



SPORTS

SANDERS ELATED AFTER SCORING FIRST COLLEGE GOAL

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COOK OF THE WEEK

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THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

Established 1881 — Oldest Business Institution in Neshoba County Philadelphia, Mississippi Wednesday, April 7, 2021 140th Year No. 14 **\$1.00

COUNTY, CITY RECEIVING FUNDING

Millions in COVID cash coming

By SCOTT HAWKINS scott@neshobademocrat.com

Neshoba County will receive \$5.6 million and the city of Philadelphia \$1.6 million in the federal government's \$1.9 trillion federal American Rescue Act passed last month by Congress to help local governments recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

guidelines from the United States Department of the Treasury on allowable uses for the monies before proceeding with a spending plan.

"They haven't published any guidelines for the use of that other than what is in the actual legislation," said Jeff Mayo, Neshoba County Administrator. "All of that is going to have to be determined before the uses can be determined on how we are going to be eligible to use

it." Mayor James Young said the city also is awaiting guidelines but did say the funds will be a much-needed shot in the arm to the city.

"We will be able to do something street-wise and police-wise," Young said, adding the city will not make solid plans until the guidelines come through and the funding is in hand.

Mississippi will receive

approximately \$6 billion in total from the rescue act, which is equal to the state budget.

The funding will be distributed as follows, according to Mississippi Today:

- \$429 million for higher education;
• \$166 million for capital projects for rural broadband access project;
• \$577 million for counties;
• \$258 million for smaller cities;

• \$97 million for metro cities;

• \$1.8 billion to be appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature over the next three years primarily to replace revenue lost because of the pandemic for COVID-19-related costs; and

• \$1.6 billion for K-12 education, primarily to be disbursed to local school districts.

Mayo said Neshoba County would use the money to recoup costs associated with the coun-

ty's COVID-19 response efforts and some allowable infrastructure spending.

"The board did publish a request for proposals on broadband services for the underserved and unserved areas of the county in establishing broadband," Mayo said. "They authorized a request for proposals (Monday) in that regard to look at the assessment and feasibility of deploying broadband

See MONEY, page 8A



Photo by Jonathan Addy

Work on an \$11.7 million two-lane bridge replacement project at Tucker began last May and is scheduled to be completed by the fall. On Tuesday, just up the road, officials gathered for a groundbreaking

ceremony on a separate \$35.6-million project to four-lane Highway 19 into town. That project is expected to be completed in 2023.

19 widening starts into town

By SCOTT HAWKINS scott@neshobademocrat.com

As work got underway Monday four-laning a 4.52-mile stretch of Highway 19 from Tucker into town, local and state officials gathered Tuesday for an official groundbreaking ceremony on the \$35.6-million project before a joyful and very pleased crowd.

"What a wonderful day for Neshoba County," said state Sen. Jenifer Branning. "Like many of y'all, I was born and raised here. Even as a small

child I remember conversations about the need for four-lane access to Neshoba County. There are so many people to thank for this day."

About 100 people gathered off of the highway for the ceremony near the top of Posey Hill at Road 537.

Work on a separate \$11.7 million two-lane bridge replacement project at Tucker began last May and is scheduled to be completed by the fall.

Country music legend and Neshoba County native Marty Stuart was on hand.

"I think this speaks to the progress of our community," he said. "It is getting harder and harder to contain all the good things that are happening here. Having four-lane access to bring people in and out of our town is going to help us bring in more restaurants, more businesses and more progress."

Stuart's Congress of Country Music is under way downtown and when completed and fully funded is expected to be a well of inspiration as a music venue surrounded by memorabilia from

See TUCKER, page 2A

ON THE LAM

3 arrests made in motel murder

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A third suspect charged with capital murder in the death of Desmond Davis has been captured, Philadelphia Police said Saturday night.

Marlon V. Boyd, 18, of Philadelphia was taken into custody on the evening of April 3 by the Meridian Police Department after being on the run for days. Boyd had been charged with conspiracy to commit murder last week.

Boyd was quickly extradited into Philadelphia Police custody that same even and remains in the Winston County Correctional Facility without bond.

Pattillo has not responded to questions concerning a possible motive or if a murder weapon has been recovered.

Boyd was apprehended at about 7 p.m. Saturday evening after a tip informed MPD that Boyd was hiding out at a house in Meridian, according to WTOK.

Meridian Special Ops, K9 units and U.S. Marshals arrived at the house and gave chase to Boyd, who ran into some nearby woods but was eventually captured without incident, they said.

"Philadelphia Police Dept would like the thank Meridan PD, US Marshall's, Neshoba County SO, and all others Departments who assisted," officials said in a Facebook post Saturday night.

Davis, 27, of Philadelphia was found dead at the Western Motel on Holland Avenue on March 28 at about 12:45 a.m., police said.

See MURDER, page 2A

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supes bid Sheriff's body cameras

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY steve@neshobademocrat.com

Body camera for Neshoba County Sheriff's deputies will be bid by the Board of Supervisors rather than taking Sheriff Eric Clark's sole-source proposal.

Sheriff Eric Clark told the Democrat Tuesday he presented a \$49,000 sole-source proposal to supervisors on Monday for Watch Guard body cameras recommended far and wide by colleagues and professions because of certain features unavailable elsewhere.

Philadelphia Police and the Leake County Sheriff's Department use Watch Guard cameras, Clark said, and their specific functionality meets the needs of his department.

His proposal included 15 body cameras, a five-year warranty and other support features like cloud storage of the footage.

"These cameras are state-of-the-art," Clark said. "This is a really good product and a much-needed tool for our guys to have in their belt."

Clark said that the cloud storage feature giving them access to all of their collective footage is a deciding feature in his assessment.

"The money is the storage," Clark said.

Clark said the proposal seemed reasonable based on his research and that most of the funds have already been generated through grants and donations including \$10,000 from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in December

and \$13,650 from the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund last fall.

Clark said that supervisors decided that they wanted to bid out the cameras.

Clark said that he was not sure when they would first issue the request for bids but said that once bids were solicited he expected it to be about a three-week process.

In other matters, supervisors voted to approve:

• Anthony Ball was moved to full-time correctional officer and promoted to shift supervisor.

• Correctional officer Courtney Copeland received a raise after completion of six months of employment.

• Approve an inventory removal request from the sheriff's department for non-working Motorola CP200d radios.



Sunrise Easter Service

The First United Methodist Church gathered for a Sunrise Service Easter Sunday morning outside the church on Main Street as Christians celebrated the Resurrection of Christ.



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.

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

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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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2 legislative bills to benefit Tribe

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
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Two bills passed in the 2021 Mississippi Legislature will benefit the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI).

The first will allow tribal members to use their MBCI identification cards like a state-issued ID card.

State Sen. Jenifer Branning, a Republican from Philadelphia, said the MBCI ID card will be recognized under state law a valid state ID.

"This helps Tribal members to receive services for which an ID is required," Branning said.

The second will allow non-Tribal businesses that locate on Choctaw lands to be eligible for programs through the Mississippi Development Authority.

Rep. C. Scott Bounds, also

a Republican from Philadelphia, said this has been in the works for a while.

"The Tribe has been wanting this," Bounds said. "The state gives incentives for companies to locate and expand in towns and cities all the time. Now we can do it for the tribe."

"It's a game-changer for the Tribe and the state to be able to offer these incentives to any business that wants to locate on Tribal lands," Bounds said.

Statewide measures

Both Branning and Bounds talked about legislation that will affect the entire state.

Branning said lawmakers put \$102 million in additional money over last year into the budget for education.

From that, \$51 million went for the \$1,000 teacher pay raises. Teacher assistants also received a raise.

Lawmakers also doubled

the number of slots for the state's pre-k program.

"We have added the computer science curriculum that will be starting up in the schools," Bounds said.

"One thing that I thought was a big thing was the requirement for schools to designate their sports teams based on biological sex and not gender ID."

Lawmakers also passed a pay raise for state employees.

Branning said Senate Bill 2825 known as the Mississippi Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2021, which she wrote, passed both houses.

"Senate Bill 2825 puts \$89 million into the emergency road and bridge fund," said Branning, who is the chairwoman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

"The counties and municipalities will be able to apply for that money."

The bill also increases the

weight limits under the harvest permit for log trucks and trucks hauling produce beginning in 2023.

"This is important for the forestry industry and the farmers of our area," Branning said. "It was a big win from an economic development standpoint."

It also moves the Mississippi Department of Transportation enforcement division over to the Department of Public Safety, Branning said.

"On a state level, we have to make sure we are making wise decisions to improve our state infrastructure," Branning said.

"I will be assisting with the lieutenant governor and the House leadership on a comprehensive plan for infrastructure spending. We want to make sure we are using those dollars very wisely."

Tucker

Continued from page 1A

the likes of Dolly Parton and Johnny Cash.

On hand Tuesday as well were Mississippi Central District Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons and others, including Philadelphia Mayor James A. Young and Board of Supervisors President Kevin Cumberland.

The four-lane project expected to be completed in 2023 will go to Airpark Drive in Philadelphia.

"This is one of the biggest days in the history of Neshoba County," said Rep. Michael Ted Evans of Preston who represents part of Neshoba County.

"The folks of Philadelphia and Neshoba County have been waiting for at least 40 years for this."

He went to say that the project has been "promised" and is "finally being done."

Rep. C Scott Bounds echoed the sense of relief.

"This has been a long time coming," he said. "These local transportation projects have been on the drawing board for



From left, Rep. Scott Bounds, Marty Stuart, Supervisor Kevin Cumberland, Philadelphia Mayor James Young, Central Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons, Sen. Jenifer Branning, Community Development Partnership President David Vowell, Rep. Michael Ted Evans, MDOT Acting Executive Director Jeffrey C. Altman, and MDOT District 5 District Engineer Neil Patterson break ground on the Highway 19 four-laning into town.

a long time. Now the day has come that we are getting to see the fruits of our labor. Not just people here today but the people who have worked on this project over the years."

The Mississippi Department of Transportation awarded the contract to Philadelphia-based W.G. Yates & Sons Construction last November with an April 1 start date and an Oct. 2, 2023, completion date.

A final stretch of four-lane from Tucker to House remains unfunded as does the \$130 million bypass from Highway 19 to Williamsville that has been on the drawing board for three decades.

Murder

Continued from page 1A

Brandon Goodin, 21, of Philadelphia and Shellie Shi- anne White, 21, of Union were arrested last Wednesday afternoon and are being held without bond.

Goodin and White have been charged with capital murder as well.

Police are attributing a quick response from patrol officers and investigators who gathered evidence and witness statements.

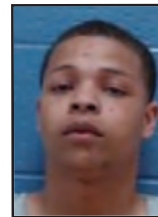
Det. Bobby Pattillo said that

PPD was called to the scene that night in reference to shots reported being fired and an alleged assault.

Responding officers found Davis on the scene with an apparent gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead on the scene.

Goodin and White are currently in custody at the Winston County Correctional Facility as well.

"Prayers for his family! If you knew him you know he



Marlon Boyd



Brandon Goodin



Shellie White

Martin Luther King Jr. Drive on Dec. 28, 2020, at about 5:30 p.m., police have said.

No one has come forward with details though the shooting is reported to have happened in a crowd of approximately 20 people.

Pattillo said that officers had interviewed witnesses within the past few weeks.

Pattillo said that anyone with any information pertaining to these shootings or that may lead to an arrest in any other crime is urged to contact the Philadelphia Police Dept. at (601) 656-2131 or East Mississippi Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-855-485 TIPS (8477).

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Alleged car burglar remains behind bars

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

The man charged in a downtown auto burglary last month is the same man accused of taking a rifle from an MBI agent's vehicle during a revival at The First Baptist Church in November.

Nicholas L. Catchings, 35, was arrested and charged with

auto burglary in the mid-March incident where he went through a woman's car who was in a bar, said Philadelphia Police Detective Bobby Pattillo.

Catchings was also arrested on a contempt of court charge.

He is being held in the Winston County Correctional Facility on a \$10,000 bond and has not been issued bond on the

contempt of court warrant.

Police said they believe Catchings lives in Philadelphia, although though he gave a Crystal Springs address when he was booked.

Pattillo said the auto burglary case has been



Nicholas Catchings

forwarded to the District Attorney's office for consideration by the next grand jury.

Catchings was identified after he was caught on surveillance cameras rummaging through a vehicle on Center Avenue around 9:53 p.m.

Catchings is believed to have taken two purses from the victim's car that were later recovered. Some cash and credit cards were reportedly taken.

Catchings has a long history with law enforcement.

He was also connected to two handguns recovered that were stolen out of vehicles parked at Neshoba General.

In March 2013, Catchings, then 27, pleaded guilty to strong-armed robbery and received an eight-year sentence and \$1,500 fine.

He pleaded guilty to two counts of burglary of a motor vehicle and received two three-year sentences to run consecutively. He was ordered to make \$300 in restitution to the victim.

Branning against bill that would expand the possibility of parole

By STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

JACKSON — A bill that would make more inmates eligible for the possibility of parole is before the governor, but state Sen. Jenifer Branning has her doubts about the measure being signed.

"I have my doubts about that but we will see," said Branning, R-Neshoba County, who voted against the measure.

Last week, the Senate voted 35-13 and the House voted 91-25 to pass the final version of Senate Bill 2795. Both chambers are controlled by Republicans.

"I felt like there were not adequate protections from a public safety perspective," Branning said of her vote against the bill.

Reeves vetoed a bill last year that was similar but not identical to the one that legislators passed on Tuesday.

A key difference proponents say is that this year's bill would not allow parole consideration for anybody convicted of murder, said Senate Corrections Committee Chairman Juan Barnett, a Democrat from Heidelberg.

"I think the bill from a public safety perspective was a big improvement over the bill that was brought forward last year," Branning said. "I just think it went just a little too far. My reasoning was just public safety."

In Neshoba County in August 2018, habitual offender Robert Leon Jackson had been out of prison for seven months on the state's Earned Release Supervision Program — separate from parole — when he murdered Megan Staats and Jeremy Apperson at the CEFCO convenience store.

Staats was the clerk inside

and Apperson was pumping gas with his family in the vehicle.

Since Jackson was first jailed in November 2002 for armed robbery at age 14 in Hinds County, he has spent over 80% of his life in jail. Even with that amount of time behind bars, Jackson served less than 48% of his total sentencing.

Proponents of the bill point out that Mississippi has some people serving long sentences for nonviolent offenses, and the state's prison system came under Justice Department investigation last year after outbreaks of violence among inmates.

The parole measure was introduced by Sen. Sampson Jackson II, D-Kemper County, among others.

Rep. Scott Bounds, R-Neshoba County, voted in favor of the measure as did Rep. Michael T. Evans, I-Kemper County.

Current state law says inmates convicted of some crimes after June 30, 1995, are ineligible for parole.

The House Corrections Committee chairman, Republican Kevin Horan of Grenada, said the bill that passed last week would allow the possibility of parole for people convicted of

armed robbery.

Current Mississippi law also says a person convicted of a non-violent crime must serve at least 25% of the sentence before becoming eligible for a parole hearing.

Senate Bill 2795 says that for nonviolent crimes committed after June 30, 1995, an inmate would have to serve at least 25% or 10 years before the possibility of a parole hearing. A person with a 60-year sentence could get a parole hearing after 15 years under current law and after 10 years under the proposed change.

People convicted of some crimes would remain ineligible for parole. Those crimes include murder, human trafficking, drug trafficking and many sex crimes.

In an interview after the Senate vote this year, Barnett said opening the possibility of parole to some inmates could provide hope. He said inmates would be encouraged to take part in job training or other programs offered by the Department of Corrections. He said good behavior would help during parole hearings.

"If we don't ever find the ability to forgive those people — and yet and still, we go to church on

Sunday mornings and pick up this holy book and read and talk about how much we love Christ and how we should live according to how Christ has lived," Barnett said.

Branning said the state's real problem is prison overcrowding and that is why she supported a measure introduced by Rep. Scott Bounds, R-Neshoba County, to reopen the Walnut Grove Correctional facility to house

Mississippi Department of Corrections prisoners.

"(Walnut Grove) would provide a better facility," Branning said. "It would provide a better inmate to guard ratio and that comes from conversations with (Mississippi Department of Corrections) Commissioner (Nathan "Burl") Cain. He and I talked about that several times. Walnut Grove is in my district and so I have assisted him in whatever he

needs for that facility. I think this bill probably in conjunction with the availability of the Walnut Grove Correctional facility puts us on the right path."

The Walnut Grove bill also is awaiting Reeves' signature.

The five members of the state Parole Board are nominated by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate.



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5074894	MASSEY CRAIG	10311 RD 1137	PHILADELPHIA	OVER \$100
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Sanders elated after scoring first college goal

By JOHN LEE
john@neshobademocrat.com

Clayton Sanders said scoring a goal during his first college soccer game with the Owls at The W on March 1 against Birmingham-Southern College was nothing other than shocking.

Although the Owls lost that night with a final score of 2-8, it was a victory for Sanders, a forward for the Owls, said Louis Alexander, Owls head coach.

"Since Clayton is a freshman and playing in a new position, it was awesome to see him score considering all the work he's put into becoming a better player," Alexander said. "Him scoring wasn't a fluke. He earned it in the offseason."

Due to delays from students quarantining, the Owls soccer season was cut down to only four games.

They played their first game on March 1 against Southern-Birmingham, and their second game, also against Southern

Birmingham, on March 5.

Their third game was at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 29, against Andrew College of Cuthbert, Georgia.

Their fourth and final game, also against Andrew College, was at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, at The W.

Alexander said it has been great coaching Sanders since he is easily coachable and works extremely hard.

"He's a great team guy, and his teammates know they can count on him," he said. "I have no doubt he has the potential to be one of the better players at this level if he continues with the path he is on."

Sanders grew up in Neshoba and began playing soccer at the age of 6 when his parents, Zach and Windee Sanders, registered him to play at Northside Park. He said he has been playing ever since.

Sanders graduated from Neshoba Central High School with a list of soccer and academic achievements:



Clayton Sanders takes a shot last week against Andrew College in Georgia.

- Career 80 goals and 22 assists
- Career best junior year with 29 goals and 6 assists
- 5A District Champions in 2018 and 2019
- First team Region 3-5A,

- 2019
- All-Star MAC North Team, 2020
- Premier Preps Boys Soccer Team, 2019 and 2020
- Team captain, junior and senior year

• Most Valuable Offense Award in 2017-2018, 2018-2019

• Graduated with a 4.15 GPA

• Mississippi Scholar, Special Distinction

• National Honor Society and Beta Club

Sanders said he was shocked after scoring his first goal since college soccer is nothing like high school. He said his biggest inspiration to keep playing is his desire to be the best player on the field.

"The opponents are much tougher at this level, so just getting that goal gave me the confidence I needed to keep at it," Sanders said.

Sanders said he plans to keep playing with the Owls until finishing nursing school, and then he plans to hang up his cleats when he begins his nursing career.

His favorite part about playing soccer, he said, is working with his teammates, who he views as family. He said the

most challenging aspect of being on the field is staying focused if things take a wrong turn in a game.

"You can lose focus if things don't go your way during the game," he said. "Every second, you're thinking about a bad pass you made or a bad shot you took. Thinking about those things for even a second is a second that you're not focusing on the game."

Sanders' mother said witnessing her son score his first college goal was incredible, and she is very proud of him, along with the rest of his family.

"The way COVID has affected his soccer season makes his goal so much more special," Sanders said. "It shows that he's still doing well despite the delayed and shorter season."

Sanders said she and the rest of her family were there to watch her son's first home game against Andrew College from Cuthbert, Georgia.

Neshoba General hosting drive-thru vaccinations on Thursday

By JOHN LEE
john@neshobademocrat.com

An additional allotment of COVID-19 vaccines has been received by Neshoba General and will administered in a drive-through fashion onsite at the Neshoba General Nursing Home on Thursday, April 8.

To schedule an appointment call the Neshoba General COVID Vaccine appointment line at 601-663-1221 Wednesday, April 7, between 8 a.m. and

noon to speak to a team member to assist you one on one to schedule your appointment for Thursday, April 8.

The vaccines are free of charge and available to any individual age 18 and older.

Neshoba General is utilizing the two-dose Moderna vaccine, so any recipients who schedule a drive-through appointment for April 8 will be provided with times to receive a second dose.

As of Monday, 8,600 people had been vaccinated in Neshoba

County, an increase of 647 from last week.

Although the shots were administered in Neshoba County the state does not designate in what county the recipients reside.

Vaccinations are also currently being administered in Neshoba County at the Coliseum, 12000 Mississippi 15 North, Philadelphia, Tuesday through Friday by appointments made at covidvaccine.unc.edu or by calling 1-877-978-6453. The website is the best option, officials have said.

Selected Walmart pharmacies and local clinics and hospitals are now offering a limited number of COVID-19 vaccinations. Go to <https://msdh.ms.gov/c19appointment#local> to check availability.

On Tuesday, Neshoba County recorded 17 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 over the past week for a total of 3,969 cases up from 3,952 cases the previous week, according to the MSDH report. Neshoba County has 175 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, with no additional new deaths since last week's report.

The Mississippi State Department of Health has not updated Neshoba County's schools COVID-19 report since March 26.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians reported no new COVID-19 cases in the past week, with the total number of positive cases remaining at 1,831.

The Tribe reported no new deaths from COVID-19 in the past week, with the total number of deaths remaining at 114. One hospitalization has been report-

ed. Some Tribal deaths may also be included in the Neshoba death total, but officials make no distinction.

Mississippi's total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases now stands at 187,835 with another 118,506 probable cases for a total of 306,341 COVID-19 cases and 4,897 confirmed deaths and 2,176 probable COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began last March.

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Legislature earmarks \$1 million to repair lagoon

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Local legislators have been able to secure \$1 million in state bond monies to repair a city sewage lagoon.

Several other initiatives earmarked for Philadelphia, Neshoba County, and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indi-

ans, were passed during the 2021 session of the Mississippi Legislature that wrapped up last week.

State Sen. Jenifer Branning, and Rep. Scott Bounds, both Republicans from Philadelphia, said they were able to address a number of local needs.

"We were able to secure \$1 million in bond money for repairs to Philadelphia Utilities' sewage lagoon," Branning said.

"And Neshoba County will receive \$500,000 from the state for a bridge repair on County Road 210. Both were specific

requests."

The bridge project is expected to cost the county \$1.8 million. It spans an abandoned Kansas City Southern Railroad line. And while the line is closed, the new bridge must still meet specifications set for an active railroad line.

"This will help the county," Bounds said. "It won't fix the problem, but they can take the money, put it with other money, and use it as matching funds when applying for programs and grants."

Bounds added that \$30,000

in state funds will go to the Neshoba County sheriff's department to purchase a new digital fingerprinting machine.

"Apparently, the department has needed this for a while," Bounds said. "But we just found out about it last year. This was something Sheriff Eric Clark said we definitely needed."

Branning said \$500,000 will be coming for repairs and widening work on Highway 16 west. "It will be up to MDOT to decide where the greatest need is," Branning said.

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Money

Continued from page 1A

to those areas of the jurisdiction but beyond that no determination has been made as to the uses of the funds."

Mayo said the first disbursement will be half of the allotted money this year and a half next year. The first disbursement will not be until after the guidelines are determined, which he hopes will be within 60-days of the legislation's passing on March 11.

"We hope within the next 30 to 45 days," Mayo said.

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Jenkins enjoys cooking Southern staples

By SARAH KATHRYN WATKINS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Anne Smith Jenkins, the fifth child of 14, grew up in the Plattsburg community near Noxapater and can remember her mother making fresh biscuits in the mornings.

Her parents, Ali and Earl Smith, had a farm that the children worked on, tending to animals and helping in the fields.

Her father would wait at the oven until the biscuits were finished while the rest of the family would feed the animals.

"We would wake up around 4 or 5 in the morning," said Jenkins. "Mom would make biscuits, and dad would stay behind while we tended to the cows."

She met J.W. Jenkins when they were 14 and they ended up meeting again while working at Garan and got married. They will have been married 53 years this year and live in the Deemer area.

They have two children, Frankie Malone and Jay Jay Jenkins along with 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

After retiring for Garan, Jenkins started watching her grandchildren, but now that they are grown and she watches her great-grandchildren.

Her husband preaches at Bethlehem Church near Four Corners and she often loves to sing solos.

Jenkins is passionate about her family. One of her favorite things to do is to cook a big meal.

"The reason I like to cook big meals is that I know it's a good way to get all of my family together," Jenkins said.

The Jenkins family celebrated Easter Sunday by fellowshiping at church and then getting together as a family and eating.

Jenkins likes to cook traditional southern food and especially enjoys cooking with pork chops. She mentioned that she created a casserole with onions, pork chops, and other ingredients, and her husband said that the pork chops were excellent.

When Jenkins is not watching her great-grandchildren or cooking, she likes spending time gardening. She has two rose bushes: one purple and one red.

"I love roses," said Jenkins. Jenkins' cooking influence is her mother that taught her everything in the kitchen. She remembers all the recipes her mother taught her.

SQUASH DRESSING
2 cup squash, mashed (cooked)
2 cup or more cooked corn bread



J.W. and Anne Smith Jenkins

1 medium onion
2 eggs
1 stick oleo
1 can cream of chicken
Sauté onion and oleo. Then mix with other ingredients. Pour in casserole dish. Bake for 30 minutes or brown on top.

COOK OF THE WEEK

CHESS SQUARES
1 egg
1 box yellow cake mix

1 cup chopped pecans
1 stick melted butter
Mix above till crumbly with spoon. Put in 9x13 pan then combine 1 box confectioner sugar, 1 8 oz cream cheese and 2 eggs. Mix well and pour over mixture. Bake 350 for 40 minutes cool

and cut in squares.

IMPOSSIBLE PIE

4 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1 3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup flour
2 cup milk
1 tsp vanilla

1/2 st. Margarine, melted
1 can coconut milk
Mix all ingredients together. Butter 2 pie pans and put ingredients into pan. Put it in the oven at 325 for about 30 minutes. The pie will make it on crust.

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

Tyler Jordan Greer is looking forward to a spectacular summer surrounded by talented musicians from all over the world. He will also have the opportunity to be coached by a world-class faculty, and study under Dr. Josh Bynum from the University of Georgia.

He will participate in chamber ensembles, master classes and perform orchestral works by Ravel, Dvora, Beethoven, Mahler, and others..

Jordan auditioned for a place at Sewanee's Summer Music Festival where he will have all of these awesome opportunities to enrich his musical talents. He is an outstanding trombonist who has won many honors and awards. Jordan was awarded a \$3,500 scholarship by the Festival which is given only to those students who exhibit exceptional musical talent and a desire to learn.

Jason Holland has been selected as the Outstanding Undergraduate student in the Division of Business for the Spring 2021 semester at Mississippi State University's Meridian Campus.

His family is so very proud of him. He has juggled school, work, and family, while pursuing his degree and managed to do it with a 4.0 GPA! His wife, Misty Murray Holland, "Never had a doubt that he would do well because he is really super smart." Congratulations on a well-deserved honor!

Neshoba Central High School 2021 STAR Student and STAR Teacher are Mary Kate Moran and Kimberly

Fisher STAR Students are named by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) M. B. Swayze Foundation, sponsor of the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. Established by the Mississippi Economic Council in 1965, the purpose of the STAR program is to recognize outstanding students and teachers in Mississippi. Each STAR Student is asked to designate a STAR Teacher, the teacher who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement. Congratulations to Mary Kate and Kimberly Fisher.

Charlee Rives Darby celebrated her 3rd birthday with a Minnie Mouse party at her home. Charlee greeted her little guests wearing a charming Minnie Mouse outfit of a red and white polka dot jumper over a black long-sleeved T-shirt and black tights. She wore red and white sneakers and, to complete her outfit, a pair of Minnie Mouse ears with a red polka dot bow in the center..

There were arches of red and white polka-dot balloons, black and white-dotted balloons along with some plain white ones centered with a large Minnie head silhouette arranged behind the refreshing table which was covered with a red and white polka-dotted cloth. Favorite finger foods were served. A tray of specially-iced cookies in the shape of the number 3 frosted in red icing with white dots edged in black Minnie Mouse cookies, as well as some in white with Charlee written in red icing were served. .

Charlee's birthday cake was

so special! It was a layered cake iced in white with Minnie Mouse heads around the bottom layer. The top layers were iced in red with Charlee Rives written across the front in white and a Minnie Mouse bow as a topper. Minnie Mouse ears were at each guest's place on the table where they enjoyed their food. The jumpy house was filled with little Minnies wearing their ears and having a wonderful time sliding and jumping. It was a fun party which her parents, Matthew and Emily Darby had fun planning and decorating for their daughter's 3rd birthday.

Jackson Academy was happy to welcome Mississippi State University President, Dr. Mark E. Keenum, and Admissions Counselor, Spencer Snider, to campus on March 31st.

Twenty four members of the Class of 2021 have committed to attend MSU in the fall. Awards for academic excellence, community engagement, and service, and athletic ability have totaled \$556,478 over a four year period.

Among these seniors is Jenna Daly, the daughter of Dr. Shay and Ann Daly. Her Philadelphia grandparents are Pat and Jo Helen Daly. They are all so proud of Jenna and are looking forward to her years at MSU.

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

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Early childhood students place in virtual FCCLA competition

Two Early Childhood Education students from the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Career Technical Center recently competed in the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Virtual State Leadership Conference Competition in March. Aniyah Black and Cheyenne Holt competed together as a team in Chapter in Review Portfolio. They placed first and both received a gold medal. They will advance on to the hybrid national competition in June, in Nashville, Tennessee. The local FCCLA advisor and Early Childhood Education Instructor is Jill Powe.



Engagements

Sonya Denise Young to wed Edward Salisbury this Fall

Sonya Denise Young of Philadelphia, Mississippi, is to be married to Joseph Edward Salisbury of Bradenton, Florida at Ely Mills, Gatlinburg, Tennessee in the fall.

Ms. Young, the daughter of the late Mr. Melvin Williamson and late Ms. Judy Lynnette Moore of Jackson, Mississippi, is a graduate of Meridian Community College and works as a nurse at Neshoba General Nursing Home. She is the daughter to the late Mr. Melvin Williamson and late Ms. Judy Lynnette Moore of Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Salisbury, son of Ms. Dorothy Coutermarsh and the late William Salisbury of Bradenton, Florida, is a golf course groundskeeper at The Country Club of Jackson.



Edward Salisbury and Sonya Denise Young



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Heritage wins Leake series

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Heritage Patriots won two of three games from Leake Academy last week in prep baseball action.

Leake Academy won the first game of the series over Heritage 4-3, and then dropped a 3-1 decision in the second game. Leake Academy lost 19-7 in the third game played Thursday.

The Rebels entered this week with a 7-12 record. They were to host Lamar School for a doubleheader on Tuesday and

visit the Raiders on Thursday.

In the first game, Gunter Scott singled in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh to break open a 3-3 tie.

Bryce Watkins pitched the first four innings and Will Martin pitched the final three to pick up the win.

Martin hit a double and a single. Riley Myers, Scott and Whitt Welch all had one hit.

In game two, Heritage scored two in the second and one in the seventh. Leake Academy's only run came in the second.

Scott had two singles and

Parker Thomas hit a single.

Heritage went up early and added to their lead. The Patriots scored two in the first, seven in the second, one in the third and two in the fourth. The Rebels scored two in the fourth, two in the fifth and three in the sixth.

Scott hit a double and a single. He scored a run and knocked in three more. Thomas Cheatham had two hits. He scored one run and knocked in three more. Whitt Welch had two hits and scored one run.

Aiden Watkins had a double and a single. Rhett Atkinson hit a double.

Lady Rockets pound out a victory

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Neshoba Central Lady Rockets pounded out 15 hits as they rolled over Enterprise 14-2 last week in fast-pitch softball action.

The Lady Rockets improved to 13-0. Neshoba Central was to host Cleveland Central on Tuesday, visit Lake on Thursday and host Morton on Friday.

Against Enterprise, the Lady Rockets scored one in the third, two in the fourth, one in the fifth, four in the sixth and six in the seventh. Enterprise scored two in the third.

Elleigh Willis was the winning pitcher. She helped her cause by hitting two singles and knocking in a run.

Lanayah Henry hit a triple, a double and a single. She scored three runs and knocked in another. Charmayne Morris hit

a triple and two singles. She scored two runs and knocked in five. Tenly Grisham hit a double and two singles. She scored three runs and knocked in two more.

The Neshoba Central Lady Rockets improved to 12-0 with a 10-0 victory over Enterprise Monday night in fast-pitch softball action.

Last Monday, the Lady Rockets defeated Southeast Lauderdale 16-1.

Neshoba Central scored four in the first, three in the second, three in the third and six in the fourth. Southeast Lauderdale scored a run in the top of the fifth.

Elleigh Willis was the winning pitcher. Willis helped her cause at the plate as she hit a double and two singles. She scored a run and knocked in four more.

Grisham hit a double and

three singles. She scored four runs and knocked two runs in. Lanayah Henry hit a double and two singles. She knocked in a run. Charmayne Morris had one hit, scored four runs and knocked in another.

Willis pitched six strike outs as she led the Lady Rockets to a shutout win over Enterprise.

The Lady Rockets scored four in the first, one in the second and five in the fifth.

The Lady Rockets had a 9-2 hitting edge. Henry hit a double and a single. She scored a run and knocked in three more. Morris hit a triple, scored two runs and knocked in another. Grisham hit a double and scored a run. Kylie Posey hit a double and scored a run. Jones had two hits, scored two runs and knocked in two more. Kylie Thompson had one hit, scored one run and knocked in two more.

Warriors take 2 wins from Leake Central

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Choctaw Central baseball team picked up two Region 4-4A victories over Leake Central last week.

The Warriors defeated Leake Central 6-4 on Tuesday and then took the second game

Thursday, 11-0.

In the first game, the Warriors scored three in the third, one in fourth and two in the fifth. Leake Central scored two in the first, one in the fourth and one in the fifth.

Haygen Anderson was the winning pitcher. Those getting a hit for the Warriors were Chris

Lewis, Andre'sa Jim, Andeson and Teyton Nickey.

In the second game, the Warriors scored two in the first, one in the third and eight in the fourth. Nickey was the winning pitcher. Braylon McMillan, Anderson, Billie Isom and Cohen Keats all hit a double.



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PRE-K PROGRAM SCREENING

If you or someone you know has a 4 year-old child that you would like to have tested for possible placement in the Philadelphia Pre-Kindergarten Program, please call the Elementary Office at 601-656-2000 to set up an appointment on February 26, 2021. Parents may call between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

The Pre-Kindergarten Program will be housed at Philadelphia Elementary School. Children will be screened for enrollment with a pre-kindergarten skills assessment. The children with the greatest academic need will have priority in placement.

The Pre-K class will adhere to the regular schedule of Philadelphia Public Schools. Pre-K students will be offered breakfasts and lunches by the Philadelphia Public School District Food Services. Applicants may start turning applications in on February 26, 2021. Applicants must be toilet-trained. Students residing outside the Philadelphia Public School District are not eligible for the Pre-K program at Philadelphia Elementary. Pre-K students residing within the Philadelphia City Limits may be eligible for transportation.

In order to have a child tested for possible placement, parents must bring the following items to the testing

appointment:

Two (2) proofs of residency in the Philadelphia Public School District

A certified birth certificate (child must be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2021); The child's social security card; The child's immunization record

SPRING SING

Spring Singing at the Church at the Barn, Hwy 491, Collinsville, featuring The Reed Brothers from Louisville. April 17. Food and fellowship at 5 pm and singing will begin at 6. All are welcome and invited to attend. Info: 601-917-8870 questions/directions. Bring a chair.

