



SCHOOLS

UNION HIGH SCHOOL HOLDS GRADUATION FOR CLASS OF '21

Other graduations set this week — Page 3A, 9A

COOK OF THE WEEK

WEEMS ENJOYS TIME ON THE FRONT PORCH

Anita Weems — Page 1B



THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

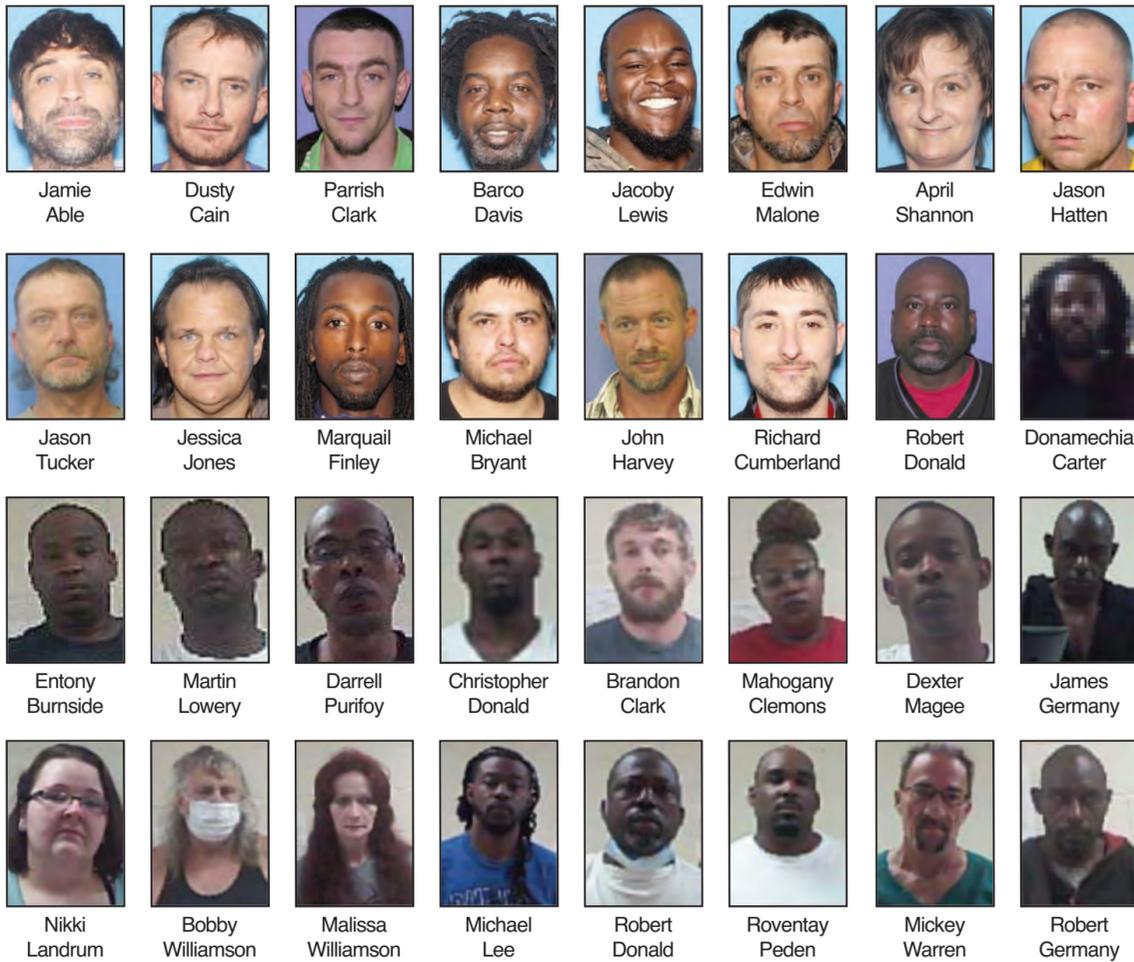
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33 arrested in extensive year-long local, federal narcotics operation

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@neshobademocrat.com

More than \$5 million in illegal drug trafficking has been halted in Neshoba County with 33 felony arrests so far since Friday in a year-long investigation by local, state and federal authorities, law enforcement officials said.

"This was a team effort to complete a mission to make Neshoba County and the city of Philadelphia a safer place to live and raise our kids," Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark said on Friday at the Courthouse in announcing the massive operation that began around 5 a.m. with officers from about 12 different agencies.

Homeland Security Investigations New Orleans acting Special Agent in Charge Jack Staton said at the Neshoba County Courthouse, "Today we took dangerous drugs off the street that came here through the border."

Five of the suspects have between eight and 10 charges related to the investigation. Most charges were conspiracy to commit a felony and related to drug trafficking.

Darrell Duchea Purifoy, 46, 518 Ivy Street, turned himself in to authorities Monday afternoon along with two other suspects.

He was charged with eight counts of conspiracy to commit a felony and on a charge of making harassing phone calls, a misdemeanor.

See ARRESTS, page 7A



Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Federal law enforcement agents arrest Brandon Clark in the early morning hours of Friday during a sweeping operation that has netted 33 arrests and counting.

LUXURY HOTEL

Choctaws investing in Pigeon Forge

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will team up with two other tribes to develop a high-end hotel in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians have teamed with DreamCatcher to develop the AAA-rated Four Diamond hotel, it was announced last week.

These tribes are regarded as among the most successful Native American tribes in the Southeastern United States, officials said in announcing the deal.

"Although this is not an investment here on our tribal lands, it is an opportunity for us, along with the other tribes, to diversify our business portfolio," said Chief Cyrus Ben of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

"This is yet another step in Choctaw self-determination. With this capital investment, our goal is to generate revenue to benefit the tribe as a whole. As our Tribe grows, so should our business interests."

Located in a mecca of tourism and natural beauty, DreamCatcher Hotel — Pigeon Forge is projected to become one of the top-rated and desired lodging properties within the Smoky Mountains.

"We are thrilled about our partnership with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians," stated Zeke Cooper, president of DreamCatcher Franchise Development.

"The Pigeon Forge property launches a new milestone in our company, opening as the first hotel under our brand name. Our tribal partners share our bold vision of developing and investing in unique and innovative hospitality properties, located in areas we know people want to visit. We are excited and humbled by their investment and trust. Our goal is to create significant returns for each tribe's members."

The unprecedented partnership and investment add diversity to each of the tribes already-successful economic development portfolios. From gaming and hospitality properties to cattle farms and construction firms, the tribes are known for their business expertise and accomplishments. Revenue generated from their investment will financially benefit their tribal operations and members for generations to come.

"On behalf of the Tribal Council See HOTEL, page 2A

Lady Rockets finish with perfect record to claim 8th straight title

By ROBBIE ROBERTSON sports@neshobademocrat.com

Zachary Sanders was an assistant coach on the 2013 Neshoba Central team that won a fast-pitch title.

On Friday, the Lady Rockets made it eight straight titles, but it was the first title for Sanders as a head coach.

Neshoba swept Moss Point's East Central Hornets 14-2 and 7-3 to capture the Class 5A State Championship for the 10th title in school history and finish the season with a perfect 32-0 record.

For Sanders, the win was even sweeter than the seven before that he was involved in as an assistant.

"This is my eighth one that

I have been involved in and it brings me back to the first one," Sanders said, just moments after lifting the championship trophy for the Neshoba Central fans in attendance. "This one brings me back to that one. That one was awesome. They were really excited about it and jumping around. That's the most excitement we have had since the first one."

As with any championship it wasn't easy but the hard-hitting Neshoba offense kept banging away at the East Central defense with 20 hits in the two-game series.

"We always find a way," Sanders said. "They have worked hard and done all of the things they need to do.

There is a lot of pressure. All of the girls know the pressure is there but you never see it. We do what we have to do. I think we swung at some good pitches and didn't swing at any bad pitches. We just did what we needed to do."

This year's championship looked somewhat different than the last few with former standout Aspen Wesley on the mound. But Neshoba's Elleigh Willis was just as effective as she picked up both wins in the series.

"She is a good one," Sanders said. "We have had years of swing-and-miss pitchers but this one, she makes it hard to get base hits and she has a good defense behind her. See SOFTBALL, page 2A



Photo by Robbie Robertson

The Neshoba Central Lady Rockets hold up the Class 5A State Softball Championship trophy after beating Moss Point's East Central Hornets on Friday for their eighth straight title.

OPINION Rich Lowry

PAGE 4A

JUST AMONG FRIENDS Marianne Enochs

PAGE 1B

OPINION Patrick Buchanan

PAGE 4A



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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Subscriptions are \$36 annually in Neshoba County, \$40 non-local, \$25 for 6 months locally, \$27 for 6 months non-local and \$43 annually Out of State.

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Founded in 1881

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

(USPS 377-160)

The Neshoba Democrat is published every Wednesday by The Neshoba Democrat Publishing Co., Inc., 439 Beacon Street, Philadelphia, Miss., James E. Prince III, president. Subscriptions are \$36 per year in Neshoba and adjoining counties, \$40 in other Mississippi counties and \$43 for out of state. Single copy price is \$1. Periodicals postage paid at Philadelphia, MS.

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.

Hotel

Continued from page 1A

cil of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, I'm excited to be part of this historic development, which I am confident will continue to secure the economic future of our Tribal Members and drive economic prosperity for many years to come. The Seminole Tribe has deep experience in owning and operating hotels, and we are very familiar with Pigeon Forge, a market that attracts millions of vacationers, conventions, weddings and athletic tournaments each year," stated Chairman Marcellus Osceola of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Tourism to the area escalated before the pandemic and analysts now predict a quick return of tourist activity to pre-pandemic levels.

The property features 12,000 square feet of meeting and convention space, an idyllic rooftop restaurant and lounge, and 200 guest rooms.

The hotel site is strategically located within the heart of dining, shopping and excursion options while also sitting adjacent to the Leconte Center and the Cal Ripken Baseball/Softball Experience.

"The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are proud to partner with our sister tribes, The Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on this inaugural project," said Principal Chief Richie Sneed of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

"It is our hope that this will be but one of many economic development projects our tribes can partner on, helping to secure



A rendering shows what the new DreamCatcher Hotel — Pigeon Forge will look like once constructed. The property will open in the summer of 2023.

the financial future of our tribes. We are grateful for the opportunity as well as the partnership with DreamCatcher as the project developer."

DreamCatcher develops high-end affordable hotels in choice tourism destinations and Pigeon Forge fits perfectly into

that model.

"DreamCatcher is proud of its long history of successful business relationships with various Native American tribes and is excited to bring these three leaders together to create this first-time partnership," officials said.

DreamCatcher Hotel — Pigeon Forge is the first in a series of new branded hotels DreamCatcher intends to franchise over the next five years.

The property will open in the summer of 2023.

Softball

Continued from page 1A

When you have a good defense backing you up, you feel good about them making plays behind you."

Lady Rockets 14 East Central 2

The Lady Rockets used a seven-run fifth inning to pull away and take a five-inning, run-rule win over the Lady Hornets and secure the Class

5A state championship.

Neshoba scored two runs in the top of the first and East Central responded with a single run in the bottom of the second to cut the lead to 2-1.

But Neshoba answered back in the top of the third with two more runs. Tenly Grisham led off the inning with a bunt single. C. Morris then reached on an error that scored

Grisham. Elleigh Willis then doubled and scored Grisham to give Neshoba a 4-1 lead.

East Central scored a single run in the bottom of the third to cut the lead to 4-2 but Neshoba again answered as they scored three runs in the top of the fourth. Hamaya Fielder reached on an error and Grisham followed with a single. Neshoba then put together

three straight singles as Charmayne Morris, Willis and Mauhree Jones all singled and Neshoba took a commanding 7-2 lead.

Neshoba then finished up with seven runs in the top of the fifth with the last blow being a big two-run double by Jeyda Ben to finish off the Lady Hornets.

Neshoba had 11 hits in the contest and took advantage of seven errors and four walks. Grisham was 3-for-4 with three runs scored and two RBIs while Willis was 2-for-3 with a double. Kylee Thompson was 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Ben doubled and also had two RBIs while Sa'Nya Jackson, Morris and Mauhree Jones each scored two runs apiece.

Willis again pitched a complete game, going all five innings. She gave up two runs on three hits and two walks while striking out two.

Lady Rockets 7 East Central 3

The Lady Rockets never trailed and took a four-run win over the Lady Hornets on Thursday in Game 1 of the series.

Neshoba scored three runs in the second inning. AnnaLeigh Jones led off the inning when she reached on an error. Shante Beaulieu then singled to score courtesy runners Erica Lyons. After two outs, Charmayne Morris singled to score Beaulieu. Elleigh Willis then singled to right to score Morris and Neshoba led 3-0.

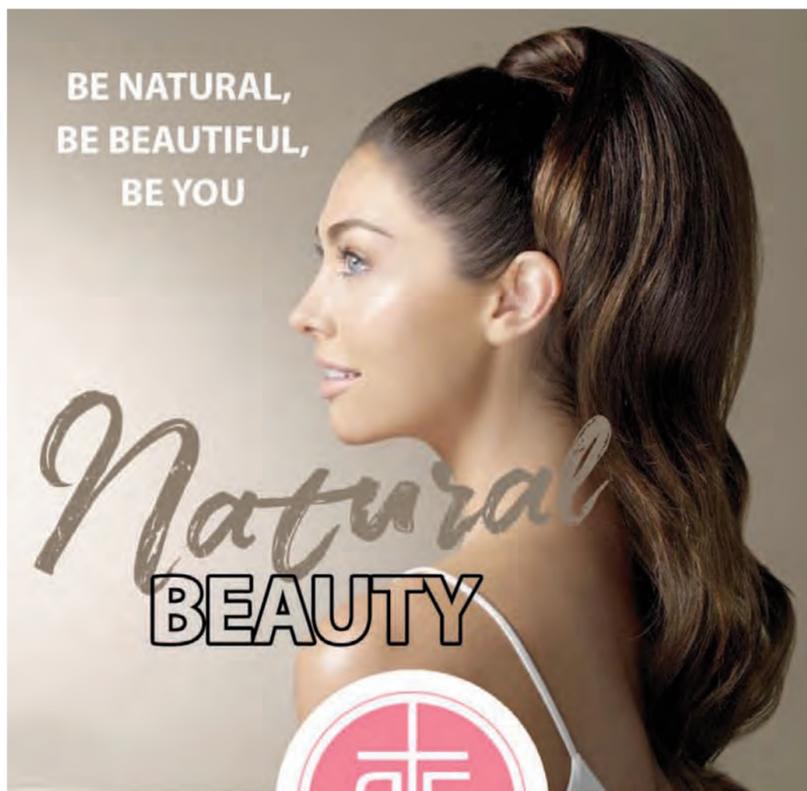
East Central answered back with two runs in the top of the third to cut the score to 3-2. But that was as close as the Lady Hornets got.

Neshoba added two more in the fifth as Mauhree Jones singled and scored on a single by Kylee Thompson. After a fielder's choice and passed ball moved Thompson to third, she scored on a sacrifice fly by Jones to give Neshoba a 5-2 lead.

East Central added its last run in the top of the sixth to cut the lead to 5-3. But the Lady Rockets added two more runs in the bottom of the sixth as Willis singled to score Hama'ya Fielder. Tenly Grisham then scored on a sacrifice fly to right field for the final margin.

Neshoba had nine hits in the contest as Willis was 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Grisham was 2-for-4 while Morris, Mauhree Jones, Kylee Thompson and Beaulieu each singled, scored and drove in a run. Erica Lyons also had two stolen bases for Neshoba.

Willis pitched all seven innings for Neshoba and gave up three unearned runs on six hits while striking out two.



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42 seniors celebrate graduation at Leake Academy

By JOHN LEE
john@neshobademocrat.com

Leake Academy held its graduation ceremonies May 7 at the Joe F. Shepard Gymnasium with the graduating Class of 2021 consisting of 42 graduates, 21 of whom were honor graduates.

The Valedictorian of the Leake Academy Class of 2021 was Hagen Davis, son of Michael and Sonya Davis of Philadelphia. He has one sister, Molly Davis. Hagen is the 2021 Valedictorian, Star Student, an Honor Graduate, and a Headmaster's list student with a numerical average of 100.7, a

4.0 GPA, and an ACT score of 32.

"Being the Valedictorian is a great accomplishment knowing that all my hard work paid off," Davis said. "I had to study a lot, stay on time with my work, do my homework every night, and just stay on top of everything."

He encouraged his fellow students to live for Christ and share the Gospel with others during his Valedictorian



Hagen Davis



Emma Harkins

speech.

"I told my classmates to always keep doing their best," he said. "I'm thankful that God blessed me with being smart and that my hard work paid off. Good luck to all of my fellow graduates."

The Salutatorian of the Leake Academy Class of 2021 was Emma "Emmi" Harkins, daughter of Derrick and Marianna Harkins of Carthage. She

has two brothers, Will-Lawson and Jack. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and has an ACT score of 30.

"Being the Salutatorian has always been one of my biggest goals since I was a child," Harkins said. "It's been tough and a lot of hard work, but it was worth it in the end."

Harkins said she had to stay up late a lot of nights studying and had to miss out on events and activities she wanted to attend to keep her grades up.

"Keep God first," she said. "He's the reason I've been able to achieve this goal. Trust in him."



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Philadelphia, Neshoba Central graduations this week

By JOHN LEE
john@neshobademocrat.com

Philadelphia High School and Neshoba Central High School have graduation ceremonies scheduled for the end of this week to commemorate the Class of 2021.

Philadelphia High School will hold its 2021 graduation ceremonies at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Neshoba County Coliseum.

Emma Taylor is the class valedictorian and Mary Ellen Booker is the salutatorian.

Those students graduating

with honors are Kara Daly, Davyon McWilliams, Teonna Gadson, Adriana Rush, Talease Griffin, Asha Brand, Kaiya Tucker, Aayanna Coleman, Skylar Plummer, Mason McCann, Sunshine Spivey, Jayanna Coleman, Markasia Dupree, Mariah Henson, Owen Daly and Conner Long.

Neshoba Central High School will hold 2021 graduation ceremonies at 7:30 p.m. Friday starting at the Neshoba County Coliseum.

Marlee Thomas will be the valedictorian while Mary Kate Moran is the salutatorian.

Choctaw Central High School's 2021 graduation ceremony was held Tuesday, May 18, after press time.

Choctaw Central High School's ceremonies were held at the football stadium.

Sierra Wallace is the class valedictorian and Brannon Jim is the salutatorian.

Honor graduates are Meloney Thames, Isley Mingo, Laliana Crosby, Traiton Martin, Kearson Grisham, Leilani Charlie, Jaiden Thomas and Kyler Jefferson.

Union High School held its graduation ceremony on May

13. See story, 9A.

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Opinion

FOUNDED 1881

THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

*Truth, justice and progress, without fear or favor*JAMES E. PRINCE III, *Editor and Publisher*STEVE SWOGETINSKY, *Managing Editor*JOY STEWART, *Interim Advertising Director*STEVE SWOGETINSKY, *Sports Editor*ARTHUR STANLEY DEARMAN, *Editor and Publisher 1966-2000*
1932–2017

EDITORIALS

What is there to hide?

To paraphrase Shakespeare, something is rotten in the state of Arizona.

The line, which comes from “Hamlet” and is intended to reflect a character’s suspicion about the integrity of the political hierarchy, is equally applicable to the effort by Republicans in the state to conduct an audit of the 2020 Maricopa County ballots. So many obstacles have been encountered it appears that someone, somewhere is intent on making sure it doesn’t ever happen.

It might not and — even if it does, the data might be so corrupt by now the findings would be useless. Nonetheless, how Democrats in that state and others as well as in Washington, D.C., continue to insist Republicans admit the election was not tainted by fraud and that Joe Biden won “fair and square” is troubling.

Admittedly, the evidence to support the allegations of fraud is, at best, limited. One would think, however, with so many people believing President Biden’s election is not legitimate it would be in the best interests of the Democrats to show it was. Standing in the way while forcing others to acknowledge its legitimacy recalls another line from Shakespeare, “The lady doth protest too much, methinks.” Or to put it another way, what could they possibly be hiding?

This is not a partisan issue. The integrity of the electoral process was already in doubt because of Donald Trump’s unexpected win in 2016 over Hillary Rodham

Clinton. Pollster David Winston says 62 percent of Democrats believe it came about because of Russian interference. That skepticism is mirrored by the reaction of 61 percent of Republicans — perhaps fueled by former President Trump’s unproven claims of fraud — that the Biden presidency is illegitimate.

“When looking at the current state of our democracy,” Mr. Winston continues, “only 19 percent of the electorate believes both Biden and Trump won fairly.” Interestingly enough, and counter to the conventional narrative, more Republicans thought both won fairly than Democrats, 20 percent to 15 percent. Things are not hopeless. Congress has finally come together on a bipartisan plan to review the events of Jan. 6. They would be doing themselves and the country a favor if they could agree on a way to analyze the results of Nov. 3 as well. Questioning the results is not treasonous, as some claim. The Winston data reflects what he calls “a challenge to both parties and the country as a whole.” Nearly 80 percent of the country has some doubt in the fairness of the last two presidential elections. Having politicians in one party demand politicians in the other say otherwise for obvious gain only adds to the concerns of voters. People won’t have confidence their vote counts until they have confidence in how those votes are cast and counted.

— *The Washington Times*

FLASHBACKS

MAY 23, 1941

Charles Yarbrough, son of Mrs. May Yarbrough and the late John Yarbrough, has been selected as a representative from Itta Bena to go to Boys State in Jackson at an early date. Charles has made his home with his sister, Mrs. Guy Yates in Itta Bena, for the past two years and is graduating from Itta Bena High School this week.

MAY 17, 1951

Lamar W. Bryan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bryan of Philadelphia, enlisted in the Navy and completed his boot training in San Diego, California and was assigned to U.S. Mackenzie, he was home on leave in April, the first time since entering the navy. He attended Philadelphia High School.

Miss Ann Taylor, who is a member of the Freshman Class at Mississippi College, was named on the Honor Roll at the Baptist Institution for the past two nine weeks terms. Miss Taylor is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Taylor of Philadelphia.

MAY 18, 1961

The Neshoba County Polio Chapter, G.F. Dabbs, tendered his resignation as chapter chairman and Mrs. Lewis Mars was elected to take his place. Other officers elected were: Al Block, vice chairman; C.P. Phillips, secretary; J.M. Lofton, treasurer; and Mrs. A.B. McCraw, committeewoman.

Kenneth Dun Jr., will attend Boys State to be held in Jackson. He will represent The American Legion Post 147 at Arlington where he

will be a senior in high school next year. Kenneth was very active in school last year. He was president of the junior class and a member of the basketball team. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. K.M. Dunn of Burnside.

MAY 21, 1971

Richard H. Molpus of Philadelphia, president and owner of Molpus Lumber Co. and Molpus Hardwood Co., has been named Mississippi’s Small Businessman of the Year. The presentation of a certificate of recognition was made by Secretary of State, Heber Ladner for Gov. John Bell Williams on behalf of the Small Business Administration.

MAY 14, 1981

Rod Black, representing Molpus Lumber Company, receives a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of the company’s sustaining membership in the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Arts Council. Jim McCoy, of the membership committee, Rebecca Stribling, President, presented the certificate to Black.

MAY 15, 1991

Kassie Elizabeth Woods was crowned Miss Southern American Beauty in the two-three year old division at McMillan Community Center in Carthage. She was also crowned Miss Cover Queen. She is the two and a half year old daughter of Casey and Becky Woods of Philadelphia.

MAY 16, 2001

Neshoba County native, Jason Gentry has been named

the new head girls basketball coach at Philadelphia High School. Gentry’s record at his last school which was Noxapater High school was 105-68 in six seasons.

Jeanie Battle and Morgan Price, of Philadelphia High School, signed fast-pitch softball scholarships with East Central Community College. The people that were present are: PHS slow-pitch coach, Scott Hill, Anna Battle, Mike Price, and ECC head coach, Mike Anderson.

MAY 18, 2011

Choctaw Central recently released the names of the 2011 Valedictorian, Salutatorian, STAR Student and STAR Teacher. Bronson James Henderson was named Valedictorian and STAR Student. He is the son of Priscilla Thomas and the grandson of Ray and Ruby Thomas. The Salutatorian is Tasha Lynn Laird Wishork, the daughter of Richard Laird Sr., and the late Tamara Gibson Laird. The STAR Teacher is Dorian Trahan, an assistant band director.

These three ladies will each have additional \$400 to apply towards their education expenses next year at East Central in Decatur. They are the recipients of the money through the scholarship fund raising efforts of the Laird Hospital volunteers, who fund the stipends for students studying in a healthcare-related field through bakes sales and other activities. The winners are: LaJoya Griffin, senior from Philadelphia High School, EC freshman Emily Franklin, of Union, and Lauren Daniels, a senior at Neshoba Central.

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Netanyahu is the winner

“Israel is Winning Battles, Hamas is Winning the War.”

So ran the headline in the Jerusalem Post atop an analysis of the Gaza war, which began, “The IDF is registering great achievements in Operation Guardian of the Walls, but meanwhile the house appears to be collapsing from within.”

Hard to disagree. Consider this New York Times commentary about Israel’s prime minister from the runner-up to the Democratic presidential nominee in the primaries of 2016 and 2020, Sen. Bernie Sanders:

“Mr. Netanyahu has cultivated an increasingly intolerant and authoritarian type of racist nationalism ... (and) legitimized these forces ... by bringing them into the government. ... Racist mobs that attack Palestinians on the streets of Jerusalem now have representation in its Knesset.”

Sanders’ wing of the party is moving toward the Palestinian side of the conflict. “Israeli air strikes killing civilians in Gaza is an act of terrorism,” says Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota.

Tweets Michigan’s Rep. Rashida Tlaib: “Israel targeting media sources is so the world can’t see Israel’s war crimes led by the apartheid-in-chief Netanyahu. It’s so the world can’t see the killing of babies, children and their parents. It’s so the world can’t see Palestinians being massacred.”

Wisconsin Rep. Mark Pocan concurs: “We cannot just condemn rockets fired by Hamas and ignore Israel’s state-sanctioned police violence against Palestinians — including unlawful evictions, violent attacks on protestors & the murder of Palestinian children ... US aid should not be funding this violence.”

While Israeli attacks are killing Hamas commanders and destroying the sites from which Hamas has fired 3,000 rockets, Israel is suffering serious and intangible losses.

Palestinians in Jerusalem and on the West Bank have risen in solidarity with Arabs and Muslims in Gaza. A dozen were slain last week.

Arab citizens of Israel are

A military truce may be at hand, but that is all it will be — a truce before the next round of fighting.

daily fighting Jews in cities like Jaffa, Acre and Lod. Writes the Post: “With riots shaking all parts of Israel,” the country “is being torn apart from within.”

Beyond Gaza, Jerusalem, the West Bank and Israel, Lebanese and Jordanians are protesting on the border. In U.S. and European cities like Berlin, London, Paris and Madrid, protesters numbering in the thousands and tens of thousands are marching in solidarity with the Palestinians and condemnation of Israel as a racist and an “apartheid” regime.

Saturday’s morning attack that brought down Gaza’s 12-story tower that housed the Associated Press and Al Jazeera caused a backlash in much of Western media against Israel, which claims the building contained an Hamas intelligence center and was a legitimate target.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President Joe Biden have come out in defense of Israel’s right to attack sites from which rockets are being fired into Israel. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, however, has been more muted in backing Israel’s attacks on Gaza.

The GOP seems more solidly behind Israel. More than three dozen Senate Republicans last week urged Biden to “unequivocally” support Israel’s right to defend itself and to “immediately” end negotiations with Iran on sanctions relief, charging Tehran with supporting terrorist activity by Hamas against Israel.

In a letter to Biden, 44 Republican senators wrote:

“Over the past couple days, Palestinian terrorists in Gaza, who are funded by Iran, have launched a series of rocket attacks into Israel. They are targeting Israeli civilians and cities, including Israel’s capital Jerusalem.”

Where Israel goes from here, however, is currently unclear.

President Donald Trump’s Abraham Accords, in which the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan established relations with Israel, appear now to be on hold.

For, on Sunday, a statement by the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation called for an immediate halt to what it described as Israel’s barbaric attacks on Gaza and blamed “systematic crimes” against the Palestinians for the fighting which has lasted for a week.

The OIC statement came after a virtual meeting in which Saudi Arabia condemned Israel’s violation of the sanctity of Muslim holy sites and evictions of Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem.

Clearly, the principal winner from this conflict is Bibi Netanyahu, who was within days of being replaced as prime minister by an opposition coalition when fighting erupted. He is now seen by Israelis as a decisive war leader, defending the country from thousands of rockets and severely pushing the enemies firing those rockets.

As for the two-state solution to which the world has been committed for decades, that prospect seems further from reality than ever.

Having seen what Hamas is capable of and willing to do, what Israeli will be eager to enter a peace agreement with the Palestinians that would mean vacating much of the West Bank, sharing Jerusalem as the capital of both countries, and a Palestinian right of return to lands from which their families were driven in the 1948-1949 Israeli War of Independence, which Palestinians remember as the Nakba, or catastrophe.

A military truce may be at hand, but that is all it will be — a truce before the next round of fighting.

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

Trump’s huge 2023 decision

Sometime in 2023, Donald Trump will presumably make the most momentous decision by a single person affecting the fate of the Republican Party in decades.

He will decide whether to run for president again, and that will determine who’s the frontrunner (Trump, if he’s a go) and the contours of the race.

If Trump runs, he will, one assumes, blot out the sun. Everything will be about him — his record, his pronouncements, his animosities. Much of the conservative mass media will get on board, while the mainstream media — inadvertently aiding him, yet again — will be even more intensely hostile.

The choice between this and a more “normal” nomination battle is Trump’s alone.

Perhaps not since Dwight Eisenhower turned aside Harry Truman’s entreaties to run for president as a Democrat and threw his hat in the ring as a Republican has someone had such “yea or nay” influence over the nation’s politics.

Trump’s continued sway has been a boon to his most hardcore cadre, but it is a problem for Trumpism, at least if that term is to mean anything more than personal loyalty to him. In particular, his staying power risks overshadowing and distorting the development of the populist wing of the party, which should be about more than “Stop the Steal” and adherence to one man, even if that man has defied political gravity.

Trump lost last November and contributed more than his

If Trump does decide to run, he’ll squeeze out potential GOP candidates.

share to the Georgia Senate losses that have added trillions of dollars to what Joe Biden can plausibly spend.

He no longer has any formal power, whereas a few months ago he could move aircraft carrier groups.

He’s off social media and is not nearly as omnipresent on traditional media as when he was holding impromptu press conferences on his way to Marine One.

And yet, his grip on the party has barely loosened, if at all.

Why?

Most important, he avoided the stigma of a loser by falsely claiming he really won.

He connected with his voters at a cultural level deeper than any of his policies, creating an enduring bond.

His voters still think he’s the only one who truly gets the threat from the left, and the only one willing to fight with the requisite ferocity.

Finally, they think Trump is being persecuted by social media companies and worry they could be next.

The lesson of the defenestration of Liz Cheney is that you can’t run headlong into these sentiments and expect to survive in leadership.

Mitch McConnell, who has made his disdain for Trump clear, has taken the more prudent course of declining to elaborate on his well-known views, and isn’t going any-

where.

But there’s no doubt that what it means to be a populist in the Trump mode is overly determined by Trump himself.

Until recently, Elise Stefanik was a moderate Republican from New York state. She became the alternative to Cheney for the party’s populists by toeing the line on Stop the Steal, an issue that isn’t liberal, conservative or populist, but pure Trump.

The Trump effect is stark in Ohio Republican politics. One would think Rep. Anthony Gonzalez, a featured speaker last year at an event of the populist policy shop American Compass, would have more populist credibility than Senate primary candidate Josh Mandel, a run-of-the-mill establishment Republican. Yet Gonzalez voted to impeach Trump, so Mandel is earning populist points by calling him a “traitor.”

On the other hand, another likely Senate candidate, J.D. Vance, who represents a sincere, thought-through populism, will have to answer for his lack of enthusiasm for Trump in 2016.

If Trump does decide to run, even if he’s less dominant than advertised, he’ll squeeze out potential candidates like Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, who are most determined to run as his direct successors.

They, like most everyone else in the party, will have to hold their breath until Trump comes down one way or the other in 2023.

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

LETTERS

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BIBLE SELECTION

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

— Romans 11:33 (ESV)

Marquale Dupree sentenced to 15 years for dealing meth

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A Philadelphia man was sentenced to 15 years in prison May 12 for dealing meth. Landon Marquale Dupree, 35, was charged with and pleaded guilty to selling methamphetamine to an individual on July 15, 2019, in Philadelphia. Dupree was sentenced in fed-

eral court to serve 189 months in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, to be followed by eight years of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay \$4,595.00 in restitution to the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. Dupree has a prior felony conviction for the sale of cocaine in Neshoba County. This prosecution is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforce-

ment Task Forces investigation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level drug traffickers, money launderers, gangs, and transnational criminal organizations that threaten the United States by using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency



Marquale Dupree

approach that leverages the strengths of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies against criminal networks. The case is part of a joint investigation that includes local agencies like the Philadelphia Police Department, Neshoba County Sheriff's

Department, Neshoba County District Attorney's Office and the Union Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Erin Chalk. Other involved agencies include the United States Immigration, Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations and Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, with assistance from

US Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Scott County Sheriff's Office, Flowood Police Department, Rankin County Sheriff's Department, Hinds County Sheriff's Department, Carthage Police Department, Louisville Police Department, and Mississippi Highway Patrol.

County Road 210 bridge reopens to traffic with weight limit

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

A bridge on Road 210 over an abandoned railroad line west of Union has been reopened with a reduced weight limit. The Neshoba County Board of Supervisors approved the payment of \$27,820 to McKee Construction for that work during their Monday meeting. The road is the main road between Union and Madden and has been closed for several months causing an 11-mile detour.

"It has been completed and re-opened," said County Administrator Jeff Mayo. "There were six piers on the pilings that needed to be repaired." They got that completed. The inspection engineers came back. After they received the report, the state authorized it to be reopened with a posted weight limit of three tons." Mayo said the work is a temporary fix. "The bridge will eventually have to be replaced," he said. "The bridge was built in 1958 so it is nearing the end of its life."

Replacing the bridge is expected to cost nearly \$2 million. The county is working with local legislators in hopes of getting state funds for the job. The bridge over the unused Kansas City Southern railway connector from Union to Sebastopol must be replaced and meet railroad standards, even though the railroad isn't using the line and has no plans to do so, officials have said. In other matters, supervisors voted to: Approve a contract with Motorola Solutions to provide

the sheriff's department with the Digital Evidence Management System at a cost of \$54,345. Supervisors also approved the settlement of a worker's compensation claim in the department; Accept the April 2021 Daily Meal Log and detailed billing report from the jail. Supervisors also approved several personal matters with jail employees; Approve a permanent drainage easement for the Plantation Point Drive North Subdivision; Accepted the annual State

Aid Maintenance Inspection report; Approve the minutes of a public hearing concerning a CDGB application for Neshoba General. Supervisors approved for the hospital to apply for the grant; Accept the resignation of a part-time employee in the Circuit Clerk's office; Continue the local emergencies for the 2021 winter storm and the COVID-19 Pandemic; Approve the county employee payroll ending May 3 and totaling \$176,345;

Approve the elected officials' payroll ending May 15 and totaling \$42,352; Approve the claims docket and the out of order claims; and; Approve the appointment of Brenda Nowell as assistant receiving clerk effective June 1, 2021. Supervisors were informed of the retirement of Human Services County Director Kim Price, effective May 31. They appointed supervisor Joyce Wilkerson with requisition authority.

OBITUARIES

Langdon Smith Anderson III

Langdon Smith Anderson III, 52, a resident of Houma, Louisiana passed away at Thibodaux Hospital on Friday, April 30, 2021. He was born on March 13, 1969 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi to Langdon S. Anderson Jr. and June McRae Anderson.



Langdon Anderson III

Langdon graduated from H.L. Bourgeois High School in Houma, Perkinson Junior College in Wiggins, Ms. and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business from Mississippi State University. He managed several businesses in Miss. As a young boy he worked weekends and summers at Bayou Black Marina in Gibson, Louisiana that was owned and operated by his parents. He was a member of Mulberry Baptist Church in Houma and was active in the youth group.

Langdon loved travel and adventure and all outdoor activities that included going hunting and fishing with his family and friends. He was a faithful fan of LSU and the Saints and went to the games when possible and always watched them on TV. He made friends easily and was always ready to help anyone in need. Langdon had leukemia and fought it the best way he knew how but he was tired and now he is at rest. He is going to be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Langdon is survived by his son, Shawn Michael Anderson (Victoria); Mother, June McRae Anderson; Sister, Lauta Anderson Sanders (David); and Grandchild, Willow Anderson. He was preceded in death by his father, Langdon Smith Anderson Jr.

A memorial service will be held on June 19, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Good Hope Baptist Church, 12031 HWY 485, Philadelphia, Ms. 39350.

Danny Thomas

Graveside service for Mr. Danny Thomas will be held at 10 AM Thursday, May 13, 2021 at Greenhill Methodist Cemetery with Rev. Daniel Tubby, and Deacon Williamson Isaac officiating. No visitation. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge.

Mr. Thomas, 31, passed away on Monday, May 10, 2021 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian, MS. He enjoyed family and friends, joking with people, and driving his blue Mustang.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Arthur Thomas Sr., and Christine Willis Thomas; brothers, Joey Thomas, Joshua Thomas.

Survivors include sisters,

Vena John, Norma Willis, Vanessa Thomas, Jeri Thomas, Diana Thomas; brothers, Arthur Thomas Jr., Fritz Thomas, Clifton Thomas, George Thomas, Bobby Thomas Sr.; Host of aunts and uncles.

Pallbearers are Nathan Bell, Niko Dixon, Dexter Mingo, Chandell Willis, Alex Frazier, Emmett Jones, Kenneth John.

Lena Jane Wesley Willis

Graveside service for Ms. Lena Jane Wesley Willis will be held 2 PM Sunday, May 16, 2021 at Pearl River Bible Church Cemetery with Rev. Leonard Jimmie officiating. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge.

Ms. Willis, 57, passed away Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at her home. She enjoyed quilting, cooking outdoors, dancing, singing and spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include sons, Alan Christopher Martin, Joseph Martin, Wesley Martin; step-daughter, Leann Willis; step-son, Eric Willis; sister, Carolyn Willis; brother, Eddie Joe; 5 grandchildren.

Devin Benjamin McMillan

Graveside service for Mr. Devin Benjamin McMillan will be held 10 AM Friday, May 14, 2021 at Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery with Father Bob Goodyear officiating. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge.

Mr. McMillan, 33, passed away Sunday, May 9, 2021. He lived most of his life in Tucker Community. He was a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church. His hobbies were stickball and drawing.

Survivors Wife, Kimberly Spiva McMillan; mother, Adrienne McMillan Tubby; sons, Brodie McMillan, Tali Hattak McMillan, Nita Chitto McMillan; sister, Reese Tubby; brother, Sean Tubby.

Alice Emeline McArthur

Memorial service for Mrs.

Member THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN RULE
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www.mcclainhays.com

Alice Emeline McArthur will be held at 11 AM Saturday, May 22, 2021 at Pleasant Springs Presbyterian Church. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge.

Mrs. McArthur, 75, passed away on Sunday, April 25, 2021 at her home. She was a member of Pleasant Springs Presbyterian Church and the Eastern Star.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Arthur Barker and Frances Hodges; sister, Ann Carter; brother, Lawrence Estavez.

Survivors include husband, John McArthur; daughters, Deborah Shannon, Dawn Martin, Eva (Marty) Lee, Michelle (Josh) Pinter; son, Anthony Franklin; sisters, Jane Arnold, Phyllis Tanguma, Judy Chandler; brother, Bobby Sodell; 8 grandchildren, host of nieces and nephews.

Annetta Coburn

Funeral services for Ms. Annetta Coburn will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 11 A.M. from The Church of The Open Door in Brooklyn, NY, with interment at Pine Lawn Cemetery of Farmingdale, NY. Beck Funeral Home & Frank R. Bell Funeral Home are in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Coburn, 68, of Scooba, MS, passed away on Sunday, May 9, 2021 at her home.

She is survived by her children, Dollena Coburn and Edwina Coburn-Spriggs both of Brooklyn, NY, John Mason of Washington, D.C., and Jonathan Mason of Monmouth Junction, NJ, two grandchildren, Josiah Hazell and Quincy Mason; six sisters and three brothers.

Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

Thelma Clemons-Brown

Graveside services for Mrs. Thelma Jean Clemons-Brown were held on Sunday, May 16,

2021, at 2 P.M. from Cemetery, with Pastor Andre Hickman officiating. Beck Funeral Home, Inc. was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Brown, 71, of Chicago, passed away on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago.

She is survived by her husband, Henry Brown of Chicago, IL, two children, Mark Allen Prince and Juliet Griffin of Philadelphia, MS, four sister, Tracy Greer, Betty Clemons, Maggie Sue Dwairi, and Frone May Rush, one brother, R.B. Davis, Jr. three grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Timothy Boler, Jerome Marshall, Dexter McGee, Jerry Clemons, Henry Clemons and James Herrington.

Peggy Sue Willis Torres

Graveside service for Mrs. Peggy Sue Willis Torres will be held 2 PM Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery with Rev. Charles Doby Henry and Bro. Ron Scott officiating. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge.

Mrs. Torres, 64, passed away Thursday, May 13, 2021 at Jackson General Hospital in Jackson, TN. She enjoyed family activities, volleyball, horseshoes and softball. She is preceded in death by her parents, Collin Willis and Ora Morris; sister, Eva Willis; brothers, John Willis, Wasman Willis, Ernest Willis, Benjamin Willis.

Survivors include daughter, Pamela Gipson; sons, Randy Torres, Wasmen Torres; sisters, Eleanor Fowler, Sue Zapata, Mary Willis Mingo; brothers, Tubby Willis, Arthur Willis; 5 grandchildren.

Pallbearers are Landon Gunn, Daniel Willis, Jay Ralston, Rodney Ray, Sr., Rodney Ray, Jr., Rickey Willis, Crawford Willis, Tubby Willis, Buddy Willis, Collin Owen, David Owen.

Larry Thurston Rivers

Graveside service for Mr. Larry Thurston Rivers was held 2:00 PM Thursday, May 13, 2021 at Good Hope Cemetery with Rev. John E. Stephens officiating. Visitation was 12:30-1:30 PM Thursday, May 13, 2021 at John E. Stephens Chapel.

Mr. Rivers, 73, passed away Monday, May 10, 2021 at his residence. He lived most of his life in Neshoba County. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and graduate of Mississippi College. He was a member of Good Hope Baptist Church. Sports and spending time with his grandchildren was what he enjoyed most.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Vicky Fox Rivers; parents, Thurston Hershel Rivers, and Dora Clark Rivers.

Survivors include, daughter, Tracey Rivers of Phila; brother, Rev. Gary Rivers of Decatur; (3) grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers: Grandsons - Grant and Seth Rivers, Steve Beason Lonnie Beason Larry Adkins Randy Clark Marty Sistrunk Ricky McDonald.

Neda Faye Townsend

Graveside memorial service for Ms. Neda Faye Townsend was held 2 PM Monday, May 17, 2021 at Forest City Cemetery.

Ms. Townsend, 87, passed away Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at Specialty Hospital in Meridian, Ms. She lived most of her life in Neshoba Co where she was a homemaker. Her hobbies included gardening and planting flowers.

Beck Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

MRS. THELMA JEAN CLEMONS-BROWN
GRAVESIDE SERVICE
2 P.M. SUN., MAY 16, 2021
GREENFIELD M.B. CHURCH CEMETERY

MS. ANNETTA COBURN
11 A.M. SAT., MAY 19, 2021

THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR, BROOKLYN, NY
INTERMENT
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Philadelphia
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MR. DANNY THOMAS
10 AM THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021
GRAVESIDE
GREENHILL METHODIST CEMETERY

MR. LARRY THURSTON RIVERS
2 PM THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021
JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL
GOOD HOPE CEMETERY

MR. DEVIN BENJAMIN MCMILLAN
AM FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021
GRAVESIDE
HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CEMETERY

MS. LENA JANE WESLEY WILLIS
2 PM SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021
GRAVESIDE
PEARL RIVER BIBLE CHURCH CEMETERY

MS. NEDA FAYE TOWNSEND
2 PM MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021
GRAVESIDE MEMORIAL SERVICE
FOREST CITY CEMETERY

MRS. PEGGY SUE TORRES
2 PM TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021
GRAVESIDE
BOGUE CHITTO COMMUNITY CEMETERY

MRS. ALICE MCARTHUR
11 AM SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021
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Arrests

Continued from page 1A

He remains in the Neshoba County Detention Center on a \$120,600 bond.

Robert Germany and Marquail De'Onta Finley had the most charges against them with 10 each.

Finley, 31, of 10421 Road 610, was out Sunday morning on a \$150,000 bond.

Germany, 44, 1040 Road 2648, remains in custody on a \$150,500 bond.

In addition to the 10 conspiracy charges, he was also charged with trespassing.

Robert Martin "Rob" Donald, 40, 11571 Highway 16 E, was arrested on nine charges of conspiracy to commit a felony and one count of trespassing. He remains in custody on a \$135,600 bond.

Brandon Andrew Clark, 30, 10540 Road 509, Union, remains in custody on \$120,000 for eight charges of conspiracy to commit a felony.

The cases are being prosecuted by District Attorney Steven Kilgore.

The individuals were charged with conspiracy to commit crimes relative to narcotics possession and distribution, officials said.

Other arrests, according to the authorities, include:

- Jason Eric Hatten, 42, 10200 Road 2612, charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit a felony. He was out Sunday morning on a \$30,000

bond.

- Jamie Abel, currently serving a sentence with MDOC on burglary charges, will be charged with an additional three conspiracy to commit a felony charges in relation to the investigation.

- Michael Lee, 27, 10331 Road 359, Conehatta, faces seven charges of conspiracy to commit a felony and one count of possession with intent to distribute. He was out Sunday on a \$155,000 bond.

- John Harvey, 41, Marty Stuart Drive, was arrested on six charges of conspiracy to commit a felony. He was out Sunday on a \$90,000 bond.

- Nikki Landrum, 33, 10051 Road 1345, was arrested in connection with the investigation and has been charged with child neglect and remains in custody on a \$25,000 bond.

- Angela Singleton, Clark said, is currently in rehab and is expected to turn herself in when she is released.

- Tomas "TJ" Wilkerson, 37, of 14969 Highway 488, was arrested and charged with seven counts of conspiracy to commit a felony. He remains in custody on a \$105,000 bond.

- Dusty Cain, 38, of 10350 Road 282, was charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit a felony. He is being held on a \$30,000 bond.

- Barco Davis, 49, remains in the Neshoba County Detention Center on charges of sexual battery and gratification of lust. He was arrested in March.

He will pick up six conspiracy to commit a felony charges in relation to this case.

- Donamechia Dan Carter, 41, 413 Barham Street, was out late Saturday afternoon on a \$15,000 bond for a conspiracy to commit a felony charge.

- Mickey Warren, 59, 13660 Road 505, was arrested on seven charges of conspiracy to commit a felony. He is being held on a \$105,000 bond.

- Parrish Clark, 37, 1013 Golf Course Road, was arrested on two charges of conspiracy to commit a felony. He remains in custody on a \$30,000 bond.

- Jason Ray Tucker, 47, 10090 Road 705, Union, was arrested on five counts of conspiracy to commit a felony. He was out Sunday morning on a \$75,000 bond.

- Michael Lee Bryant, 29, 11633 Road 383, was arrested on six charges of conspiracy to commit a felony. He is being held on a \$90,000 bond.

- Richard Chad Cumberland, 32, 10121 Road 2826, was arrested on two felony conspiracy charges. He was out Sunday morning on a \$30,000 bond.

- Jessica K. Jones, 40, 11340 Road 539, was arrested on two conspiracy charges. She was out Sunday morning on a \$30,000 bond.

- James Germany, 44, 1023 Road 747, was arrested on six charges of conspiracy to commit a felony. He remains in custody on a \$30,000 bond.

- Edwin Chris Malone, 46, 10501 Road 541, was arrested

on three counts of conspiracy to commit a felony. He remains in custody on a \$45,000 bond.

- Malissa L. Williamson, 52, 10952 Road 315, Union, was arrested and charged with one count of conspiracy to commit a felony. She was out Sunday morning on a \$15,000 bond.

- Roventay Peden, 38, 271 A Northwest Street, has been denied bond on three conspiracy to commit a felony charge.

- April Shannon, 39, 10161 Road 375, remains in custody on a \$15,000 bond for a conspiracy to commit a felony charge.

- Mahogany Clemons, 38, was arrested Friday evening on one count of conspiracy to commit a felony. She was out the following morning on a \$15,000 bond.

- Christopher Lee Donald, 35, 1087 Bealman Road, was out on a \$60,000 bond Sunday morning after he was arrested Friday evening on four counts of conspiracy.

- Dexter MaGee, 31, 532 Valley View Drive, was arrested and charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit a felony on Saturday.

- Jacoby Lewis, 26, 811 Ricks Road, Noxapater, turned himself in on Friday on two counts of conspiracy to commit a felony. He was out Sunday on a \$30,000 bond.

- Bobby Glenn Williamson was not an original target of the investigation but was found to be in possession of drugs when a suspect was

arrested.

Williamson, 35, 10952 Road 315, was out Sunday on a \$25,000 bond for possession of a controlled substance.

- Entony Burnside, 36, 407 Barham Street, turned himself in on one charge of the sale of marijuana. He received a \$15,000 bond.

- Martin Lowery, 42, 10571 Road 610, was charged with six counts of conspiracy to commit a felony and received a bond of \$18,000 after turning himself in on Monday.

The six who remain at large and are considered fugitives, officials said. Those six are:

- Shaun Dougherty
- Caleb Smith
- Timothy Stewart
- Jaedeius "Dee" Peebles
- John Netherland

The investigation, dubbed Operation High Life, included members of the Philadelphia Police Department and was led by Homeland Security Investigations New Orleans.

It is the result of ongoing Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force efforts statewide.

Philadelphia Police Chief Eric Lyons said that the investigation "could not be completed by just one agency."

The investigation included Homeland Security Investigations Jackson, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Drug

Enforcement Agency, Neshoba County District Attorney and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as well as others.

"At the end of the day, due to the operation of all agencies and the arrests made the city of Philadelphia is a safer place," Lyons said.

"However, the job of law enforcement does not end. The Philadelphia Police Department is dedicated to protecting and serving the citizens of Philadelphia with honor, integrity and service and looks forward to continued cooperation with all surrounding law enforcement agencies and citizens. Together we can make a difference."

Clark said that \$6,000 in cash, eight firearms and a small amount of drugs were seized. He said that those targeted were responsible for moving a significant amount of methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana throughout Neshoba County.

Before Friday's arrests, the ongoing investigation had resulted in 38 state and federal convictions and the seizure of 85 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of \$3.5 million, five kilograms of cocaine worth about \$500,000, 270 pounds of marijuana worth \$1 million, 300 dosage

See **ARRESTS**, page 9A

COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail Docket from 5/10-5/17

- Tri'non Banks, 45, of 10441 Rd 545; driving under the influence-1st offense

- Kingsley Bell, 36, of 10159 Rd 773; driving under the influence other substance

- Michael Lee Bryant, 29, of 11633 Rd 383; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X6

- Amy Burnham, 35, of 1700 Pendelton Square Apt 39; public drunk

- Sarah Burrage, 32, of 10170 Rd 365; hold circuit court

- Dusty Cain, 38, of 10350 Rd 285; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X2

- Jeff Wayne Clark, 51, of 515 Gordon Rd, Union; failure to appear

- Parrish Clark, 37, of 1013 Golf Course Rd; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crim-felony X2

- Cody Wayne Colburn, 30, of 12836 Homeland Ln, Cottdale, AL; public drunk

- Cortez Cole, 25, of 1125 West Ave; aggravated assault with weapon or other means to produce death

- Humphery Cole, 61, of 12692 Hwy 495 S, DeKalb; indictment

- Chad Cumberland, 32, of 10121 Rd 2826; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X2

- Danny Dutton, 45, of 111 Alexander Ave; hold for investigations, possession of controlled substance

- Angela Kay Eldridge, 52, of 10151 Rd 488; contempt of court

- Marquail De'onta Finley, 30, of 10421 Rd 610; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X10

- Shareka Fox, 34, of 418 A Breazeale St; indictment

- James Germany, 44, of 1023 Rd 747; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X6, indictment X2

- Robert Germany, 44, of 1040 Rd 2648; trespassing, conspiracy to commit crime-felony X10

- Christopher Gill, 26, of 222 MLK Dr; probation violation

- Dustin Glenn, 39, of 11131 Rd 127; failure to appear

- John Harvey, 41, of Marty Stuart Dr; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit crime-felony X6

- Jason Eric Hatten, 42, of 10200 Rd 2612; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit crime-felony X2

- Jerome Huffman, 49, of 305 Pearl St Apt 40; hold for other agency

- Austin Todd Jarriel, 21, of 216 Mclemore Rd, Walnut Grove; murder, possession of controlled substance, possession of cocaine, rape

- Jessica K Jones, 40, of 11340 Rd 539; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit crime-felony X2

- Zachary W Keen, 19, of 405 North St, Union; malicious mischief under \$1000.00, failure to pay

- Edwin Chris Malone, 46, of 10501 Rd 541; hold for investigations, conspiracy to

commit crime-felony X3

- Erik Massey, 35, of 10150 Rd 612; domestic violence simple assault-1st

- Colby Mayes, 21, of 5587 Pine Bluff Rd; false ID information

- Benny Posey, 43, of 12601 Rd 270, Union; theft of utilities

- Frankie Eugene Pruitt, 41, of 100 Sistruck Ave Lot 4; rape

- Michael A Talbert, 37, of 19101 Rd 355, Union; hold for other agency

- Thomas James Wilkerson, 37, of 14969 Hwy 488; conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X7

- Bobby Glenn Williamson, 34, of 10952 315 397; hold for investigations, possession of controlled substance

- Malissa L Williamson, 52, of 10952 Rd 315, Union; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony

- Donamechia Dan Carter, 41, of 413 Barham St; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit crime-felony

- Brandon Andrew Clark, 30, of 10540 Rd 509, Union; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X8

- Mahogany Clemons, 38, of 548 Wells St; conspiracy to commit a crime-felony

- Michael Royce Cumberland, 32, of 10861 Rd 387; disorderly conduct

- Violet D Dickerson, 77, of 10831 Rd 741; hold for investigations

- Christopher Lee Donald, 35, of 1087 Bealman Rd; conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X4

- Robert Martin Donald, 50, of 11571 Hwy 6 E; trespassing, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X9

- James Ryan Hill, 26, of 10050 Rd 2804; probation violation

- Nikki Landrum, 33, of 10051 Rd 1345; hold for investigations, child neglect

- Michael Lee, 27, of 10331 Rd 359, Conehatta; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X7, possession with intent to distribute

- Jacoby Lewis, 26, of 811 Ricks Rd, Noxapator; conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X2

- Dexter Magee, 31, of 532 Valley View Dr; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X2

- Roventay Peden, 38, of 271 A Northwest St; conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X3

- Richard Harris Rash, 43, of 1020 Rd 240, Union; serving sentence

- Jessie Meyers Ray, 31, of 272 N Hwy 49, Wiggins; no driver license

- Kenneth Wayne Ray Jr, 23, of 10211 Rd 315; failure to appear

- April Shannon, 39, of 10161 Rd 375; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony

- Jason Ray Tucker, 47, of 10090 Rd 705, Union; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X5

- Mickey Warren, 59, of 13660 Rd 505; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X7

Winston County Jail Docket for Philadelphia Police arrests from 5/11-5/16

- Misty Brown, 36, of homeless; larceny-petit value under \$1000

- Douglas I Clemons, 22, of 880 Valley View Dr; disorderly conduct-breaching peace with a willful and wanton disregard for the life or safety of another

- Jackie Dunn, 40, of 10351 Rd 573; arrest report-warrant

- Janiya C Edwards, 20, of 10261 Rd 763; malicious mischief-felony value over \$1000 but less than \$5000, aggravated assault-use of deadly weapon or other means

- Robert E Evans, 42, of 1126 West Ave Lot 11; contempt of court-municipal court

- Isaiah D Frazier, 17, of 434 North Columbus Ave; hold-detainer for other agency, armed robbery

- Thomas Grayson, 22, of 1773 Bunk Newell, Meridian; aggravated assault-use of deadly weapon or other means

- T-Variious Griffin, 22, of 911 Cayla Ave; simple assault-fear

- Zykeus Macon, 22, of 455 Samp St; simple assault-fear

- Jeremiah B Mingo, 38, of 178 Rolling Hill; public drunk

- Thadis B Misso, 28, of 1103 Tank St; simple assault-fear

Meet the Candidates

The Neshoba Democrat is authorized to announce the names of the following candidates:

Mayor
Leo E. Renaldo
James A. Young

Ward 3 Alderman
Wright Griffis

Ward 4 Alderman
Ajathi Nicols
Ruthie Nash



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Meridian man arrested for shooting at Wendy's

By **DUNCAN DENT**
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A Meridian man is in custody accused of shooting another man at a fast-food restaurant here on Sunday morning.

Thomas Grayson, 22, 1773 Bunk Newell Road, Meridian, was arrested and charged with the aggravated assault of 21-year-old Dquavion Marshall of Philadelphia.

Det. Bobby Pattillo said Marshall remains at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson after suffering a gunshot to his right arm.

"He is in stable condition," Pattillo said. "The case is currently under investigation."

On Sunday, May 16 at approximately 9:20 a.m. PPD



Thomas Grayson

received a 911 call in reference to a shooting at the drive-thru at Wendy's, 398 west Main St.

Responding officers detained Grayson fleeing the scene on foot, while Marshall drove himself to Neshoba General, Pattillo said.

2 new COVID deaths reported here

By **JOHN LEE**
john@neshobademocrat.com

While COVID-19 cases in Neshoba County are growing at a slower pace than in past months, the county recorded two new deaths and three new cases in the past week, according to the Mississippi State Department of Health's Tuesday report.

Neshoba County's total COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began is now 4,033,

which is three more than last week, and the death toll has risen to 178, up two from last week's report, according to the MSDH.

Meanwhile, 18% of Neshoba County's population is fully vaccinated as of Monday, according to MSDH and 20% of the county's population has received one of the 11,079 total doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in the county.

Vaccinations are being

administered Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Coliseum, 12000 Hwy 15 North, Philadelphia and are available to all Mississippians 16 and older.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has reported one new positive case of COVID-19 and no new deaths as of May 16, putting the total number of positive cases for the Tribe at 1,838 with 114 deaths. No new hospitalizations have been reported.

Arrests

Continued from page 7A

units of fentanyl worth about \$6,000, and 16 firearms.

Stanton said that before his post in New Orleans he had worked in El Paso, Texas, dealing with drugs coming over the United States-Mexico border. He said no community is immune to drug abuse and related violence.

Clark said the operation began around 5 a.m. Friday with several officers from roughly 12 different agencies in a rural part of the county.

"There were a lot of different agencies with a lot of different patches out there," Clark said.

He said they started with 100 warrants on more than 35 individuals. By lunch, he said they had "spread the word" and had brought in 25 of their targets.

Clark said that by the time

of the 1:30 p.m. Friday press conference at the Courthouse another had been pulled over and arrested by a Sheriff's deputy and another had turned himself in.

Stanton spoke of the broader perspective.

"This investigation is about more than disrupting the flow of drugs being trafficked into and around our communities; it's also about removing violent criminal elements that often accompanies transnational criminal activities," Stanton said.

"Today's operation demonstrates that HSI will continue to support our law enforcement partners to identify, investigate, and disrupt criminal organizations that threaten our communities."

Deputy Attorney General Mary Helen Wall also spoke during Friday's press conference, which included Mayor James Young and Board of



Tomas Wilkerson

Supervisors President Kevin Cumberland.

Wall said Attorney General Lynn Fitch's office is working with investigations such as High Life to reduce the harm done by drug abuse and drug-related violence.

"This operation protects our children and those in our communities from dangerous, destructive and deadly drugs and from the violence that comes with these criminal enterprises," Fitch said in a statement released to the media. "The Attorney General's Office will continue to partner with local, state, and federal partners in efforts like this one to keep our communities safe and secure."

The investigation's most recent conviction occurred last Wednesday, with the sentencing of Landon Marquale Dupree, 35, of Philadelphia, who was charged with and pleaded guilty in the Southern District of Mississippi to selling methamphetamine to an individual on July 15, 2019. Dupree was sentenced to serve 189 months in federal prison, followed by eight years of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay \$4,595 in restitution to the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

The principal Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force mission is to identify, disrupt, dismantle and prosecute high-level members of drug trafficking, weapons trafficking and money laundering organizations and enterprises, officials said.

"The damage caused by drugs and violence affects everyone across the nation, including here in Mississippi, said DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the state of Mississippi Kevin Gaddy.

"The arrests today clearly demonstrate the combined strength that federal, state and local law enforcement agencies bring to bear in the battle against these violent drug dealers and strike a significant blow to their drug trafficking organizations. By working together, we are leveraging our respective resources and expertise to achieve results that we could not accomplish on our own. We will continue to work with all of our law enforcement partners, to relentlessly pursue these violent criminals and drug traffickers plaguing our communities."

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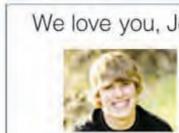


Way to go, Sis!
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You finally made it!

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Congratulations, Jen!

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Union High School Valedictorian Greg Palculict, left, and Salutatorian Autumn Payne, right, lead the student procession on May 13 at the Neshoba County Coliseum.

Union High holds graduation

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@neshobademocrat.com

Union High School's 2021 graduation ceremony was held May 13 with 72 students receiving diplomas.

More than 600 people turned out to the Neshoba County Coliseum.

The Valedictorian was Greg Palculict, son of Greg and Becky Palculict, and Lori Lofton.

In his valedictory speech, Palculict encouraged his fellow students to rise to the occasion.

"The future is our most awesome and petrifying responsibility," Palculict said. "The future we create after we leave here today is the one thing we will always share."

Palculict said the effort to

become the class valedictorian was more enjoyable than having obtained the goal.

"Trying to get there is the fun part, the part that you really feel," Palculict said. "After you get it you really don't care as much. ... I'm glad I went to Union," Palculict said. "It is a really good school."

Palculict said he plans to attend the University of Mississippi in the fall and pursue a degree in history. He hopes to become a history professor in the future.

Salutatorian was Autumn Payne, daughter of Kevin and Anne Payne.

"It feels wonderful," Payne said of graduating. "I'm so excited about all the stuff I have coming up."

Payne said she has accepted a full scholarship to the honors college at the University of Mississippi to study film and she will be a member of the marching band.

She said she hopes to one day write direct and create theatrical films dealing with social justice subject matter.

For her salutatorian speech, Payne read a poem she wrote. Following are the ending stanzas:

"So as we say our final goodbye
"And throw our caps into the sky

"As you set out to find who you're meant to be
"I wish you all luck on your amazing journey."



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Weems enjoys time sitting on the porch

By SARAH KATHRYN WATKINS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Anita Weems is famous among her co-workers for baking and cooking.

Because of her love for cooking, Weems has gained a reputation for baking birthday cakes and cooking different foods for co-workers at Yates.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Weems and other workers in her department would get together for lunches and make different foods.

Weems' food stood out because of her love for cooking.

Weems loves to make cakes, but her favorite thing to make is a strawberry goulash with a vanilla pudding in it.

When she is baking, she likes to try out different types of pudding. Weems grew up in Little Rock (Mississippi) watching her mother, Barbara Bryant, cook.

"My mother cooked the best dressing," Weems said.

Before Weems' mother died, Weems got her mother to write down her famous dressing recipe. As a result, every time Weems makes the dressing, it reminds her of her mother.

Weems is the youngest child of the late W.R. Bryant and Barbara Bryant. Weems who moved from Little Rock to Philadelphia.

She and her husband Mark live in the Sandtown community close to their family. In November, the couple will be together for 25 years. They have a daughter, Misty Weems, she has two stepsons, Justin and Matt Weems.

Weems has seven grandchildren. Her youngest grandson loves watching her cook in the kitchen.

"He acts like he's helping," Weems said.

Weems loves spending time with her grandchildren and children. During the weekends, Weems works at Chesney Grocery in Little Rock, and on her Sundays off, she loves spending time sitting on her daughter Misty's new porch or going to the movies with her grandchildren.

Weems also practices cooking new different things. Her slow-cooked Olive Garden chicken pasta is a new recipe she recently cooked and enjoyed. For Weems, cooking brings people together. Her favorite part of cooking is watching her family or friends enjoy what she makes. She said her least favorite part of cooking



Anita Weems

is cleaning up the mess.

BEST BANANA PUDDING POKE CAKE
1 box yellow cake mix
(Ingredients needed to make the cake: egg, oil and water.)

2 (three, 4 oz) packages instant banana pudding
4 cups milk

1 (8 oz) tub frozen whipped topping (Cool Whip) thawed
20 vanilla wafers crushed

Prepare cake mix according to package directions for a 9x13 cake. Once the cake comes out of the oven, allow it to cool for just a couple of minutes. Then, with a wooden spoon handle, begin poking holes in the cake. You want

the holes to be big enough so that the pudding has plenty of room to get down in there. Be sure to poke right down to the bottom of the cake. In a bowl,

COOK OF THE WEEK

whisk together instant pudding mix with 4 cups milk. Stir until all the lumps are gone. Pour pudding over cake. Taking care to pour it right into the holes as much as possible. Spread it all out and using the back of the spoon, gently push the pudding down into the holes. Put the cake into the fridge to set and cool

(about 2 hours.) Once your cake has completely cooled, spread on whipped topping. Crush the vanilla wafers. Leave some of the pieces big. It's nice to have a bit of crunch when you eat the cake. Spread crushed wafers onto the top of the cake before serving.

SLOW-COOKED OLIVE GARDEN CHICKEN PASTA

1.5 boneless skinless chicken breast (1.5-2 pounds)

16 oz Olive Garden Italian dressing (or any Italian dressing you like)

¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese

¼ tsp. black pepper
8 oz. cream cheese

ADD THESE INGREDIENTS AFTER COOKING

16 oz. penne pasta cooked according to package directions and drain well

½ cup parmesan cheese

Add the chicken breast to the slow cooker. Pour over the Olive Garden dressing and sprinkle over the Parmesan cheese and pepper. Place the lid on the slow cooker. Cook on high for 4 hours or low for 5-6 hours. When the cooking time is almost done, start cooking the pasta on the stovetop as directed on the package. Shred the chicken with two forks. Drain the

pasta and add the chicken and sauce. Stir. Sprinkle over the remaining Parmesan cheese.

TOMATO GRAVY

Can of whole stewed tomatoes

1 cup of water
1/3 cup of flour
½ teaspoon black pepper
¼ teaspoon salt

In a large skillet, heat grease and stir in flour. With a spoon or whisk, cook and stir until bubbly and slightly brown, about 3 or 4 minutes. Pour in the tomatoes and add salt/pepper. Add water if needed. Simmer for about 5 minutes. Serve with biscuits, meat and rice, or potatoes.

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

An early Mother's Day gift arrived on May 7, and she was perfectly beautiful! Parker Reese Pilgrim came a little before Mother's Day so she could spend it with her parents, Cody and Alana Davis Pilgrim. She weighed 8 pounds and 1 ounce and could not have made her mother happier! It was a joyous event for her family who had been eagerly awaiting her arrival. Congratulations!

Tyler Jordan Greer graduated from William Carey University in Hattiesburg with a bachelor's degree on the evening of Friday, May 14. He earned his degree from the Music Department where he excelled in his studies. Jordan is a gifted musician who has developed his talent playing the trombone.

After graduation, Jordan will attend The University of Kentucky where he has accepted a fully-funded scholarship and will pursue a master's degree in the Music Department. Congratulations!

The Philadelphia High School Athletic Banquet was held in the Neshoba Country Coliseum on May 11, at 6:00 in the evening. The coliseum was beautifully decorated for the occasion with black tablecloths, white placemats, napkins, and white flowers in red containers.

The awards table was covered in a floor-length cloth of red and black. The Philadelphia High School emblem was centered in front on the cloth,

and a framed picture of a Philadelphia Tornado mascot was placed next to the table. It was an exciting evening for all of those attending. Athletes from all varsity sports and cheerleaders were included. The awards were presented to each individual by the athletic director, Barry Richardson, and the Superintendent, Dr. Lisa Hull. So glad this event was held this year!

Pearl River Community College held its pinning ceremony for the Class of 2021 Occupational Therapy Assistants on May 6. The students had worked hard for two years to reach this highly anticipated event in their lives.

Among those in the ceremony was Annika Jones of Philadelphia. Annika was also presented with the OTA Dean's Award, the Outstanding Occupational Assistant Student Award, and was voted OTA President by her classmates. Her very proud parents are Doug and Deanna Prince Jones. Congratulations!

Tyler Holland recently received some fantastic news. He has been accepted into the pre-matriculation (undergraduate) portion of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program. He will receive mentoring, rural clinical experience, MCAT preparation, and a support system on his pathway to becoming a physician.

Tyler has been pursuing a bachelor of science degree in molecular biology and chemistry at Mississippi State University. His hard work has paid off!

Hailey Holland, Tyler's sis-

ter, will graduate from MSU in December with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering and a minor in math! Their very proud parents are Tommy and Sharon Eldridge Holland. Congratulations to both of these promising young adults!

The Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Cyrus Ben, presented a member of the Choctaw Tribe, Meka Willis, with a gift and a Tribal seal pin honoring her recent accomplishment. Meka, a 10th grader at the Mississippi School for the Blind, was awarded a Silver Key for her short story, "Amethyst Eyes."

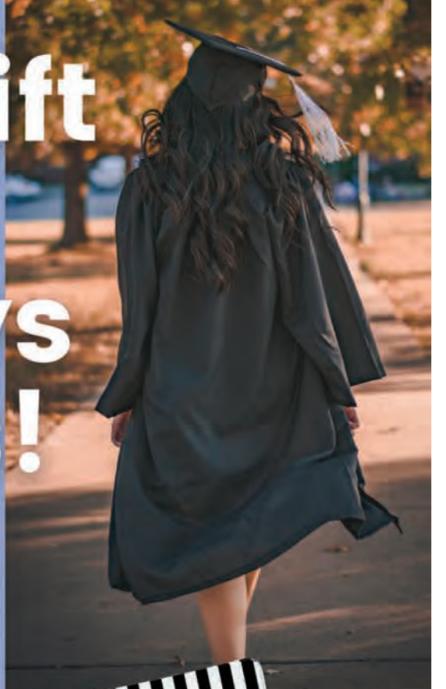
The 2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and the Eudora Welty Foundation presented the Silver Key to Meka in the short story category. Congratulations!

Friends of former Philadelphia residents John and Corinne McCormick will be happy to learn that their grandson Spencer Johns recently graduated from Berry College located near Rome, Georgia. Spencer played on the college baseball team, the Vikings, his entire four years. His parents are Scottie and Cory McCormick Johns. Congratulations!

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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Ben, Tangle sign to play ball

Two area basketball players have signed to continue their college basketball careers at four-year colleges.

Neshoba Central graduate Taylor Ben has signed to continue her basketball career at Mississippi College. And Leake Academy graduate Sydney Tangle has signed with Loyola University New Orleans.

Both played last season at Southwest Community College.

A 5-foot, 7-inch tall guard from Neshoba Central High School, Ben averaged eight points a game for the Lady Bears in 2021.

"I chose to sign with Mississippi College," Ben said, "because head coach Greg Long and assistant coach Maggie Proffitt welcomed me with open arms the minute I stepped foot on campus. (Coach Long

runs the program like a D-I school so I know I'd have the opportunity to develop even more as a player."

"Academically," Ben continued, "(Mississippi College) is one of the top colleges in the state so I'm looking forward to that challenge. Another part that played a role (in my decision) was being able to have my support system at all of my games for the next three years. My family will drive across the country to see me play if they had to. I will also be joining my brother TJ (a former Southwest basketball player) who also plays for MC, so I'm definitely excited about that."

Tangle, a 5-foot, 7-inch tall guard, is a graduate of Leake Academy. She averaged 10.9 points and 6.4 rebounds per game during the 2021 season.

She is the former princess of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

"I couldn't have made any better decision than choosing Southwest," Tangle said. "There are so many good things that came out of these two years that I have been here. I built lifelong friendships with my teammates. Being around them was always the best part of my day."

Tangle said she chose to sign with Loyola because "I had a great experience being around the team on my visit. I personally feel like I connected really well with the coaches and (players) there. Also, the coaches did a really good job on taking the extra step to check in on me from time to time throughout the season."

Engagements

Kinsey Meshea Gentry to wed Cooper Lee Smith July 17

Jason and Marley Gentry are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Kinsey Meshea to Cooper Lee Smith, son of Terry and Wendy Smith of Philadelphia.

Kinsey is a 2015 graduate of Philadelphia High School and a 2019 graduate of Mississippi University for Women, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program through Emerson College. She is employed with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians at Pearl River Elementary School as a speech therapist.

Cooper is a 2016 graduate of Philadelphia High School and a 2019 graduate of Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He is employed with Weyerhaeuser in Philadelphia.

Kinsey is the granddaughter of Larry Griffin of Union, L.P. and Angie Bassett, Kathy Gentry and the late Arden Gentry all of Philadelphia.

Cooper is the grandson of



Kinsey Gentry and Cooper Smith

Kenneth and Melva Gray of Philadelphia and the late Butch and Mavis Smith of DeKalb.

The wedding will be July 17, 2021 at East Philadelphia Baptist Church in Philadelphia.



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Of Local Interest

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Come by the MSU Extension Service-Neshoba County office and pick up your entry forms, entry tags and exhibitor number for the Neshoba County Fair Exhibit Hall. Youth ages 8-18 can enter items in the categories of fresh fruits and vegetables, field crops, food preservation, food-nutrition, posters, and arts and crafts. Adult categories include fresh fruits and vegetables, field crops, food preservation, and cultural arts. The deadline to pick up your entry forms, tags and exhibitor number is Friday, July 16. Call 601-656-4011 or come by the Extension Service office in the Neshoba County Coliseum for more information.

CEMETERY FUND

Please mail all donations for Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church Cemetery Fund to Mrs. Joan Gamblin at 12220 Marty Stuart Drive Philadelphia, MS 39350.

HOMECOMING

Mt. Olive Baptist Church in the Stephens Town Community will be having a Homecoming/Memorial service Sunday May 30th starting at 10:30. After the service we will have a fellowship dinner. If you have loved ones buried in the cemetery, we would like for you to come and be a part of our service. Everyone that will be staying please bring your favorite dish of food. We will have a great time in the Lords House. Joe Beckham 601-416-5896

NESHOBA CENTRAL PRE-K

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 chil-

dren with the most academic/developmental needs, and will be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2021. 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 a.m.-2 p.m., on May 19 - 21. We ask that one parent attend with the child being tested.

To register a child for the pre-k program, guardians must provide the following documents:

- Two (2) of the following proofs of residency:
 - IF RENTING/LEASING: Current notarized official home/apartment lease/rental agreement with length of lease and Parent's or Guardian's name included on lease/rental agreement (THIS MUST BE ONE OF THE PROOFS IF LEASING OR RENTING and one of the following #3-#6)
 - Filed Homestead Exemption application form OR current mortgage document or property deed
 - Valid driver's license OR voter identification card
 - Current utility bill (dated within 60 days) showing the service location with parent's or guardian's name listed (acceptable bills: electricity, gas, water, or landline telephone)
 - Automobile registration receipt
 - Any other document that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district, and in the case of a student living with a legal guardian who is a bona fide resident of the school district. (Official government documentation - i.e. current tax year return, social security statement, DHS statement, etc.)

• Property Tax Card, Property Deed, or other document that states the residency property's Section, Township, and Range.

C. The child's certified birth certificate from Mississippi State Department of Health Vital Records (601-206-8200) (child must be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2021),

D. The child's social security card,

E. The child's MS certificate of immunization compliance form (Form no. 121) checked and signed,

F. CDIB (if applicable).

HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

Philadelphia High School Class of 1980 is holding their 40-year reunion Saturday, June 12 at Bridges the Venue. \$50 per individuals or \$100 for couples. Contact Gilbert Vowell 601-416-1181.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

God's Tabernacle Church Meet the candidates on May 22, 2021 at 3 p.m. We will be outdoors together and there will be singing, quartet, gospel, choirs, and solos.

FUNDRAISER

Fundraiser for First United Methodist Daycare Philadelphia will be held on Friday May 21, 2021 from 11AM to 1PM. Contact Lindsey Stuart 601-562-1923. Pick up at the First United Methodist Church 563 Main Street Philadelphia. Mugsshots food trailer will be on site.

THOMAS FAMILY REUNION

The descendants of William Washington and Lena Catherina Phillips Thomas, whose children are James Allen Thomas, William Melton Thomas, Albert Miles Thomas, John Marion Thomas, Mary Susan Thomas Brantley, and Dock Kelly Thomas will hold the Annual Thomas Family Reunion at the home place of William & Alpha Thomas at Madden, Mississippi on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 11:30 AM. We hope each of you will plan to come and bring a dish and your lawn chair. If you have any old pictures or other family information that you can share, this will be a great contribution in preparation of a Thomas Family Book. We look forward to enjoying a day of food, fun and fellowship with each of you. We look forward to seeing each of you since we were not able to gather last year.



NESHOBA COUNTY Farmers' Market

2nd Saturday
7 a.m. - 12 p.m.
at THE DEPOT
256 W. Beacon St.

Other Saturdays
7 a.m. - 12 p.m.
behind the FARM BUREAU BUILDING

Tuesday & Thursday
6 - 8 a.m.
704 E. Main St.

June Tomatoes, squash, potatoes, onions, blueberries, green beans, tomato berries, Swiss chard, pork-rinds, honey, goat cheese, baked and canned goods

July Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, zucchini, peaches, corn, peas, beans, potatoes, melons, eggplant, okra, herbs, honey, pork rinds, goat cheese, goat milk ice cream, baked and canned goods

August Watermelon, okra, squash, cucumber, tomatoes, peppers, figs, pears, jams, jellies, preserves, baked and canned goods

NATURAL AND AG-RELATED HOMEMADE PRODUCTS SUCH AS SOAPS, LOTIONS, FLOWERS, PLANTS, AND OTHER CRAFTS MAY ALSO BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE MARKET SEASON.

Interested in becoming a vendor?

Cost: \$10.00 per vending day OR \$50.00 for the entire season

For questions about requirements or to register, contact the Neshoba County Extension Office at 601-656-4011 or email ca783@msstate.edu.



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LEGALS

LEGALS

THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF PATRICIA (PATTI) PEEBLES, DECEASED SUSIE-HANNAH WILLIAMS, EXECUTRIX NO. 2021-22-KK NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 7th day of April, 2021, by the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the undersigned, Susie-Hannah Williams, upon the Estate of Patricia (Patti) Peebles, 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 7th day of April, 2021. /s/Susie-Hannah Williams/SUSIE-HANNAH WILLIAMS, EXECUTRIX OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF PATRICIA (PATTI) PEEBLES, DECEASED ROBERT L. THOMAS, MSBN 8159ALFORD, THOMAS & THOMAS, PLLCATTORNEYS AT LAWPOST OFFICE BOX 96PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350(601)656-1871 52568

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI RAMONA JEWELL PALMER AND NOEL TRAVIS PALMER JR. INDIVIDUALLY, AND AS NEXT OF FRIENDS OF M.J.P, A MINOR (DOB: 09/06/2016), PETITIONERS VS. KARLEY HARVARDMATTHEW PERMENTER, RESPONDENTS CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2018-2 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO: KARLEY HARVARD2707 13TH STREETMERIDIAN, MS 39351 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Ramona Jewell Palmer and Noel Travis Palmer, Jr., Petitioners, seeking custody and other relief of the child named in the Petition. Defendants other than you are none. You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint, petition or motion at 9:00 o'clock A.M. on the 10th day of June, 2021, in the Chancery Courtroom of the Winston County Courthouse located in Louisville, Mississippi. 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 29th day of April, 2021. SEAL /s/Guy Nowell/CHANCERY CLERK By: /s/W. Savelli/DEPUTY CLERK Publish three (3) consecutive weeks Robert Lee

Thomas MSBN 105358Alford, Thomas & Thomas PLLC601-656-1871 52579

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The NESHOBA 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 o'clock a.m. local time on the 9 th day of June 2021 until 12:00 o'clock p.m. local time on the 11 th day of June 2021 for the following: Supplies and service contracts for a one (1) year period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 for the following commodities and services: 1. Bridge Materials;2. Road Side Spraying;3. Crushed Limestone and Rip Rap;4. Road Gravel;5. Iron or Steel Slag;6. Polyethylene Culvert Pipes;7. Corrugated Metal Pipes;8. Tank Car Culverts;9. Herbicides;10. Asphalt – Hot Mix;11. Liquid Asphalt;12. Prime Coat Emulsion;13. Providing Inmate Meals;14. Portland Cement; &15. Soil Stabilizing / Road Reclaiming. Detailed specifications may be obtained from the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors office at 401 Beacon Street, Suite 201, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350, by calling 601-656-6281, via email to purchaseclerk@neshobacounty.net or on our website at www.neshobacounty.net. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS 1. All Bids shall be submitted via Reverse Auction at www.neshobacounty.net/bids no later than 12:00 p.m. local time on June 11, 2021. The page is available under Quick Links with the heading of Electronic Bidding / Reverse Auction on the left side of the county website at www.neshobacounty.net. 2. If a vendor does not have access to the internet to participate in said Reverse Auction, bids may be submitted from the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors Office at 401 Beacon Street, Suite 201, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350 between 9:00 a.m and 12:00 p.m. local time on the final day of the auction or in advance upon request. 3. Neshoba County reserves the right to extend the reverse auction in 15 minute increments if bids are received during the last ten minutes of the auction on any particular item. At the County's discretion it may or may not. 4. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days. Final Bid Approval is anticipated at the June 21, 2021 Regular Board Meeting. By submitting a bid you acknowledge compliance with the specifications for that item. 5. The vendor shall submit a complete proposal for said commodities and services via PDF format along with said bid, which shall be utilized by the County to determine compliance with the specifications and assist in making the determination of the best

and lowest bid. The County reserves the right to accept the bid deemed best and lowest for the County. The County will be the final authority in determining compliance with the specifications. Questions concerning the technical specifications may be submitted to purchaseclerk@neshobacounty.net. 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 materials, but rather to select such materials to fill the specific need and perform a specific task. Any reference to name-brand materials is intended to establish standards only and bids submitted in materials equal thereto – at the sole discretion of the County – will be considered. The Neshoba County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to accept or reject any / or all bids, with or without cause, and waive informalities. Ordered by the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors on the 3rd day of May 2021. GUY NOWELL/Clerk of the Board of Supervisors/Neshoba County, Mississippi 52596

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI NESHOB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES, BY MARCUS D. DAVENPORT, AND DEXTER DEWAYNE BELL AND KAILEE LANE BELL, MINORS, BY AND THROUGH THEIR NEXT FRIEND, MARCUS D. DAVENPORT, PETITIONERS VS. DEREK DEWAYNE BELL, RESPONDENT CIVIL ACTION, FILE NO. 2021-99 CHANCERY COURT SUMMONS THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Derek Dewayne Bell, who is not to be found in the State of Mississippi on diligent inquiry and whose post office address is not known to the Petitioners after diligent inquiry made by said Petitioners. You have been made Respondent in the suit filed in this Court by the Neshoba County Department of Child Protection Services by Marcus D. Davenport, Social Services Regional Director, and, Dexter Dwayne Bell and Kailee Lane Bell, minors, seeking to terminate your parental rights as those rights relate to said minors and demanding that full custody, control and authority to act on behalf of said minors be placed with the Neshoba County Department of Child Protection Services. Respondents other than you in this action are none. YOU ARE SUMMONED TO APPEAR AND DEFEND AGAINST THE PETITION FILED AGAINST YOU IN THIS ACTION AT 9:00, O'CLOCK A.M. ON THE 17TH DAY OF JUNE, 2021 IN THE COURTROOM OF THE NESHOBA COUNTY CHANCERY COURTHOUSE AT 401 E. BEACON STREET, STE. 107,

PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI, AND IN CASE OF YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AND DEFEND, A JUDGMENT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE PETITION. You are not required to file and answer or other pleading, but you may do so if you desire. ISSUED under my hand and seal of said Court, this 6th day of May, 2021. /s/Guy Nowell/GUY NOWELL, CHANCERY CLERK NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350 (SEAL) BY:/s/K. Greer, DCDeputy Clerk 52597

The Mississippi Department of Corrections is soliciting proposals to lease approximately 750 square feet of office space in Philadelphia. This space will be used for the Neshoba County Probation & Parole office. Space must be ADA compliant, have two bathrooms and parking on site. Interested parties should contact Trey Smith at (601) 359-5770 or email: waltonsmith@mdoc.state.ms.us for leasing information. Deadline for receipt of proposals is Friday, June 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Mail proposals to 3021 North Lamar St. Jackson, MS 39201

SECTION 00010 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for the construction of the House System Standpipe Improvements will be received by the Central Water Association at , 915 Valley View Drive, Philadelphia, MS 39350 until 10:00 am local time on June 21, 2021 and immediately thereafter will be opened and publicly read. The work to be done consists generally of: Interior and Exterior Painting and Improvements of the two (2) 300,000 gallon Stand Pipes located in House, MS. Specifications may be obtained from Fontaine Engineering 107 E. Donald Street Suite 9, Quitman, Mississippi, 39355, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday for a deposit of \$150.00 per set non-refundable. A copy of the Specifications may be examined at: The Central Water Association Office located at 915 Valley View Drive, Philadelphia, MS 39350. 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 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. Central Water Association 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 Central Water Association. BY:John Wilkerson Central Water Association Publication Dates:May 19, 2021May 26, 2021 52616

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Philadelphia, Mississippi, that at five o'clock p.m. Tuesday, the 1st day of June, 2021 the matter of clearing private property at the following described lands in the City of Philadelphia, Mississippi, to-wit: Parcel #:06330A-00B-021.00006330A-00B-020.00005225A-00F-025.000 will be taken up for consideration, and notice is hereby given to all persons interested to be and appear before the Mayor and Board of Alderman at said time at the City of Philadelphia, Mississippi, to register any complaint or objections that they may have. Published by Order of the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the City of Philadelphia, Mississippi, this the 4th day of May, 2021. Nikki M. Walton/CITY CLERK 52617

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JENNIFER R. RUCKER, DECEASED NELDA R. WOOD, PETITIONER NO. 2021-125 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 14th day of May, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi to the undersigned, Nelda R. Wood, upon the Estate of Jennifer R. Rucker, deceased, late of Neshoba County, Mississippi,

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 first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred. /s/Nelda R. Wood/NELDA R. WOOD/EXECUTRIX J. DOUGLAS SMITH/Attorney for Executrix81 West Broad St.P.O. Box 567Decatur, MS 39327(601)635-4444 52618

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT- MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS IN THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF JIMMIE LEE VAUGHN, SR., DECEASED JANET WAITER CAUSE NO. 2020-747 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 21st day of April, 2021, by the Court Clerk of the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to the undersigned upon Jimmie Lee Vaughn, Sr., 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 this date or they will be forever barred. /s/Janet Waiter/JANET WAITER/ADMINISTRATRIX Prepared By:STEVEN D. SETTLEMIRE/SATTORNEY FOR ADMINISTRATRIX/SettleMires & Graham, PLLC410 East Beacon StreetPhiladelphia, MS 39350(601)656-9597MSBN: 99674 52620

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT- MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS IN THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY ANN WILSON, DECEASED COLTON WILSON CAUSE NO. 2020-833 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted on the 21st day of April, 2021, by the Court Clerk of the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to the undersigned upon Shirley Ann Wilson, 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 this date or they will be forever barred. /s/Colton Wilson-COLTON WILSON/ADMINISTRATOR Prepared By:STEVEN D. SETTLEMIRE/SATTORNEY FOR ADMINISTRATRIX/SettleMires & Graham, PLLC410 East Beacon StreetPhiladelphia, MS 39350(601)656-9597MSBN: 99674 52621

You are Invited...
to attend a Reception Honoring

Terry C. Burton Retired Senator



Sunday May 23, 2021 1:30PM-4:30PM
McELROY-HOYE HOUSE
400 East Church Street • Newton, MS

HOSTED BY:
Newton United Methodist Church
Newton Chamber of Commerce
Newton City Officials
Newton Arts Council
Newton Historical Cultural Commission
Family and Friends

Newton
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

128 South Main Street • Newton, MS 39345 • 601.683.2201

OPIOID ADDICTIONS: THERE'S HOPE!

Opioid addiction is a serious problem facing millions of people. But there is HOPE. Opioid addiction can be treated and managed. Recovery is possible. Here is what you need to know about addiction, treatment and recovery.

- Opioid addiction is a chronic disease
- Quitting opioid drugs can be hard – it is best to get help
- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) can be very effective
- Recovery takes more than medication
- Relapse can happen – be ready
- Recovery is a long-term process

STAYING SOBER DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season presents special challenges for those in recovery. For an individual facing recovery or for family members and loved ones supporting someone in recovery, it may be helpful to understand how individuals have maintained sobriety in the face of stress, anxiety and depression brought on by the holidays.

To name a few methods that may be helpful to maintain sobriety during the holidays would be working out regularly and eating healthy. Sobriety tactics and studies have confirmed that establishing and maintaining healthy habits can be a key component of a successful recovery from drugs or alcohol.

Prioritizing sleep, following safety guidelines to spend time with family and friends, meditating, and being strict with a budget were also helpful tactics.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Holidays can be stressful, difficult, and even dangerous, especially when it comes to drug and alcohol use. For a safe and happy holiday, it's important to be aware of the dangers, triggers, and strategies needed, to keep anxiety, depression, stress, and addiction under control. If it all gets to be too much, don't be afraid to ask for help.



For More Information contact the
Choctaw Tribal Opioid Response Project Team
(601) 389-4150

Philadelphia High holds athletic banquet

By JOHN LEE
john@neshobademocrat.com

Philadelphia High School's 2021 Athletic Banquet was held on May 11 at the Neshoba County Coliseum.

Barry Richardson, athletic director at Philadelphia High School, said the banquet was about showcasing Philadelphia High School's young athletes and what they have accomplished during the past school year.

"We had around 200 guests at the banquet, which was made up of coaches, athletes, parents and anyone else who wanted to attend that purchased a ticket," Richardson said.

Richardson said during the banquet, each coach went up one at a time to present the awards and talk about the year, their successes, and how challenging it was to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic while being competitive in high school athletics.

"A lot of work goes into each individual sport and it gave the coaches a chance to recognize each student individually," he said.

Richardson said challenges the past year included meeting guidelines and keeping things as safe as possible during the pandemic, and that safety is always the priority.

"I am very proud of all these young athletes that got awards,



Kadarius Calloway, center, one of two top senior athletes, pictured with Principal Steve Eiland and Superintendent Dr. Lisa Hull.

especially since this was an exceptionally challenging time," Richardson said.

Award recipients were:

Football

MVP – Jatarian Hudson
Offensive MVP – Marcus Beamon
Defensive MVP – Keyon Chamberlin
Most Improved – Trey Posey
Tornado Award – Xavier Reed
All State 1st Team – Connor Long
All State 2nd Team – Jatarian Hudson
All Region 1st Team – Kadarius Calloway, Keyon Chamberlin, Chancellor Greer, Jatarian Hudson, Connor Long, Zykileous Moore
All Region 2nd Team – Imarion Black, Kenterrius

Cheerleading

All Around Best – Makayla Evans
Outstanding Leadership – Emma Taylor
Most Spirit – T'Kenzley Moore
Most Improved – Kara Daly
Most Encouraging – Danajah Willis

Girl's Soccer

MVP – D'Kota Hudson
Offensive MVP – Carleigh Edwards
Defensive MVP – Charmaine Manzano
Most Improved – Zahrea Griffin
Tornado Award – Paris



Emma Taylor, center, one of two top senior athletes, pictured with Principal Steve Eiland and Superintendent Dr. Lisa Hull.

Hantzis

Boy's Soccer

MVP – Connor Long
Offensive MVP – Jon David Collins
Defensive MVP – Trey Posey
Most Improved – Tristan Shannon
Tornado Award – Lathan Johnson

Girl's Basketball

MVP – Zharia Leflore
Offensive MVP – Zharia Leflore
Defensive MVP – Hailey Donald
Most Improved Player – Jaenasha Clemons
Lady Tornado Award – Emma Taylor
Team Captain Award – Markasia Dupree

6th Woman – Shaytrece Mingo & Jaiden Burnside
All District – Zharia Leflore

Boy's Basketball

MVP – Devonta Scott
Offensive MVP – Andrew Carter
Defensive MVP – Tekavius Bingham
Rebounder – Jatarian Hudson
Tornado Award – Trey Hunter
All District – Andrew Carter, Jatarian Hudson, Devonta Scott

Archery

MVP Male – Owen Daly
MVP Female – Kara Daly
Most Improved – Emma Creel

Track and Field

Sprinter Award – D'Kota Hudson
Field Event Award – Keathan Graham

Tennis

MVP Female – Ruthie Storment
MVP Male – Trey Posey
Most Improved Female – Paris Hantzis
Most Improved Male – Kawan Powell
Tornado Award – Marcus Porche
All District – Trey Posey, Ruthie Storment

Softball

MVP – Pashae Robinson
Offensive MVP – Emma Taylor
Defense MVP – Rainah Eiland-Moore
Most Improved – Krislyn Warren
Tornado Award – Erica Williams

Baseball

Offensive MVP – Tekavius Bingham
Defensive MVP – Laydric Carter
Most Improved – Bre'lon Tanksley
Tornado Award – Mason McCann

2021 Lindy Callahan Scholar-Athlete

Emma Taylor

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FOR SALE

For sale: Ebenezer Pentecostal Church at 3559 Ebenezer Church Road, Preston, MS 39354. Call 662-361-0046 or 601-416-6809--

HELP WANTED

Household assistant to help with cooking, cleaning, and errands. Excellent benefits. Compensation commensurate with experience and skill. Email resume and qualifications to phillyjobopening@gmail.com. M/F H/V EOE--

PRESCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED!!!! First United Methodist Daycare is looking for a full-time preschool teacher. Applicants must

have an associate degree in childcare or at least 2 years experience in a preschool setting. Please apply in person at 563 East Main Street, Philadelphia, MS. Applications will be taken until May 21st.--

CHILDCARE WORKER NEEDED!!! First United Methodist Daycare is looking for several part time childcare workers. Applicants must be 18 and have a GED or Diploma. Experience is preferred but not needed. Please apply in person at 563 East Main Street, Philadelphia, MS. Applications will be taken until May 21st.--

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Mary Waudine Akins wishes to express our sincerest gratitude to everyone for the kind expressions of love shown to us during the loss of our mother. A special thanks to Sta-Home Health

Services, Sta-Home Hospice, and Memory Bell for taking such good care of her. Thanks to Dr. Mike Carr and Pam Fulton for the comforting words you shared about her life during her funeral service. David Richardson and Kinsey Goldman, you helped our hearts sing with your beautiful music. Thank you McClain Hays Funeral Home and Carolyn Winstead for making our last glimpse of her on this earth a beautiful one! Your kindness will never be forgotten.

YARD SALE

Family Yard Sale May 20-22. 10821 Road 531. Turn by Deemer Church on Rd 531--

Dogwood/River Oaks Neighborhood yard sale on May 22nd at 7 a.m.-until--

DRIVERS WANTED

Drivers Wanted Spaceway Transport LLC. Needs Over The Road Drivers to run South East, North East, and Mid West. Pay 58 cents Per Mile Solo and 60 cents Per Mile Team,

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or 601-650-5475
after hours

The Mississippi Public Service Commission has designated BPM, Inc. d/b/a Noxapater Telephone Company as the "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" within its service area for universal service purposes. The goal of universal service is to provide all Mississippi citizens access to essential telecommunications services.

Noxapater Telephone Company provides single party service to residential and business customers with (Unlimited local calling) at rates which range from \$22 for residential customers and \$36.35 for business customers.

This includes access to:

- Long Distance Carriers
- Emergency Services
- Operator Service
- Directory Assistance
- Telecommunications Relay Service
- Other services designed for persons with disabilities.

In addition, Noxapater Telephone Company provides one copy of its annual local directory without charge. Touchtone service Included at no charge in basic local service.

If you reside in Noxapater Telephone Company's service area, we would be pleased to provide you with specific rates for services upon your request.

Noxapater Telephone Company also offers qualified customers Lifeline service. If you are a low income customer you may qualify for this program. This means you may receive a monthly credit against your basic phone charges (Lifeline). Toll blocking is available at no charge to qualifying low income customers.

Please call Noxapater Telephone Company at (662) 724-2192 or feel free to write us at P O Box 271 Noxapater, MS 39346 for additional information.

Loaded or Empty. Home weekly, Health Insurance offered, Vacation with pay, Sick pay and other Bene-

fits. Also Wanted Owner Operators. Call Richard for details at 601-504-5791 cell or 601-774-9213 office--

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CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY
Court Fees Up Front
Jim Arnold, Attorney
601-656-6914

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

BPM, Inc. d/b/a Noxapater Telephone Company has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service that it will comply fully with all requirements, of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, all requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, all requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1974, as amended, and all requirements of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, or solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program or the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs) in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including employment, rates, conditions, and extension of service, admission or access to or use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA'S TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). The person in this organization responsible for coordinating the nondiscrimination compliance efforts of this organization is your business office manager.

Any individual, or any specific class of individuals, who feels subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by the Age and Discrimination Act or by the rules and regulations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture may personally or through a representative, file a complaint of discrimination, by writing to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD) both.

Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Qualifying residents can receive help in paying for their telephone services under an assistance program (for residential customers only) being offered by Noxapater Telephone Company. The program is called Lifeline Assistance (Lifeline). Noxapater Telephone Company participates in this assistance program in order to increase the availability of telecommunications services to all consumers in its serving area. Qualifying terms and conditions apply.

Lifeline

Lifeline reduces an eligible customer's monthly rates for local telephone service as well as Broadband service. Credit is applied to only one service per household. An eligible customer receives credit for the Federal Subscriber Line Charge (SLC).

Credit The following credit* will apply for each eligible customer:

1. Federal Subscriber Line Charge (SLC) Telephone and Internet - \$ 9.25
2. Federal Subscriber Line Charge (SLC) Telephone Only - \$ 5.25

*Monthly credit amount will not exceed the total of the SLC and Residential Local Exchange Rate.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please call 662.724.2192, or visit our business office at 27 West Front St., Noxapater, MS 39346.