore, Bo Thomas, Atyia Allen and Lanayah Henry.

The Lady Rockets have four starters and one from the second group graduating this spring. Broom said he has a good group of girls coming back and they will start getting ready for next year.

Keats enjoys championship senior season

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Carly Keats has had a senior basketball season to remember.

She was the Most Valuable Player of the Class 5A state championship game when the Neshoba Central Lady Rockets defeated Columbus 49-41 in the finals. Keats scored 11 points in that game, including four free throws in a row in the final minute to seal the win.

"It was an amazing season," Keats said. "The last four free throws ... I knew they were going in. I have worked on free throws a lot. We have worked on defense it all year. It's a big part of our style of play. You have to play defense. We had each other's back and there is a lot of communication."

"Against Columbus, defense was the key. They did-

n't score. Our defense wins games. It wins championships."

Keats will continue her basketball career at Jones College next year.

The next week, Keats and teammate Hama'ya Fielder played in the Mississippi-Alabama all-star game.

Ironically, Mississippi's 89-81 loss was the only game that Keats and Fielder did not win during the 2021-2022 season. The Lady Rockets finished with a 33-0 record.

For Keats, it was the second MVP award in as many weeks. Keats finished the all-star game with 24 points while Fielder scored nine points. Both were credited with three rebounds.

Also, Keats put her name in the record book for the Mississippi All-Star team. When she hit 6-of-9 three point shots in the game, that made her the



Carly Keats

all-time three-point shooter for the Mississippi girls team.

Keats was a preseason

Dandy Dozen. She has been named to several post season all-state teams. The senior

point guard averaged around 14 points per game for Neshoba Central.

"It was a good ride," Keats said. "We stayed consistent. We communicated with each other and trusted each other. Some of us have been playing together since we were five years old. We know how to play together. I knew we were going to be this good."

Basketball is her only sport and she has been playing for a long time.

"I started playing in a rec league out on the Reservation when I was five years old," Keats said. "At the time, I didn't know if basketball would be my sport. I also played softball and it was a mix. I didn't like basketball but I stayed with it. My dad helped me with it a lot."

Her sister, Cori Keats, played at East Central. Carly said they often practice togeth-

er.

Keats admits she is a gym rat, spending a lot of time practicing. But when she is working on basketball, she likes to fish.

"I like to fish with my brother and just be outdoors," Keats said, "During the summer, I am either in the gym or out fishing. My brother and I like to fish on the river."

She lists as her favorites:

- Subject in school: Math;
- Dinner: Steak;
- Movie: The new Spiderman movie and the "Last Dance";
- What you like to do outside of sports and school: "Fishing and hanging out with family and friends. And, I like to sleep. She is the daughter of Shannon Keats and Teddy Hickman.

GRATS ON A GREAT YEAR!

To all of our area basketball teams!

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Neshoba Central Lady Rockets, Choctaw Central Lady Warriors and the Leake Academy Lady Rebels on their 2021-22 Mississippi Girl's High School State Basketball Championships!

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The Leake Academy girls basketball team celebrates after winning the Class 5A state tournament earlier this season.

Rebelettes claim state, have unfinished business in Overall

By **ROBBIE ROBERTSON**
sports@neshobademocrat.com

There is little wonder that Leake Academy girls coach Amanda Hatch enters the offseason with mixed emotions.

The Rebelettes repeated as state champions, beating Bowling Green 60-45 in the Class 5A state tournament, which was a grueling test for Leake. The Rebelettes beat home-steaded Brookhaven 55-45 in the opening round and then came from behind to beat Central Hinds 47-41 in the semifinals.

Leake repeated as state champi-

ons and went 37-4 after losing two starters off last year's squad.

"It's definitely special," Hatch said. "After losing two starters off of last year's team, I knew it would be different. I knew we had enough talent, it was just a matter of how well they would come together. The special thing about this group is on any given night, anybody can step up. If one person is off, there is going to be one or two others that and step in and make shots. That's been the really cool thing about this season."

Leake then entered the MAIS Overall tournament and fell 37-34

to Jackson Prep in the finals.

"I love that my girls gave it their all and left everything out there on the court," Hatch said. "I'm so proud of this team and what we were able to accomplish this season. Congratulations to Jackson Prep on a wonderful season. Prep got off to a hot start but I thought we did what we've done all year in those situations and that's raise our level of competitiveness and work our way back into the game."

The good news for the Rebelettes is the top six players return for next year.

"We've got some things we have

got to get better at this offseason," Hatch said. "We will come back after spring break and get to work on those things. I don't think anybody liked the way we ended the season. It's tough because you are still state champions and proud of that. But we still wanted to win that last game and repeat as Overall champions."

Leake was led by junior Miriam Prince, who averaged 19.2 points a game and passed the 2,000-point mark in her career. Prince finished the season with 2,167 points, placing her sixth on the school's all-time scoring list, just behind Hannah

Peoples who finished with 2,172 points. The school's all-time leading scorer is Susan Byrd with 3,187 points while Kristin Caldwell is second with 2,708 points.

Junior's Emeri Warren (8.9 points, 5.2 rebounds) and Morgan Freeny (10.3 points) also return as scoring threats along with Allen Kaye Wilcox. Junior Grace Maxey came off the bench most of the season and had a season-high 18 points against Brookhaven in the state tournament. Sophomore Katye Jones (8.2 points, 6.9 rebounds) returns in the low post.



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Members of the Leake Academy Rebelettes basketball team are, front row from left, Ella Bell, Abigail Graham, Parker Woods, McKinley Peoples, Miley Billey and Raleigh Atkinson. On the second row, from left, Grace Maxey, Natalee Vaughn, Allen Kaye Wilcox, Kaleigh Wooten, Ramzy Beth Johnston, Laney Turner, Parks Chandler, Morgan Freeny and Miriam Prince. On the back row, Lauren McCall, Caitlin McDonald, Allison Thompson, Emeri Warren, Marleigh Myers, Maggie Stevens, Katye Jones, Olivia Rudolph, Julianna Johnston and Tori Pigg.

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Lady Yellow Jackets made return trip to 'Big House'

By **ROBBIE ROBERTSON**
sports@neshobademocrat.com

For the second straight season, the Union Lady Yellowjackets made it to the "Big House."

But for the second straight season, Union saw its season come to an end in the semifinals. This year, the Lady Yellowjackets lost 30-26 to Noxubee County in the Class 3A semifinals after losing last year in the Class 2A semifinals.

The Lady Yellowjackets finished the season with a 28-4 record under the direction of first-year coach Kelcia Bufkin, who replaced Matt Wilbanks who left to take the job at Morton, a team that handed Union two of its four losses this season.

After winning the Division 5-3A tournament, Union beat Seminary 55-29 and then beat West Marion 37-22 in the opening rounds of the Class 3A state tournament.

In the quarterfinals, Union had to come

from behind as they beat Jefferson Davis County 49-42 to advance to the state tournament for the second year in a row.

"I think this shows who our team is and who we are," Bufkin said. "Our girls crave to win and have a desire to win. They wanted to get back to where they are now. They never doubted themselves. After those three losses, they came back locked in and ready to work. We have five great leaders in our five seniors and the team follows behind them. They are very deserving and they have been locked in and focused. They have responded to me as a head coach and have done what I asked them to do and they have responded really well. I think that's why we are back."

The Lady Yellowjackets had a senior-laden squad, led by senior guards Keirra and Kamiya Russell. Georgia Cooper and Madison Buckley were all offered by East Central Community College.

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Neshoba Central celebrate following their win in the MHSAA 5A Girls Championship Final against Columbus High held in the Mississippi Coliseum.



Neshoba Central's Mataeya Dixon (1) shoots during the MHSAA 5A Girls Championship.

Photos by Bob Smith



Neshoba Central's Kailyn Willis (10) shoots during the MHSAA 5A Girls Championship.



Neshoba Central fans cheer during the MHSAA 5A Girls Championship Final against Columbus High held in the Mississippi Coliseum.

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors swarm the championship trophy.



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