



NEWS

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM TO HONOR MILITARY DEAD

First year with new monument — Page 2A

COOK OF THE WEEK

CHEATHAM LOVES USING SYRUPS

Dekota Cheatham — Page 1B



THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

Established 1881 — Oldest Business Institution in Neshoba County Philadelphia, Mississippi Wednesday, May 26, 2021 140th Year No. 21 **\$1.00

BURGLARY CHARGES

Fleeing felon opens fire on deputy

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A man who authorities say fired shots at a deputy Friday is in custody facing charges pending an investigation by the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation.

Piotr James Gullett, 27, 946 Mt. Olive Road, Starkville, was arrested Friday following a manhunt after he fled on foot having fired shots at a Neshoba County Sheriff's deputy, Sheriff Eric Clark said.

Clark said that his department filed a burglary charge against Gullett Tuesday and said they are awaiting his release from the hospital. More charges are pending against Gullett in two investigations.

First is the MBI investigation into the officer-involved shooting. Clark said that Gullett likely faces at least an aggravated assault charge, although others are possible and that those will be determined by MBI. He said he expects MBI to have charges ready within the next few days.

The second is the investigation into a burglary reported Friday afternoon that led to contact with Gullett and the chase.

Clark said that his department's investigation included the home invasion and all charges leading up to the officer-involved shooting. Clark said that they believe items, including a gun, were taken during the alleged break-in.

Clark said the District Attorney's Office is also involved in both investigations.

Clark said the incident started on the afternoon of Friday, May 21 when deputies were responding to a reported house burglary in the North Bend community on Road 2826 when an officer spotted a silver Toyota Tacoma that had been described by the caller. Clark said they had reason to suspect Gullett was armed.

The deputy attempted a traffic stop and a high-speed chase ensued.

"The described vehicle was reported at a home and that is what led us to him," Clark said. "When deputies saw the vehicle

See CHASE, page 9A



Bullets struck the windshield of a Neshoba County Sheriff's car after a suspect opened fire.

class of 2021



Choctaw Central High School Valedictorian Sierra Wallace delivers a speech to fellow students inside the Choctaw Central gymnasium last Tuesday as rainy conditions forced the ceremony to be moved indoors. Wallace is the daughter of Scottie and Millicent Wallace, and

she likened her speech to a cross-country race. For more coverage of Choctaw Central's graduation, along with Neshoba Central and Philadelphia High School's ceremonies, see page 8A. Also, see the Graduation 2021 special section inside.

'HIGH LIFE' 2 more arrests made in drug net

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@neshobademocrat.com

The arrest total in a sweeping multi-agency year-and-a-half long drug investigation in Neshoba County has climbed to 35 from the initial 33 arrests with three individuals still at large.

"There are three people we are still searching for but the rest are accounted for," Sheriff Eric Clark said.

Shaun Robert Dougherty, 36, of 105 Indian Hills Spur, was arrested and charged on Thursday, May 20. Dougherty received seven charges of conspiracy to commit a felony. He remains in the Neshoba County Detention Center on \$105,000 bond.

Jaedeius Sintel "Dee" Peebles, 31, of 274 Lewis Avenue, was arrested and charged Wednesday, May 19, with nine charges of conspiracy to commit a felony. Peebles was arrested Wednesday, May 19, in the morning and bonded out



Shaun Dougherty



Jaedeius Peebles

See ARRESTS, page 7A

Neshoba Central students win second place debating Internet

By JOHN LEE john@neshobademocrat.com

Is the Internet something people must have in their everyday lives, or is it an unnecessary luxury that citizens take for granted?

That was the topic of a debate pitting Neshoba Central High School sophomore Leyton Turk and junior Hunter Pollack-Bavetta against Moss Point High School students Destiney Tanner and Abbigael Thomas.

For their performance, Turk and Pollack-Bavetta claimed second place in the Debating Technology Issues category of the statewide Technology Student Association (TSA) competition held virtually this spring because of the COVID-

19 pandemic.

Turk said he grew up having debates about a variety of topics with his mother, which is what originally sparked his interest in debating.

Pollack-Bavetta said he got into debating in a similar way, but he debated with his father. Pollack-Bavetta said he was surprised the team won second place.

"Speaking without stuttering and remembering all of our facts and getting used to speaking to a camera instead of actual people was the most challenging part of the debate," Pollack-Bavetta said.

"I didn't know about the TSA competition until my teacher, Sederia Anderson, told us about it last year," Turk said. "When I heard there was

a technology debate category, I was interested."

For the virtual debate, instead of defending one specific side, Turk and Pollack-Bavetta's debate consisted of pros and cons, and they did not only argue about why the internet is a necessity, but they also had to argue why it is a luxury, defending both sides with each point.

Throughout the debate, Turk and Pollack-Bavetta debated the pros and cons of families in much of rural America lacking connection to the internet and why rural areas with internet connections would be a luxury. They followed up with the pros and cons of schools providing

See DEBATE, page 2A



Neshoba Central students Leyton Turk and Hunter Pollack-Bavetta recently placed second in the Debating Technology Issues category of the statewide TSA competition.

OPINION Rich Lowry

PAGE 4A

JUST AMONG FRIENDS Marianne Enochs

PAGE 1B

OPINION Patrick Buchanan

PAGE 4A



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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.

How to contact us

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Telephone: 601-656-4000

Facsimile: 601-656-6379

Electronically

neshobademocrat.com

Facebook: [/neshobademocrat](https://www.facebook.com/neshobademocrat)

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Physical address

439 Beacon ST
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Mailing address

P.O. Box 30
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Advertising sales

Joy Stewart
601-676-0998
joy@neshobademocrat.com

Editor & Publisher

Jim Prince
601-676-0992
jprince@neshobademocrat.com

Managing Editor

Steve Swogetinsky
steve@neshobademocrat.com
601-676-0993

Sports editor

Steve Swogetinsky
steve@neshobademocrat.com
601-676-0993

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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.



This year's Memorial Day program will be the first held at the newly-constructed Fallen Veterans Monument plaza in Dewitt-DeWeese Park.

Memorial Day program Monday set to honor America's war dead

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

School is out and Memorial Day marks the start of summer, but for many the holiday is more than getting a day off of work, it means solemnly remembering America's war dead.

This year's Memorial Day ceremony on Monday marks the first at the newly-constructed Fallen Veteran Monument plaza in Dewitt-DeWeese Park.

Brig. Gen. Jonathan S. Hubbard, the commander of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command in Monticello,

will be the speaker.

The program, set to begin at 11 a.m., is sponsored by local veterans organizations, including American Legion Post 138, American Legion Post 238, the American Legion Post Ladies Auxiliary and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Following Hubbard's speech, the names on the monuments honoring Neshoba County's war dead from each of America's wars will be read.

Observed annually on the last Monday of May, Memorial Day is a time to remember and honor the men and women who

died fighting.

"We will read off the names of all of the people whose names are on the monuments," said organizer Ray Crocker.

Readers will be Madlyn Vuncannon, Obbie Riley, James Waltman and Wendell Jackson.

"They will be standing in front of the monument for each war," Crocker said.

The program will start with the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. There will be a devotional and then the Gold Star mothers and guests will be recognized.

Cecil Hooker will sing "God

Bless America" and the 367th Maintenance Co. will lower the flag to half staff and perform the gun salute.

Hubbard received his bachelor's degree from Belhaven College and his MBA from William Carey.

He began his military career with the Mississippi National Guard in July 1991 as a supply officer in the Mississippi Joint Forces Headquarters in Jackson and has moved up through the ranks. That included serving as detachment commander with the 298th Combat Support Battalion in Philadelphia.

I.D. bill serves as milestone for Tribal members

By JOHN LEE

john@neshobademocrat.com

Members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians say the recent signing of House Bill 277 by Gov. Tate Reeves was a milestone for the Tribe.

House Bill 277 allows for the state of Mississippi to recognize Tribal identification cards as a legal means of personal identification. Reeves also signed House Bill 1230, which allows businesses located on Tribal lands to be eligible for certain discretionary Mississippi Development Authority programs.

Shaundareka Thomas, assistant program manager of the Tribe's Elderly Nutrition Program, said House Bill 277 being signed into law means a lot to her and the Tribe.

"This means a lot of things for the future," Thomas said. "It's a very important milestone for the Tribe and its members, because now these IDs will be considered as another form of 'valid' ID that we'll be able to use at other places."

Thomas said although Tribe members have had ID cards for a while, they have not been able to use them wherever they wanted.

"We could only use our Tribal IDs at certain places for certain purposes, such as banks to open an account, or casinos," Thomas said. "Some businesses did not accept Tribal IDs as an official form of ID, but thanks to this bill, we can use our Tribal IDs anywhere and any businesses will now accept them."

Thomas said some Tribal members can't get a state valid

ID or a driver's license, so this bill will make it easier for them in many aspects, such as applying for jobs.

"Jobs require a valid ID and driver's license, so for those Tribal members that can't get those things, this will open up a lot more opportunities for them," Thomas said. "This bill means a lot for us and me as a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians."

Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben traveled to Jackson on Thursday, May 6, to witness the ceremonial signing of House Bill 277 by Gov. Tate Reeves in his Capitol office.

After the signing, Ben attended the 70th Mississippi National Day of Prayer ceremony at the Mississippi Coliseum.

During the ceremony, Mississippi Department of Agricul-

ture and Commerce Commissioner Andy Gipson, read Senate Joint Resolution 14 on behalf of the state, enacted by the U.S. Congress in 2009.

The resolution served as an apology to Native Americans on the wrongs and injustices carried out by the federal government over the past few centuries and honored the stewardship of the land by Native Americans before the arrival of the settlers.

Commissioner Gipson then personally turned to Chief Ben, representing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and apologized to the Tribe and closed his remarks with a prayer.

Following Commissioner Gipson's prayer, Chief Ben had the honor of praying for the State of Mississippi.

Debate

Continued from page 1A

hotspots to all students.

Their final points covered the pros and cons of small businesses receiving subsidized internet from the government.

"The biggest thing to remember is to not be nervous and be yourself," Pollack-

Bavetta said. "We stumbled a bit at the beginning of the debate, but we found our footing and nailed it at the end."

Pollack-Bavetta plans to attend Florida State University and get a teaching degree, or become a lawyer if teaching does not work out.

Turk said he plans on using his debating skills to attend Ole Miss and go to law school to become a lawyer in the future. He said he and Pollack-Bavetta will not be competing in the national TSA competition this summer.

"The best part of this whole experience was preparing the debate and practicing with Hunter," Turk said. "It was a great experience and I'm glad we won second place."

The Technology Student Association is a national organization of students engaged in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. Turk and Pollack-Bavetta were among 13 other students at Neshoba Central who won awards during the state-level

TSA conference held March 29-31 this year.

TSA competitions include categories such as animatronics, architectural design, cybersecurity, fashion design, and technology. It spans nationwide, with high schools from throughout the nation competing to see who can create the best project out of each category.

Sedera Anderson, engineering and robotics instructor at Neshoba Central and TSA Teacher of the Year, has been teaching Turk and Pollack-Bavetta for the past year in Engineering I and II.

"Hunter and Leyton are very knowledgeable in talking about different topics. Leyton has a great presentation presence about him," Anderson said. "If he doesn't know something, he will do as much research about it as he can to educate himself."

Anderson said Pollack-Bavetta also has a lot of confidence and is good at pulling out points that others might be afraid to bring up.

"When you have your own opinion, it's hard to debate both sides," she said. "With this competition, it wasn't just Leyton and Hunter's opinion, they had to argue the pros and cons, and that can be very difficult."

To learn more about the Technology Student Association competition, visit www.tsaweb.org.



The Highway 19 south closure at Neshoba General was delayed until 9 a.m. Wednesday. Nearby St. Francis Drive opened Friday a week early offering a local alternative route.

Highway 19 closure at hospital to last 2 months

The Highway 19 south closure at Neshoba General was delayed until 9 a.m. Wednesday for a scheduled two-month bridge replacement, the state Department of Transportation said Tuesday.

The highway was originally scheduled to close Monday morning but the project was pushed to Wednesday after a subcontractor asked for an extension, officials said.

"The subcontractor had a scheduling conflict with placing the detour signs, which is obviously pretty important, so

they did not close it yet but they are going to close it by 9 a.m. tomorrow (Wednesday) morning," said Michael Flood an MDOT spokesman.

"There is a chance, if they can get the signs placed by mid-afternoon, it could close earlier but for now it is looking like it will be Wednesday morning at 9 a.m."

The work will re-route traffic between Philadelphia and Meridian through Union.

Detour signage is in place to direct motorists around the closure by way of Highway

492 to Highway 15 in Union.

The work will replace a bridge over a Kentawka Canal tributary known as the Little Kentawka Canal.

The closure is expected to remain in place until Aug. 5.

Philadelphia Street Department Supervisor Rex Savell said nearby St. Francis Drive opened to traffic Friday evening after months of bridge work.

That contracted bridge work was completed about a week ahead of schedule, Savell said

County admin who admitted guilt in \$1.3M scandal dies

The former Neshoba County administrator who pleaded guilty in 2016 to one count of fraud in public office in a \$1.3 million overtime embezzlement scandal died Saturday.

Benjie Coats, the former administrator, resigned in December 2014 as the scandal unfolded and ultimately, after being indicted by a Neshoba County grand jury in 2015, pleaded guilty in exchange for testifying against three other county employees who were later found guilty of falsifying paperwork to obtain millions in

fraudulent overtime pay.

Coats' indictment charged that on or about January 2008 through November 2012, he "did willfully, unlawfully, feloniously and fraudulently defraud Neshoba County . . . by knowingly approving fraudulent overtime statements for overtime that was not worked by county employees."

In his plea deal, Coats was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Nine years were suspended and he was ordered to serve one year under house arrest, reportable to the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

Coats was also ordered to make \$100,000 in restitution to the county. He was also fined \$5,000.

Coats was county administrator for 23 years, having previously served as emergency management director. Coats was 64.

The three county employees were former payroll clerk Tammy Gomillion, former purchasing clerk Julie Faye Russell, and former bookkeeper Jill Watkins.

The three women were released from prison four years ago.

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



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.

Tuesday & Thursday
6 - 8 a.m.
behind the FARM BUREAU BUILDING
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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JUNE 23 - Little Rascals (PG)

JUNE 30 - How the Grinch Stole Christmas (PG)

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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

Legalizing marijuana

Enshrining legalized marijuana in the state Constitution is not what most Mississippians thought they were voting for in November, but that's what Initiative 65 would have done.

The state Supreme Court's ruling this month overturning the marijuana initiative has caused much angst, but the decision was the right one on process.

State lawmakers and others are urging Gov. Tate Reeves to call a special session to pass a clean medical marijuana bill, but hold on a minute.

Enacting a good medical marijuana law is the right thing, but do not rush into anything.

Louisiana, for example, seems to have a good medical marijuana law that doesn't allow folks to grow their own weed or smoke it, as Initiative 65 would have.

The state's high court did not circumvent the will of the people or reverse the outcome of the November initiative that passed statewide with 58% of those voting. Justices followed the Constitution.

Considering the number of registered voters statewide, Initiative 65's approval actually drops to about 40%.

Madison Mayor Hawkins-Butler filed the challenge on the merits of the process used to put marijuana on the ballot.

There is a clear distinction that some voters are missing — or the pot lobby refuses to see because it's about millions and millions in profits for them.

Focus on better public policy rather than aligning with big money special interest groups. Do the right thing.

The merits of medical marijuana were not before the Court. That point was noted several times during oral arguments.

The issue before the Court was the initiative and referendum process and whether Initiative 65 should have been on the ballot based on the way that the process is currently written in the state Constitution.

The ruling is actually very straightforward. The Court simply ruled that the process was not constitutional because 1)

Mississippi lost a Congressional district in 2000 2) the signature requirement for the petition part of the process is invalid because it is based on a calculation with five Congressional districts instead of four and 3) The Legislature failed to update the language in the process to account for that change on numerous occasions when bills were introduced to fix the process.

The Legislature failed, not Mayor Hawkins-Butler in filing her challenge.

So, we circle back to the Legislature not doing its job in the first place and passing a good bill that would negate the need for an initiative.

It is now, once again, up to the Legislature to first give us a bill and then fix the language in the state Constitution because the people deserve and want an initiative process.

The Legislature should establish a medical marijuana program by state statute sooner than later that is safe, effective and medically sound and possibly in a special session if Gov. Reeves sees fit.

The Senate passed a medical marijuana bill last session but it failed in the House. Combined with the guidelines the state Department of Health has been writing, we feel certain the details can be worked out and the will of the people satisfied.

While it's unlikely the ruling will impact other initiatives such as Voter I.D. because much of that has been codified into law, the Legislature must fix the initiative language in the Constitution — as they should have already done.

Voters should know the process before misplacing blame. The Supreme Court was following the law as written. Their decision was not a ruling based on the merits of "medical marijuana." The ruling was about process and process is important.

Initiative 65 basically legalized marijuana because there was hardly anything medical about it.

The Legislature should pass a medical marijuana bill that is safe, effective and medically sound.

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Merkel buying Putin's gas

Germany's dependence on Russian gas is certain to grow as Berlin phases out coal, nuclear power plants.

against all participants in this Russian geopolitical project."

Why did Biden and Blinken fold? Was it to set the table for the Biden's June summit with Putin?

The decisive factor was probably that Nord Stream 2 is just about complete and America's principal continental ally, Germany, is wholly committed to the project. Prime Minister Angela Merkel, who is leaving office this year, approved the deal with Putin's Russia and her legacy is now tied to its completion.

Germany's dependence on Russian gas is certain to grow as Berlin, as it plans to do, phases out its coal and nuclear power plants.

This raises a question about NATO, and the commitment of its 30 members to treat an attack against one as an attack against all.

Would a Germany that is doubling its dependency on Russia for the natural gas that fuels its economy be willing to go to war against that same Russia, and send German troops to fight alongside NATO?

Would Berlin be willing to declare war on its own gas station?

Biden's climbdown on opposition to Nord Stream 2 is startling from another standpoint. He and his team have shown themselves to be true climate change zealots who want to see gas and oil rapidly phased out.

On his first day in office, Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, enraging the Canadians and killing off 11,000 American jobs. Biden then outlawed any new drilling permits for oil or gas on federal lands.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer just told a Canadian

energy company, Enbridge, it must shut down a controversial oil and gas pipeline that passes under the Straits of Mackinac, amid rising fears that a spill would be catastrophic to the region.

For 67 years, Enbridge has moved oil and gas from western Canada through Michigan and the Great Lakes to refineries in Ontario.

But Michigan now says that this one section of the pipeline is too risky to continue operating.

Earlier in May, America got a wake-up call about the vulnerability of its energy supply. Colonial Pipeline, which carries refined gasoline and jet fuel from Texas up the East Coast to New York, was forced to shut down after being hit by ransomware.

The attack was apparently the act of a criminal group, not a nation-state. But the damage done was considerable.

Half the gas stations in several states on the Eastern seaboard had to close when their gasoline pumps were exhausted by long lines of panicked motorists. To get their pipeline fully operating again, Colonial had to pay millions.

This demonstrated the vulnerability of the U.S. energy system and its new technology to the kind of cyberattacks that enemies far more serious than the criminal gang who launched the attack on the Colonial Pipeline could launch.

Fifty years ago, we confronted a grave threat to U.S. energy security and independence: an oil embargo imposed by the Saudis and other Arab OPEC countries in retaliation for Richard Nixon's military aid that enabled Israel to survive and prevail in the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

Are we still prepared for something of that magnitude?

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

FLASHBACKS

MAY 30, 1941

Mrs. Auline Hiett, popular Circuit Clerk, who will be installed as President of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

J.B. Hillman, prominent Philadelphia attorney, who was named President of the 8th Judicial District Bar Association Group.

MAY 24, 1951

Miss Martha Grace Green, a 20 year old sophomore at Mississippi Southern College and resident of Philadelphia, was named the 1951 Bathing Beauty at the Hattiesburg School. She was the winner of over 19 contestants.

Col. Robert V. (Bobbie) Smith, recently sailed overseas after completing his training with the US Air Force at various training camps in the US, including Lackland Air Base, Texas, Scott Field, Illinois, and Sandra Air Base, New Mexico. He is a graduate of the local high school and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Smith and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. D.P. Jackson, all of Philadelphia.

MAY 25, 1961

Dick Hill of Philadelphia was named Attorney at the final student body elections, which were held at Mississippi College. He won in the "second primary". Hill is the son of Mrs. Mildred Hill and the grandson of Mrs. R.H. Molpus Sr., and he is a junior at college.

MAY 28, 1970

Jerry Wayne Brawner, a three year basketball letterman at the University of Mississippi, has accepted the position of head basketball coach at Philadelphia High School. He succeeds George Haiely, who resigned at the end of the last season. Brawner will teach junior high history and physical education in addition to basketball duties.

MAY 21, 1981

The director and assistant director of the Neshoba Central Bands receive plaques by band members in appreciation of their services during the past school year. The people present are; Nancy Bridges; assistant band director, Cary Eldridge; band director, George Shaw, and Lee Ann Burt.

Roxie Kirkland has caught a five and a half pound Bass. She caught the Bass in a private pond which is located near her home.

MAY 22, 1991

Several students from the Philadelphia Enrichment Program won honors recently in the East Central Talented and Gifted Art Contest. They are; Mandy Mitchell, first place winner in the multi-mix media; Candler Enochs, first place winner in the any other category with a hand-woven basket and second place in water base; David Lauderdale, first place winner in the dry base category; and Ab Deweese, first place winner in the third

dimensional category.

MAY 23, 2001

The Philadelphia Jr. High Beta Club competed in several categories at the State Beta Convention in Biloxi. The winners were; Deanna Hardy, 1st place, cross stitch; Laurel Allen, 3rd, photography; and Jessica Carter, 2nd place, spelling bee. All three students will advance to the National Beta Club Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mayor Rayburn Waddell and Charlotte Chamblee of the Junior Auxiliary recap the history of Imagination Fun Station, a playground built by community volunteers in October. The playground, in the A.W. the "Rack" Burt section of Northside Park was officially dedicated Sunday. City, County, and Park officials joined the Junior Auxiliary and others at the dedication.

MAY 25, 2011

Elizabeth Bailey has been selected as Neshoba County's 2011 Miss Hospitality. She is the daughter of Dr. Chip and Laura Bailey of Philadelphia. She was the 2008 Salutatorian Honor graduate of Philadelphia High School. She is currently a junior at MSU studying biological sciences and is a member of Delta Gamma Sorority. She was Neshoba County's Junior Miss 2008 and also competed in the Miss Mississippi Pageant in 2009.

RICH LOWRY

GOP future is bright

The story of 2021 is not a Republican meltdown. Despite what you read, the party stands a good chance to end its bout in the wilderness after two short years.

Republicans have had a brutal news cycle over the past month, between the ouster of Liz Cheney from leadership and the intraparty jousting over a January 6 commission.

The overwhelming sense of the coverage is that the party is descending into madness and civil war and is a husk of its former self.

There's no denying that much of the party has been too willing to indulge or look away from wild theories about the 2020 election and the Capitol riot, but this shouldn't obscure the fact that the Republicans are well-positioned to take the House next year.

All indications are that GOP voters are united and energized and the party is doing what's necessary to make Kevin McCarthy the next speaker, which would instantly squash the never-very-plausible talk of Joe Biden being the next FDR.

The foundation of the GOP's unity, of course, is that Donald Trump effortlessly maintained his control of the GOP. The anticipated civil war came and went with barely a shot fired.

Cheney is certainly a casualty, although she is now less a leader of a significant faction of the party and more a voice crying in the wilderness. That is an honorable role, and she may well be vindicated in the fullness of time.

But the party will pay no electoral price for the drama over her leadership role or, likely, for its continued loyalty to Trump.

Despite Trump's grip, he's not front and center for average voters. He isn't president

and he isn't on the ballot. The focus inevitably will be on Biden and his agenda, which will loom larger than anything the former president can do from Mar-a-Lago.

The Democratic polling outfit Democracy Corps just did a battleground survey that confirmed this picture. As Stanley Greenberg writes in a memo about the poll, among Republicans: "the percent scoring 10, the highest level of interest in the election, has fallen from 84-68%. But Democrats' engagement fell from 85- 57%."

Greenberg calls the GOP base "uniquely unified and engaged."

More evidence is the boffo fundraising by the National Republican Campaign Committee so far. Meanwhile, GOP candidate recruitment is ahead of the pace of prior midterm cycles, whereas Democrats are seeing worrisome retirements.

It's not as though there's a high bar for the GOP. Republicans will need to flip about half-a-dozen seats in the House, when in the post-World War II era the president's party has lost on average 27 seats in midterms.

On top of this, the playing field is tilting the GOP's way.

Reapportionment gave more seats to Republican states and based on its strength in state legislatures, the GOP also has the upper hand in redistricting.

The Biden theory is that \$6 trillion in spending will deliver a roaring economy that diminishes any midterm losses. But the latest jobs and inflation numbers show that it might not be so simple, and there is considerable doubt whether Biden can get his spending.

Greenberg derives some comfort from his belief that, in contrast to 2020, "this time, Democrats cannot fail to see how early Trump's party is fully engaged with its ongoing culture war, focused on crime, open borders, and defunding the police."

Yet, there is no indication of any effort to seriously defend these issues. Biden's policies have needlessly created a crisis at the border, and murder rates continue to climb in major cities, even as much of the left still talks of the police as if it's a racist occupying force.

There are miles to go before November 2022. Biden might find a way to thread the needle of cooperating with Republicans on infrastructure and police reform without alienating his own base, and unforeseen events always take a hand.

But the story of 2021 is not a Republican meltdown. Despite what you read, the party stands a good chance to end its bout in the wilderness after two short years.

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

BIBLE SELECTION

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

— Romans 12:10 (ESV)

Family disturbance leads to felony meth charges Sunday

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A family disturbance led to felony meth charges late Sunday afternoon in rural Neshoba County.

Paul Embry, 56, and Naomi Embry, 57, both of 10301 County Road 1327, were arrested and charged with one count each of felony possession of a controlled substance believed to be methamphetamine and posses-

sion of paraphernalia. Chad Brackin, 43, of 10940 Highway 21 north, was also arrested on a bench warrant for failure to appear in court as well as misdemeanor charges of disturbance of a family and disorderly conduct.

Sheriff Eric Clark said that on Sunday, May 23 deputies were called to 10301 County Road 1327 for a family disturbance.

When officers arrived on



BRACKIN EMBRY EMBRY

scene they made contact with Brackin. It was determined that he was responsible for the disturbance and he was then arrested and charged.

While at the residence, deputies made contact with the Embrys who live at the residence.

Clark said that both were found to possess a controlled substance believed to be methamphetamine.

All three remain in the Neshoba County Detention Center. Both Embrys have received a \$600 bond for the paraphernalia charge but have not yet received bond on the felony drug charge.

Brackin remains in custody on \$1,400 in bond but has not been issued bond for his failure to appear charge.

No new COVID deaths reported in Neshoba as cases decline

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

No new COVID-19 deaths were reported in Neshoba County this week, according to the Mississippi State Department of Health

Neshoba County's total COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began is now 4,037, which is four more than last week. The death toll remains at 178, 114 of those from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, according to the MSDH.

Meanwhile, 19% of Neshoba County's population is fully vaccinated as of Monday, according to MSDH and 21% of the county's population has received one of the 11,308 total doses of

COVID-19 vaccines administered in the county.

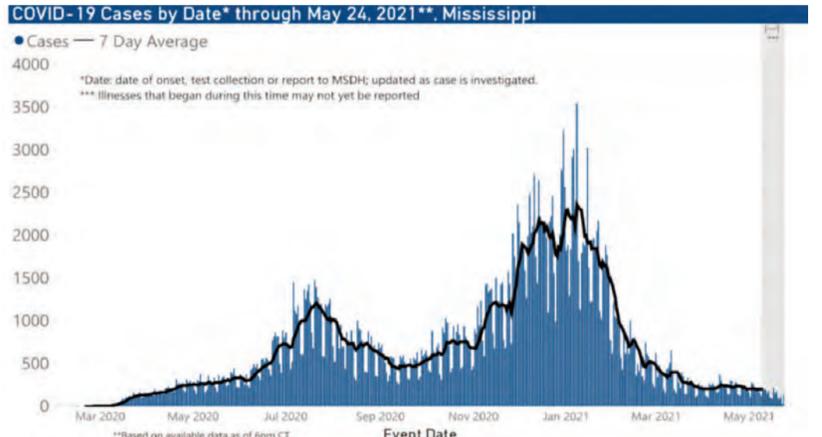
Vaccinations are being administered Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Neshoba County Coliseum, 12000 Highway 15 North, and are available to all Mississippians 16 and older. Go to https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0420,976.html to make an appointment.

Neshoba County Schools reported between one and five COVID cases among teachers and staff at Neshoba Central Elementary, and between one and five cases among students at Neshoba Central High School as of May 14. No staff members or students have been quarantined.

The Mississippi Band of

Choctaw Indians has reported no new positive cases of COVID-19 and no new deaths as of May 24, with the total number of positive cases for the Tribe remaining at 1,838 with 114 deaths. No new hospitalizations have been reported.

Statewide, since the pandemic began in March 2020, 193,997 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded by the MSDH along with 122,914 probable cases, totaling 316,911 cases. There have been 5,031 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, along with 2,267 probable COVID-19 deaths, totaling 7,298 deaths since the start of the pandemic.



Statewide, COVID-19 cases continue on the decline.

OBITUARIES

Maretta Hudson

Funeral services for Ms. Maretta Hudson will be held on Saturday, May 29, 2021, at 12 P.M. from the Neshoba County Coliseum, with Elder Byron R. Jones officiating. Burial will be at Donald Rest Cemetery. Beck Funeral Home, Inc. is in charge of arrangements.



Maretta Hudson

Ms. Hudson, 52, of Philadelphia, passed away on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at her home.

She is survived by her mother, Gloria Hudson of Philadelphia, MS, her two children, Maxwell and Sasha, three sisters, Valerie Sherman and Joanna Hill both of Meridian, MS, and LaTina Sherman of Baltimore, MD.

Pallbearers are Timothy Boler, LaKalvin Croft, Kerry Fox, Demetrius Grady, Malek Moore, Keadrick Graham and Shadrack McCallum.

Cora "Sissy" Eakes

Services for Cora "Sissy" Eakes were Monday, May 24, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Rev. Bennie Alford officiating. Burial followed in McLain Chapel Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Eakes, 85, of Kemper County, died Saturday, May 22, 2021.

A native of Neshoba County, she was a resident of Kemper County for most of her life. She was a member of Christian Life Apostolic Church in Kemper County.

Survivors include daughters, Betty Luke of Bailey and Margaret McDonald of Livingston, AL; sons, Ricky Eakes and Eugene Eakes, both of Philadelphia; two grandchildren; one great-grandson, Walt McDonald; sister, Bobbie Shoemaker of Forest.

Preceding Mrs. Eakes in death were husband, Bobby Gene Eakes; and daughter, Peggy Eakes.

Lori Ellingburg

Services for Lori Ellingburg were Monday, May 24, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Rev. Tony Roberts and Rev. Heath Ellingburg officiating. Burial followed in Ocobla Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Ellingburg, 53, of Philadelphia, died Friday, May 21, 2021.

A native and lifelong resident of Neshoba County, she graduated in 1985 from Neshoba Central High School. She worked as an assistant teacher at Neshoba Central Elementary School for several years. Mrs. Ellingburg was a member of Ocobla Baptist Church.

Survivors include husband of 33 years, Frankie Ellingburg; daughters, Britney Kirkland and

Bethney Thames; son, Heath Ellingburg, all of Philadelphia; eight grandchildren; mother and stepfather, Sarah and Paul Freeman of Philadelphia; sisters, Janet Joiner of Philadelphia, Rhonda Drury of Noxapater.

Preceding Mrs. Ellingburg in death was her father, Mickey Warren.

Erdis Kilpatrick Chaney

Services for Erdis Kilpatrick Chaney will be Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Dr. Mike Carr officiating. Burial will follow in the Eastlawn Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Chaney, 83, of Philadelphia, died Thursday, May 20, 2021.

She was a native and long-time resident of Philadelphia. She worked for The Citizens Bank for 52 years and was vice president/senior deposit officer when she retired. Mrs. Chaney was an active member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Survivors include sons, Irvin Chaney and Pat Chaney; six grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren.

Preceding Mrs. Chaney in death were husband, Ken Chaney; parents, Letha Aline McNeil and Clyde Curtis Kilpatrick; sister, baby Marie Kilpatrick; brother, Arthur Kilpatrick.

Memorials may be sent to Trinity Baptist Church, Gideons International, or Quality Hospice.

Bill Barker

Services for Bill Barker were Saturday, May 22, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Rev. Charles Davis and Rev. Cliff Barker officiating. Burial followed in Bluff Springs Cemetery in Kemper County. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Barker, 92, of Kemper County, died Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

He was a native and lifelong resident of Kemper County. He formerly operated Gray's Grocery in Philadelphia, was employed with the Neshoba County Co-op Service Station, and later for Wells-Lamont. Mr. Barker was a member and deacon of Bluff Springs Baptist Church in Kemper County.

He is survived by his daughter, Verla Barker Watkins of Kemper County.

Preceding Mr. Barker in death were his wife, Myrtis Inell Barker; two infant sons, Terrell and Jerrell Barker; parents, L. E. and Mary Barker; siblings, Ouida Rae Johnson, Dub, Leo and Kevin Barker.

Benjamin Amos "Benjie" Coats

Services for Benjamin Amos "Benjie" Coats were Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Bro. Mack Alford officiating. Burial followed in Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Cemetery in Neshoba

County. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Coats, 64, of Philadelphia, died Saturday, May 22, 2021, at Anderson Regional Medical Center.

He was a native and lifelong resident of Neshoba County. After graduating from Neshoba Central High School, he received his Associate Degree from EMCC and then attended USM in Hattiesburg where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree. During college he began his career at WHOC Radio Station. He worked for Neshoba County as Emergency Management Director and retired as County Administrator. He was currently employed by WHOC/WWSL Radio Stations in Philadelphia. Mr. Coats was a member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.

He enjoyed learning and talking about the history of Neshoba County, picking antiques, repairing vintage clocks and radios, and spending time with family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Reina Coats; furbaby, Eva Kay; sister and brother-in-laws, Lena Coats of Anniston, Alabama; Judy Coats of Philadelphia; Robbie & Pam Cheatham of Philadelphia; Kevin & Jackie Cheatham of Philadelphia; nephews, nieces, and their families, Ross, Jessica & Thomas Cheatham of Philadelphia; Ben, Kate & Scottie Cheatham of Flowood; Caroline Cheatham of Philadelphia; Steve & Dana Coats of Birmingham, Alabama; Joey & Patricia Coats of Collinsville; Pam & Don Cunningham of Stratton; James & Vicki Coats of Philadelphia; Jeffery & Consuelo Coats of Philadelphia; Jennifer & Joe Maxwell of Dothan, Alabama; Mark & Deana Coats of Charleston, South Carolina; Apryle & Richard Mather of Mobile, Alabama.

Mr. Coats was preceded in death by parents, Ethel J. & Ruthie Mae Shepherd Coats; brothers, Carl Junior, Grady, Joe, and Tommy Coats; sister, Carrie Sharp; niece, Pene Coats; and great-nephew, Anderson Coats.

Pallbearers were Eric Clark, Dale Joyner, John King, Tommy Smith, Mike Tingle, Ben Cheatham, Ross Cheatham, David Vowell, Tommy Waddell, and Wyatt Waddell. Honorary pallbearers were J. Max Kilpatrick, Joe Vines, and WHOC/WWSL Radio Station Families past and present.

Annie Sue Monk

Services for Annie Sue Monk were Friday, May 21, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. from Crossroads Church of God in Sebastopol. Burial followed in Damascus Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Monk, 67, of Scott County, died Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Born in Homewood, MS, of Smith County, she grew up in Lake, MS, where she attended school at Lake High School. She worked in the manufacturing industry for several years. She was a member of Crossroads Church of God.

Survivors include daughter, Jennifer Keene of Kemper

County; son, Bobby Monk, Jr., of Leake County; two grandchildren; sisters, Shirley Ferguson and Brenda Ferguson; brothers, James, Paul, Hubert, and George Shuler.

Ms. Monk was preceded in death by her firstborn daughter, Rebecca Sue Monk; mother, Wilma Golden Shuler; father, Hubert Shuler; sisters, Hattie Goodson and Jean Duell; brothers, Bill, Cooper, Randy and Johnny Shuler.

Butch Ferguson

A memorial service will be held at a later date for Mr. Butch Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson passed away Thursday, May 20, 2021 at his home. He lived most of his life in Neshoba Co. He was in the U.S Army, and he was also a Riverboat Captain. His hobbies included fishing and gaming.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Van Vernon Ferguson and Mavis Lucille Ferguson; sister, Dona Thornton.

Survivors include his wife, Marion Ferguson of Philadelphia; daughters, Lacy Bass of Philadelphia, Nicole Smalley (Brace) of Tuscaloosa; sons, Shawn Ferguson and Derwood Ferguson both of Richland; (11) grandchildren.

Jeremy Lee Williams

Graveside service for Jeremy Lee Williams will be held 2 PM Saturday, May 22, 2021 at Standing Pine Community Cemetery with Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiating. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge.

He is preceded in death by his mother Pauline Morris Williams, father Jerry Lee Denson, Paternal grandparents Easlin Denson and Lucille Chickaway, Maternal grandparents Walter Morris and Bessie Frazier Morris.

Survivors: Sisters Serena Stoliby, Sylestina Cotton, and Dusti Jimmie; Brothers, Bobby Williams Jr., Dalvin Williams of Conehatta, MS and Tory Denson, Aunts Arlene Morris, Melba Cline, Mary Lou Morris, Glenda Denson Bell, Charlene Sam and Lori Ahshapanek, Uncles Ricky Denson Sr. and Ryan Chickaway and a host of nieces, nephews, families and friends.

Pallbearers: Delbert Bell, Dustin Morris, Kevin Toledo,

David Denson, Ricky Denson Jr., Merrill Vaughn, Emerald Morris, Delvis Morris, and Kendrick Wesley.

Jackie Woodard

Funeral services for Ms. Jackie Woodard will be held on Friday, March 28, 2021, at 12 P.M. from the chapel of Beck Funeral Home with Bishop Chris Chamberlin officiating. Burial will be at Center Ridge Cemetery. Beck Funeral Home, Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Woodard, 65, of Philadelphia, passed away on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at Choctaw Health Center.

She is survived by two daughters, Chandra Woodard of Philadelphia, MS and Crystal Woodard of Vicksburg, MS, her father, Joe Adams, three grandchildren, Devontae Wilson, Keylon Burnside and Mar'kedrion Blanks, four great grandchildren, five brothers and two sisters.

Pallbearers are Devontae Wilson, Brandon Kennedy, Mar'kedrion Blanks, Jason Harrington, Keylon Burnside and James Broach.

J.D. Harrison

Graveside services for Mr. J.D. Harrison will be held on Friday, May 28, 2021, at 2 P.M. from Friendship M.B. Church Cemetery in Gholson, MS, with Rev. Earl Holliday officiating. Beck Funeral Home, Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Harrison, 78, of Dekalb, passed away on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at Care Center of Dekalb, MS.

He is survived by one daughter, Minnie Benoman of Dekalb, MS, four sons, Johnnie Lee Harrison of Fort Hood, TX, Billy Ray Harrison, Johnny Earl Car-

enter, and Lyndon B. Carpenter all of Dekalb, MS, two brothers and two sisters, and a host of grandchildren.

Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

Dora Mingo Steve

Graveside service for Mrs. Dora Mingo Steve will be held at 2 PM Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at Nanih Waiya Mennonite Cemetery. No visitation. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge.

Mrs. Steve, 54, passed away on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at University Medical Center in Jackson, MS. She was preceded in death by her parents, Davidson Mingo and Ossie Joe; sisters, Geraldine Isaac, Joann Chickaway, Tammy Mingo, Judy Chickaway, Gladys Frazier; brothers, Wayne Mingo and Harry Mingo; grandson, Amare Farmer.

Survivors include husband, Frank Steve, Jr.; daughter, Sunni Mingo; son, Isiah Mingo, Sr.; sister, Bessie Willis; brother, C.J. Mingo; 6 grandchildren.

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FRIENDSHIP M.B. CHURCH CEMETERY, GHOLSON

MS. MARETTA HUDSON
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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

Persecution spread the Gospel

In this passage the persecution of Christians is the catalyst for the gospel spreading beyond Jerusalem. The Lord had given the apostles a commission to be his witnesses beginning in Jerusalem, and then to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

After Stephen is put to death, "there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem and they were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles" (verse 1). Saul was one of the most zealous, vicious persecutors (verse 3).

This is a reminder that Christ's people are called to endure persecution in this world. Believers share in Christ's sufferings. It isn't always martyrdom it was in the case of Stephen, or prison (verse 3), but Christians and the church are targeted by the devil.

The Lord said he came to bring division among men. He means to make clear the distinction between his kingdom and the kingdom of this world. His people are called and translated out of the kingdom of darkness and death to His kingdom of light and life (Colossians 1:13). You have to decide which kingdom (and king) you will serve.

His people are given forgiveness of sin and eternal life in the Son of God. They can never really die. But they can suffer. The suffering here was terrible. Men and women were dragged out of their homes, their lives suddenly shattered.

Yet we read that the ones who escaped and scattered to other regions proclaimed the word of Christ (verse 4). They had to leave their homes and livelihoods because of the word of the Lord. Why would they still proclaim his name? Because they believed; they had faith. In Revelation 12, we read that Christians under intense persecution "loved not their lives even unto death." Rather, they conquered "by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony." They live forevermore.

Another thing we learn from the passage is that the Lord will build his church, just as he promised. The church in Jerusalem was huge, with powerful fellowship, the best leadership, and joyful worship. Yet the Lord takes it and scatters it, the same as a farmer scatters seed. It wasn't for judg-

ment, but to save souls in other places. The devil meant it for evil; the Lord for good.

The place highlighted is Samaria (verses 5-25). The Samaritans and Jews were bitter enemies. The Jews considered them apostate and depraved. The Samaritans were a remnant of the Northern Kingdom intermarried with Syrians and other foreigners. They had established a rival center of worship separate from Jerusalem, with pagan elements.

The Jews avoided even traveling through Samaria, yet we see Philip going into the city and proclaiming Christ to them. The residents there had been bewitched by a sorcerer named Simon for a long time, but they believed the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (verse 12).

It's a brief account of people under the darkness of the devil finding salvation in Christ. They had great joy (verse 8). Samaritan sinners who are saved have reason to rejoice. They entered the kingdom of the Lord. They were blind but now see, lost but now found. They now knew the substance of the hymn we sing, "Amazing Grace."

We are also reminded that the Lord knows who are his. The magician Simon professed faith in Christ and appeared genuine. But when Peter and John come down from Jerusalem, he is exposed as having spurious faith. This is the second time Peter recognizes falseness in the church (Acts 5:1-10).

Simon heard the gospel, but he didn't learn of Christ. He didn't understand the necessity of salvation; that Christ came to save sinners. He looked at the Holy Spirit as simply a power to be coveted like other powers in the world. God can see through us. Simon was still lost. Holy desires in our faith are necessary.

But there is great encouragement in this passage. The Lord offers grace to all sinners if they turn to Christ Jesus. And the Lord gives the Spirit to his people to enable them to endure persecution and spread his Name to others. He will build his church, and do it by the instruments he appoints. Blessed is he who is an instrument of the Lord for good.

This Devotional and Directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to, attend worship services. If your church is not listed this week, please look in next week's edition.

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Deputies make another felony crystal meth arrest last week

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

Deputies made another felony crystal meth arrest last week, this time assisting a stranded motorist on Highway 16 early Saturday

morning. Zorro Clayton, 33, 10940 County Road 632, was arrested and charged with public intoxication, false ID information, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and

felony possession of a controlled substance believed to be meth, according to Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark. Neshoba County deputies were patrolling in the Pearl River

community near the intersection of Highway 16 west and Road 2606.

The officers encountered a maroon Ford Fusion that appeared to be disabled in the

intersection. Clayton was identified on scene and offered assistance.

Clark said that Clayton appeared to be under the influence and acted suspiciously. The

encounter then escalated and Clayton was arrested and he was booked at about 6 a.m.

Clayton on Monday remained in the Neshoba County Detention Center on a \$3,000 bond.

Arrests

Continued from page 1A

the following evening on \$27,000 bond.

The three who remain at large are John Netherland, Caleb Smith and Timothy Stewart.

The multi-agency investigation, dubbed Operation High Life, was led by Homeland Security Investigations New Orleans.

More than 27 people were arrested on Friday, May 14. The arrests were led by the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the Neshoba County Sheriff's

office, the Philadelphia Police Department, the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Neshoba County District Attorney and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as well as others following a multi-year investigation in collaboration with Homeland Security Investigations New Orleans.

"The arrest culminating Operation High Life is a definitive example of the coalesced commitment among local, state and federal law enforcement to

ensure public safety for all Mississippians," said Col. Steven A. Maxwell, director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. "However, the seizure of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana is a clear indicator of how pervasive the drug culture is throughout our communities. These drugs were attributed to the loss of more than 500 Mississippians in 2020."

Clark said Operation High Life has taken more than \$5 million in illegal drugs off the

streets of Neshoba County.

Previously, 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, 5 kilograms of cocaine worth about \$500,000, 270 pounds of marijuana worth \$1 million, 300 dosage units of fentanyl worth about \$6,000, and 16 firearms.

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

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

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

COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail Docket from 5/17-5/24

- Kaelen Anderson, 23, of 390 Oswald Rd; driving under the influence-1st offense
- Martha M Anding, 66, 11371 Hwy 15 S, Union; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia
- Lisa Bishop, 42, of 12070 Hwy 482; contributing to delinquency of minor, child neglect
- Chad Brackin, 43, of 10940 Hwy 21 N; failure to appear, disturbance of family, disorderly conduct
- Dianne Andrea Burnside, 22, of 18153 Hwy 21 S; failure to appear
- Entony Burnside, 36, of 407 Barham St; sale of marijuana
- Zorro Clayton, 33, of 10940 Rd 632; possession of controlled substance, resisting arrest X2, disorderly conduct, false ID information, public drunk
- Klenton Wade Crocker, 37, of 129 Coffin Rd, Laurel; hold for investigations, possession of paraphernalia
- Shaun Robert Dougherty, 36, of 105 Indian Hills Spur; conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X7
- Kimberly Duell, 44, of 11371 Hwy 15 S, Union; possession of controlled substance
- Linda Edmonds, 57, of 10047 Hwy 395, Noxapater; possession of controlled substance
- Naomi Embry, 57, of 10301 Rd 1327; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia
- Paul Embry, 56, of 10301 Rd 1327; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia
- Jason Evans, 37, of 6187 Smith County Rd, Morton; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia
- Thomas DeWayne Fowler, 23, of 325 Old Robinson, Carthage; driving under the influence other substance, possession of marijuana-vehicle, motor vehicle theft-felony
- John A Gilbert, 44, of 1041 Rd 260, Union; hold for investigations, petit larceny less than \$1000.00 X2, burglary-dwelling house, littering, trespassing X2
- Tyrone Grove, 36, of 11743 Rd 832; public drunk
- Amaya Henderson, 22, of 62 N Fox Mill Ln, Springfield, IL; public drunk
- Nathaniel Henry, 23, of 10150 Rd 2608; contempt of court
- Jerrion D Hickman, 26, of 209 Sherwood Dr; serving sentence
- Lincoln Tanner Jordan, 20, of 1289 Prospect Ln, Conehatta; false ID information
- Timothy Lewis, 38, of 11120 Rd 743, Union; trespassing
- Chad Lofton, 49, of 14 Knight Dr; contempt of court, failure to pay
- Martin Lowery, 42, of 10571 Rd 610; conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X6
- John Anthony Mendoza Jr, 36, of 10022 CR 2642; disturbance of family 1st - domestic violence
- Ashley Renee Miles, 33, of 13313 Rd 610; hold for investigations, possession of controlled substance
- Jeffery Miller, 21, of 10341 Rd 632; possession of marijuana-vehicle
- Billy Ray Neese, 28, of 12323 Rd 325, Union; hold for investigations, possession of controlled substance, petit lar-

- ceny less than \$1000.00 X2, burglary-dwelling house, littering, trespassing X2
- Kris R Neese, 37, of 3963 Isaac Court, Lilburn, GA; disturbing the peace
- Steve L Pearson, 37, of 10150 Rd 349, Union; disturbance of family
- Jardeius Sintel Peebles, 41, of 274 Lewis Ave; hold for investigations, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X9
- Chase Phillips, 37, of 2240 Smith County Rd, Morton; possession of marijuana-1st offense
- Dylan Andrew Pope, 22, of 10041 Rd 1529; simple assault
- Darrell Duchea Purifoy, 46, of 518 Ivy St; phone harassing/threatening, conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X8
- Corey Rayborn, 33, of 12140 Rd 325, Union; hold for other agency
- Shau Roberts of 10150 Rd 2608; simple assault causing bodily injury-negligence, failure to appear
- Shaun Roberts, 48, of 526 Center Ave; no charges listed
- Alicia Rodriguez, 38, of 10693 Rd 187; failure to appear, possession of controlled substance X2, shoplifting-less than \$1000.00
- Joseph O Rowell, 44, of 10340 Rd 294, Union; failure to appear
- Alicia G Shelton, 55, of 10693 Rd 187; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia
- Angela Nicole Singleton, 26, of 285 Jolly Rd, Columbus; conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X4
- Destiny Spink, 25, of 10321 Hwy 16 E; hold for investigations
- Jonathan Paul Stephens, 39, of Hillcrest Apt 20; failure to pay
- Danajia Taylor, 21, of 5409 Hopewell Rd C4, DeKalb; contempt of court X2, indictment
- Jessie James Thomas, 70, of 12931 CR 298, Collinsville; disorderly conduct
- Susan Thomas, 59, of 12931 Rd 290, Collinsville; disorderly conduct
- Mary Tubby, 27, of 191 Rolling Hills Rd; driving under the influence-1st offense, possession of marijuana-vehicle
- Laveil A Wells, 25, of 256 Morehead Rd, Walnut; felony pursuit, child endangerment X3, failure to yield to blue light/siren, resisting arrest
- Randy White, 36, of 10201 Rd 2606; failure to appear X2
- Amber June Williamson, 34, of 10693 Rd 187; possession of controlled substance, shoplifting-less than \$1000.00

Winston County Jail Docket for Philadelphia Police arrests from 5/17-5/23

- Nathaniel Amos, 27, of homeless; DUI-1st offense, MV-driver's license-none
- Silas A Boyd, 21, of 12020 Rd 573; contempt of

- court-municipal court
- Dale L Chickaway, 45, of 117 Foxtrail; contempt of court-municipal court
- Douglas I Clemons, 22, of no address listed; disorderly conduct-breaching peace with a willful and wanton disregard for the life or safety of another
- Douglas I Clemons, 22, of no address listed; domestic violence-simple assault-1st or 2nd offense, public drunk, disorderly conduct-disturbing the peace, disorderly conduct-failure to comply with request or command of law enforcement officers, resisting arrest
- Jackie K Dove, 59, of 3537 Kitchner Rd, Conehatta; disorderly conduct-failure to comply with request of command of law enforcement officers, resisting arrest, controlled substance-possession of schedule 1 or II-1/10th gram-2 grams or 2-10 dosage units
- Timothy Eichelberger, 49, of 13458 Eligah Burn Rd; larceny-petit value under \$1000
- Gurdy Farmer, 33, of 130 Oswald Rd; disorderly conduct-failure to comply with request or command of law enforcement officers, resisting arrest
- Jason L Fulton, 50, of 301 Will Ave; DUI-1st offense, MV-careless driving
- Lejamie Hill, 29, of 308 Pearl Ave; contempt of court-municipal court, disorderly conduct-failure to comply with request or command of law enforcement officers, resisting arrest X2, MV-driver's license-none, MV-improper equipment, MV-no insurance
- Samuel M Littlevoice, 23, of 3116 Mahanna St Unit 1, Dallas, TX; indecent exposure, disorderly conduct-failure to comply with request or command of law enforcement officers, public drunk
- James Massey, 56, of 10731 Rd 315; arrest report-warrant
- Jeremiah B Mingo, 38, of 178 Rolling Hill; public drunk
- Michael Mitch, 23, of 160 Park Place; possession of controlled substance, controlled substance-possession of marijuana less than 30 grams or synthetic cannabi-

- noids 10 grams or less in motor vehicle
- Nadolyn Nickey, 38, of 80 Jimmy Cook Rd, Heidelberg; DUI-2nd offense
- Kaytlin T Peebles, 23, of 1012 East Myrtle St; aggravated assault-use of deadly weapon, malicious mischief-felony value over \$1000 but less than \$5000
- Nathan K Smith, 30, of 115 Bates Rd; disorderly conduct-disturbance in public place, disorderly conduct-disturbing the peace, public drunk, contempt of court-municipal court
- Monica L Solomon, 40, of 127 Otha Cove, Conehatta; hold-detainer for other agency
- Miles Steve, 20, of 301 W Tucker Cir; MV-reckless driving, MV-no insurance
- Jammie Thompson, 39, of 11802 Rd 397; contempt of court-municipal court
- Neal O Vaughn, 50, of 945 Hugh Mitchell Rd, Conehatta; DUI-1st offense, license-driving while revoked or suspended, disorderly conduct-disturbance in public place



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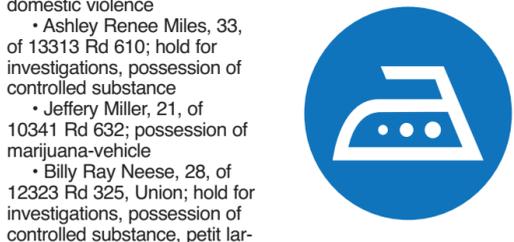
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PAID POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Fulton seeks re-election as alderman for Ward 2

Longtime Ward 2 Alderman Jim Fulton formally announced his candidacy for reelection this week, citing his dedication to the city and his eight years of experience.

A Republican, Fulton said his voting record indicates that he is conservative with taxpayer money and always transparent with constituents.

"I have never missed a regularly scheduled board meeting," he said. "It is my job to represent the people of Ward 2 and I make attendance a top priority to ensure residents of Ward 2 have a voice."

Fulton pledged to continue to work for all of the citizens of Philadelphia and especially for

those in Ward 2.

"I ask you to allow my experience and dedication to continue to work for you so that we can ensure Philadelphia is a place where we can raise our families, worship and work in a city that is safe and moving forward," he said. "I ask you to choose me as the candidate who is proven, dedicated, experienced, stable and accessible."

"Thanks for your vote and support during the general election which will be on June 8 in the Neshoba Baptist Center."

A lifelong resident of Philadelphia, Fulton is a graduate of Philadelphia Public Schools. He attended East Central Community College and Mississippi State University.

He has been married to Lee



Jim Fulton

Ann Burt Fulton for 35 years. She retired after 30 years of service to Philadelphia Public Schools.

They have two sons, Coker (Chelsea) and Kip, both graduates of Philadelphia Public Schools. They also have one grandson, Gunner Fulton.

Fulton is a member of First Baptist Church and is employed by Neshoba General Hospital.

He has represented Ward 2 as alderman for eight years, serving as Street Commissioner for four years.

He served on the Philadelphia Main Street Board for eight years. He is a Certified Municipal Officer on the Mississippi Municipal League.

Shaun Seales seeks election as alderman for Ward 4

I, Shaun Seales, am officially announcing my candidacy for Alderman of Ward 4 in the city of Philadelphia, Mississippi. I am the son of Billy Joe and Dorothy Lee Carter-Seales. I am married to Nichole Johnson-Seales and we share 6 children, Kiery Stribling, Rocmin, Sokoni, Shaundra, Sultan, and Attallah Seales. I have one young man that I have taken as my own, Javon Pickens. We also have 14 grandchildren.

I am a proud member of the Philadelphia High School Class of 1990, I forged bonds with friends that I cherish to this day. I have spent the majority of my life as a resident of (Westside)Shady Oaks community.

My professional experience includes valet attendant, limo driver, Transportation Manager, and then Director of Ground Transportation at Pearl River Resort. My duties were managing more than 60 employees in addition to managing its budget

of over \$100,000.

In the private sector, I own Supreme Transportation (since 2008), Seales Carpet Cleaning and Car Wash (since 2000) and in partnership of Brothers Black Market (since 2020).

I've been a community activist most of my life and have organized "Stop the Violence" marches and rallies over the past few years to bring awareness to the community and city. My greatest joy has been mentoring the youth. I was honored to receive the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Community in Action (CIA) and was also awarded the Golden Supporter Award with Kids Over Everything (KOE; Jacob Boler)

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1. Mentoring programs for the youth and virtual learning - create a digital hub and Westside Community Center
 2. Senior programs to assist our elderly
 3. G.E.D., job training and job readiness program for young adult
 4. Create economic devel-



Shaun Seales

opment for entrepreneurs

5. Home buyer, home ownership and financial literacy programs
 6. Community policing and police relationship programs
 7. Promote clean ditches, well-kept streets, vacant/properties to increase property value
 8. Uniting churches, civic organizations, park and recreational development - develop trades and recreations to minimize crime
 9. Develop substance abuse programs
 10. Seek funds to upgrade parks, swimming pool, and the historic Booker T. Gym and football field.
 11. Making sure proper street lights are up and installing cameras in high crime areas to make Ward 4 safe for its citizens
 12. Promote and position Ward 4 to represent the best ward of the City of Philadelphia United we can achieve these goals with God's help.
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GRADUATION

Rocket spirits soar for class of 2021

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Friday night was a time for celebration as Neshoba Central High School's class of 2021 graduated before a large crowd of family, friends, teachers, administrators, staff and well-wishers at the Neshoba County Coliseum.

One hour before the program started, the parking lot was overflowing. Cars were parked up and down Mississippi 15 with people trying to get in to see their favorite graduate received his or her diploma.

Class Valedictorian Marlee Thomas, daughter of Michael and Stacey Thomas, reflected on how unusual the last couple of years have been for students because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

"This year has been extremely hard," Thomas said. "There have been so many situations that were out of our control. But somehow we were able to adapt. Our junior year ended suddenly. We were left with a chaotic senior year. However, through it all, we had remained high spirited."

And with that, Thomas presented the class of 2021 with a Neshoba Central Spirit Stick.

"The class of 2021 has never won the spirit stick," Thomas said. "Not even in elementary school. But after all we have

been through, I think we deserve a little recognition. So, I have here tonight the Neshoba Central spirit stick."

Her classmates cheered loudly when she presented it to them.

"This spirit stick represents unique, hard work, positivity, courage, perseverance, creativity, ambition and of course spirit, Thomas said. "I believe our class embodies these characteristics during our time at Neshoba Central. So, I want to formally present the class of 2021 with a Neshoba Central Spirit Stick for being the greatest, strongest and most outstanding students and for being the first class to make it all our years in the new school building."

"We have gone from being little scared freshmen trying to find our classrooms to well-respected seniors graduating from high school. We did it."

Salutatorian Mary Kate Moran, daughter of Brett and Emily Moran, talked about the changes she and her classmates witnessed during their high school years.

"We survived high school," Moran said. "Our senior year has not been normal."

Moran talked about her thoughts while taking her senior walk through the halls. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the school ran on a hybrid schedule for the first part of the school

year, she said. Students had in-person classes a couple of days a week and virtual classes on other days.

Moran talked about things she enjoyed during her senior year, like attending football games.

"We got to see Neshoba Central play football in the best high school stadium at Rocket field," Moran said. "One of my personal favorite experiences is the unmatched atmosphere in Rocket stadium and following one of the best football teams in Neshoba Central history."

There was also the opening of the new cafeteria.

"We got a new cafeteria and it is great. You don't have to walk a mile to eat lunch anymore," Moran said. "All of these experiences have led to this moment today."

"It is now our time to start a new chapter in our lives. Class of 2021, our futures are bright and we will all go down our different paths of life. Future doctors, lawyers, nurses, farmers, educators, athletes, servicemen servicewomen and more sit before us today. We have worked over 12 years for this moment. All of us should be proud of ourselves for the hard work and perseverance that we put forth to get here."

PHS grads ready for life's challenges

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Philadelphia High School's class of 2021 came together for the final time Thursday evening during graduation services which were held at the Neshoba County Coliseum.

Families, teachers, administrators, staff and friends gathered to celebrate the occasion and proudly observed as the class of 2021 marched in while the Philadelphia band students played. Makayla Evans and Adriana Rush sang for their classmates.

Before graduates received their diplomas and became Philadelphia High School alumni, they were reminded of shared memories, the good and the bad, in both the valedictorian's and salutatorian's speeches.

Valedictorian Emma Taylor, daughter of Mark and Amy Taylor, said the ups and downs they experienced along the way have helped prepare the class of 2021 for life.

"We made it to our senior year and then the unthinkable happened," Taylor said. "A once-in-a-generation virus almost prevented us from making it to the finish line. But by this point in our high school

careers, we were experts in staring down adversity. When school started last August, we had grown accustomed to our new way of life."

The COVID-19 pandemic didn't stop them from moving on, Taylor said.

"This past year, we learned many things, like the importance of hand sanitizer or how to tie the strings of your mask around your ears," Taylor said. "We learned that change is inevitable. It is not a matter of if but when. Indeed, the world has changed and we won't go back. All we can do from here on out is our best. And sometimes the best we can do is start over."

"This is precisely what we are about to do. Our time here is spent. But nothing will take the memories we created over the years. It is hard to forget these last four years. Yesterday is now history and tomorrow a mystery. It's time to leave and time to find our destiny. And never forget, it is always a great day to be a Tornado."

Class Salutatorian Mary Ellen Booker, daughter of Melisha Hancock and Thomas Booker, knew to the day how long her tenure at Philadelphia High School lasted.

"One-thousand-three-hun-

dred-fifty-six days ago, we were freshmen just entering the halls of Philadelphia High School," Booker said. "We had no idea we would make so many memories over the last few years. Like football Fridays, getting ready to cheer with my best friends. Or all the long practices or stressful assignments, we made a lot of memories that we will carry with us forever."

Booker discussed life lessons she picked up along the way.

"We have learned lessons like respect, accountability and responsibility," Booker said. "We have learned a lot and we will carry these lessons throughout our lives."

"Philadelphia High School has had a big effect on my life. It has taught me many lessons and had introduced me to some fascinating people, I am thankful for the many opportunities Philadelphia High has taught me and will continue to strive to be my best self. Class of 2021. Let's take these memories we made and life lessons we learned over these past 1,363 days and use them to be the best scholars, workers and citizens we can be."

Choctaw Central grads finish well

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

A rainy day caused Choctaw Central's graduation ceremony to be moved inside from the football field to the school gym, but it did not put a damper on anyone's spirits as the class of 2021 graduated last the night of May 18.

Sierra Wallace, daughter of Scottie and Millicent Wallace, likened her valedictorian speech to a cross-country race.

"It will be hard but we'll get through it in the fastest time

possible," said Wallace, who was part of the state championship cross-country team while attending Choctaw Central. "We have been in school from pre-k to 12th grade and this chapter of our lives is finally coming to an end. And I could not be any more proud to walk across this stage."

Wallace thanked her family, friends and all who supported her during her time at Choctaw Central High School.

"Over the last four years, we have continued to learn who we are, what we should continue to do, and what we will accomplish," Wallace said. "Do not let the fear of failure deprive you of success. It is my hope my class will strive for more even though we go on different paths. We will always share the great things we had here with our wonderful classmates."

Class Salutatorian Brannon Jim, son of Landon Jim and Barbarella Isom, talked about how he and his classmates grew up during their time at Choctaw Central.

"When we first arrived, we were perceived, mainly me, as rambunctious," Jim said. "People inspired us along the way, I obtained humility, honesty and clarity. Today, I still see that members of the class of 2021 are rambunctious but confident and sure of ourselves."

Jim said he will be going to basic training for the Army in

June. He plans to return in the fall and attend Mississippi State University.

"I want to train for the Army as a human resources specialist," Jim said. "I decided to get myself together and create an opportunity for myself."

He thanked all who had an influence on him and his classmates. He talked about how the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted so many people but it didn't stop the class of 2021.

"Some people dear to me were lost and it hurts in this game called life," Jim said. "There were some who thought judgment day had started. I was going to be mad because I didn't get to graduate and I had come so close. We all came so far."

And they made it. "Congratulations to class of 2021. We did it," Jim said.

Chief Cyrus Ben urged the class of 2021 to always remember where they came from.

"There will be hurdles," Ben said. "There may be things come along that we may not always understand. But there is strength in you through God and also as a strong intellectual and blessed member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Tonight, we are proud of you."

"Congratulations to the class of 2021."

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- ★ I will support our police department.
- ★ I will work to find solutions in the most cost effective and sensible way possible.
- ★ I will always support accountability in leadership.

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7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- Children's Program**
7:00 p.m.

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Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

City's tornado warning sirens outdated, need to be replaced

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Philadelphia's tornado warning sirens are outdated and need to be replaced, emergency officials told the Philadelphia Mayor and Board of Aldermen recently.

Fire Chief Pierce Clark told aldermen during the board's May 18 meeting that one of the

city's three sirens is down and is in need of a \$2,000 repair. All three sirens are outdated and need to be replaced, he said.

"The tornado sirens are very old and it's costing the city a lot of money in maintenance," Clark said. "Every time we turn around, we are having to work on them."

The sirens were installed in 1992 and are nearly 30 years old. Clark said it would cost around \$30,000 to replace one siren. However, he added it is getting hard to find parts and people who know how to work on the old sirens.

Alderman Jim Fulton suggested the city consider putting new sirens in each of the city's

four wards.

Aldermen voted to have the siren repaired. It is located on the west side of town. They will consider what to do about replacing the other sirens at a later meeting.

In other matters, aldermen voted to:

- Approve the minutes from the past meeting and the claims

docket;

- Approve the payment of \$13,062 to Waggoner Engineering for work on the Booker T. Washington gym renovation project;

- Approve \$175 to sponsor an ad for Landry Payne in the upcoming Miss Hospitality program; and,
- Approve a road bore by C-

Spire west of Posey Avenue along Highway 19.

The mayor reported that the city had received four bids for a grass-cutting contract for the median of Highway 16 from McDonald's to the city limits. That would also include picking up litter. Aldermen will vote on the matter during their June 1 meeting.

Union woman charged with felony amount of crystal meth

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A Union woman was charged with a felony amount of crystal meth in the wee hours Wednesday morning on Highway 16 west near

Choctaw, the authorities said. Martha M. Anding, 66, 11371 Highway 15 south, Union, was arrested and charged with careless driving, no proof of liability insurance, possession of paraphernalia and felony possession of a



controlled substance, said Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Martha M. Anding

Clark.

A Neshoba County Deputy initiated a traffic stop at about 3 a.m. on a Silver Toyota Highlander near Industrial Drive, Clark said.

"The Toyota was observed driving in a careless manner,"

he said.

The traffic stop was made near the intersection of Highway 16 west and Industrial Drive. The driver was identified as Anding.

The traffic stop netted a felony amount of controlled

substance believed to be crystal methamphetamine.

Anding was booked on an \$8,100 bond. She posted bond the following day, Thursday, May 20.

4 students awarded Yates Companies scholarships

Four local students have received \$4,000 scholarships from The Yates Companies, Inc.

Those students are:
• Lathan Johnson graduated from Neshoba Central High School this spring and plans to major in welding. Lathan is the son of Nathan and Amy Johnson. Lathan's mother works

for W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Co., Inc., and his father works for Edwards Electric Service, LLC, both of which are a part of The Yates Companies, Inc.

• Reese Page graduated from Neshoba Central High School this spring. Reese is the daughter of Joe and Kim Page. Reese's mother works for

W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Co., Inc., which is a part of The Yates Companies, Inc.

• Lauren Pope graduated from Neshoba Central High School this spring and plans to major in nursing. Lauren is the daughter of Jody and Sarah Pope. Lauren's father works for Yates Services, LLC, which is a part of The Yates

Companies, Inc.

• Ethan Wright graduated from Neshoba Central High School this spring and plans to major in business administration. Ethan is the son of Chad and Andrea Wright. Ethan's mother works for Edwards Electric Service, LLC, which is a part of The Yates Companies, Inc.



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Chase

Continued from page 7A

and saw it pulling out of a driveway acting erratically, they attempted to make the stop."

The chase ended in the Spring Creek community at the intersection of Road 567 and Road 624 where the driver lost control and stalled in a ditch on Road 567.

"The driver exited the pickup and opened fire on the Sheriff's deputy," Clark said. "After an exchange of gunfire, the felon escaped into the wooded area near the intersection."

The Kemper County Sheriff's Office was quick to respond with their K-9 Unit, Clark said.

"We had a lot of support from

local law enforcement," Clark said. "When we called they came very quickly to respond. They were a great help."

In addition to the KCSO, the Philadelphia Police Department, Mississippi Highway Patrol, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, Neshoba County Emergency Management, and more Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene. They then notified residents in the area and quickly formed a perimeter for containment, according to Clark.

"The K-9 was on track quickly and made short work of finding the felon," Clark said.

The investigation revealed the silver Toyota Tacoma was reported stolen from Oktibbeha County.

Gullet was also responsible



Gullet

for the theft of a green Chevrolet pickup in Leflore County earlier on Friday. Clark said that truck had been recovered at an apartment complex in Oktibbeha County.

Clark said they believe the gun Gullet used was likely stolen and was acquired when he stole one of the two pickups.

Gullet was transported by Neshoba EMS for treatment. Clark said he does not know his condition but said he was transported to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson where he remained under MBI guard Tuesday morning.

Oktibbeha County deputies arrested Gullet on charges of burglary of a dwelling and stalking early last month.

Gullet was apprehended there in the Adaton community after being spotted by an off-duty deputy. OCSD says Gullet is originally from North Carolina and may have spent time in Georgia.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Philadelphia Public School District is accepting requests for proposals for the following contractual services:

School Psychometrist

To provide Special Education Evaluations, Gifted Evaluations, Consultative Services, and Report Writing

Occupational and Physical Therapists

To provide evaluations and therapy for students with disabilities who have gross and fine motor deficits

School Psychologist

To provide Psychological Evaluations, Consultative Services, and Report Writing

Please ensure that the proposal includes the specific services offered, along with hourly rates.

Also, note that travel and sustenance are not permissible. Requests for proposals will be accepted until the close of business on May 7, 2020.

Mail Proposals to:
Philadelphia Public School District
ATTN: Tia Little
248 Byrd Avenue
Philadelphia, MS 39350
or email tlittle@phillytornadoes.com



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Cheatham's family syrups key in meals

By SARAH KATHRYN WATKINS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Dekota Cheatham has been spending weekends poolside with her 1-year-old daughter Roma Jane and husband Daniel.

She and her husband were high school sweethearts. The Cheathams live in Philadelphia close to both his family and her own.

"It's a blessing that we all live close together," Cheatham said.

Cheatham works at East Central Community College, where she teaches biology. She enjoys her working atmosphere and teaching older students because of their independence.

Cheatham also runs the retail side of Anthony's Syrup Co., which is the business of her mother and father, John and Renee Anthony. The family original syrup recipes were passed down through the generations.

Cheatham said one of the recipes was named after her when she was born, and she is hoping to develop one to be named for her daughter.

Cheatham likes to learn new recipes with the family syrups. For example, Cheatham uses her a recipe known as Uncle John's Molasses in her glazed brussels sprout recipe.

One day she plans to do a cookbook about the different ways to use molasses and cane syrup for cooking. One way she likes to cook with those ingredients is by using them as rubs for meats.

Cheatham grew up watching her grandmother, Mattie Jane Myers, cook. However, Cheatham said she never really put her cooking skills to the test until she moved to Starkville for school. That is when she learned how to cook different types of food.

Cheatham said her daughter loves pesto pasta and a flatbread pizza Cheatham makes also using pesto. The Cheatham family also enjoys having friends and family over for crawfish boils.

This summer, the Cheathams plan on going to the lake in their boat. Cheatham will still be teaching this summer, but the classes will be online, she said. The family is happy that the weather is warm, and they are getting to watch their daughter enjoy spending time at the pool and being outdoors with them.



Dekota Cheatham and daughter Roma Jane

CHICKEN PESTO SALAD

- Rotini pasta
- 8 ounce jar of Pesto
- 1 cup of Heavy cream (may add more as needed)
- 2-3 Chicken breast
- 1/4 cup Grated Parmesan
- Salt and Pepper

While pasta cooks, season chicken with salt and pepper. Heat olive oil in pan and sear chicken until it's completely done. Turn the stove off for a

COOK OF THE WEEK

moment and remove pan from eye. Remove chicken from pan and cut into cubes. Turn the stove eye back on to low heat. In the cooled pan, add pesto and heavy cream. (Be careful not to scorch it.) Allow sauce to simmer on low for 2-3 minutes, stirring con-

stantly. Add drained noodles and chicken back to pan with sauce. Mix together and sprinkle with grated parmesan. Warm until Parmesan is melted.

MAPLE PECAN CAKE WITH ICING

- Cake:
- 6 tbsps Unsalted Butter (room temperature)
 - 2/3 cup Vegetable Oil
 - 2 cup Sugar

- 1 tbsps Vanilla extract
- 2 2/3 Cup + 2 tbsps. All Purpose Flour
- 1 tbsps baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup milk (room temperature)
- 6 eggs (room temperature)

Preheat oven to 350 and prepare cake pans by lining the bottom with parchment and

greasing/flouring them. In stand mixer, beat butter until creamy. Add oil and sugar and beat until all ingredients are well-combined and creamy. Be sure to scrape down the sides of the bowl occasionally and then stir in vanilla extract. In a separate bowl, whisk flour, baking powder and salt. Turn mixer to a medium speed and alter-

See COOK, page 2B

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

Spring is the season for music students to show how much they have learned during a year of lessons and practice. Mrs. Sue Lewis, an experienced music teacher, presented her students in two recitals.

The first recital was the Senior Recital on April 25 at Holy Cross Catholic Church presenting Emma Taylor and Mary Kate Moran who are graduating seniors at Philadelphia High School and Neshoba Central respectively. Both girls have taken lessons for several years from Mrs. Lewis. Emma performed selections from her repertoire of vocal music which showcased her lovely voice. Mary Kate displayed her special talent playing several compositions on the piano. It was a fun, relaxed recital which the girls enjoyed. A reception for family and friends who attended was held afterward in the parish hall.

A second recital was held on the first of May at the First Baptist Church which included all of Mrs. Lewis's students. It was also an informal event in which the students performed for their audience of family and friends. Awards and certificates were given by Mrs. Lewis along with several gold cups for those who accumulated 15 points. It was a beautiful day for the recital and there was a large audience.

Participants were: Layla Loper, Ava Byars, Reese McKay, Caroline Lee, Maggie Taylor, Taylor Allen, Hob Carlton, Kia Stanton, Ben Weir, Anna Beth Kilgore, Lily Hicks, Kamryn Kabore, Peyton Dean, Wes LeBlanc, and Charlie Moran.

Holy Cross Catholic Church held a Baccalaureate Service for its graduates during mass on Sunday morning. It was particularly special because Father Augustine, our former priest who had been part of their lives for several years, celebrated the mass in the absence of Father Darnis. The seniors performed all of the lay leader parts of the service and Father A delivered a great homily which also generated a few laughs. Emma Taylor sang "How Great Thou Art" in her beautiful voice. Her sister, Maggie sang the "Ave Maria" which was also lovely. The congregation enjoyed both hymns.

Emily Moran, who had taught these students in the CCD classes for many years, read each senior's name and a brief bio. A reception was held in the parish hall following the service where guests enjoyed a delightful variety of delectable foods. They also viewed each senior's memorabilia table which was so interesting and colorful.

The seniors are: Emily Berry, Sofia Euyoque, Aaron Le, Mary Kate Moran, Anh Nguyen, and Emma Taylor. Congratulations and best wishes to each of them.

The invitation read "Join us for a Porch Party at Gigi's honoring Emma Taylor & Mary Kate Moran on Saturday, May 15 at 4:00." Guests were asked to wear their favorite decorated hats for a hat contest.

"Gigi" is Regina Hicks who is Mary Kate Moran's grandmother and was one of the hostesses for the occasion. Laura Gipson Kilpatrick, Emma's grandmother, and

Ann Stubbs, the aunt of both girls were co-hostesses.

Red and white cloths in different patterns covered tables on the spacious porch. Centerpieces of colorful flowers in straw hats with a sign decorated with a black mortarboard above the words, "Congrats Grad." Each place was marked by a candy filled jar with a mortarboard lid and a quote from Dr. Seuss's book, "Oh, The Places You'll Go," printed on a souvenir place card which said,

"You're going great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting...so get on your way!"

Refreshments were served from a Nacho Bar, an Ice Cream and Cookie table, and a S'Mores station for making their own. The cookies were shaped like women's hats complete with tiny flowers on the brim. Emily Berry won first prize for Best Hat and Runner-Up was Mary Kate Moran. The guests wore numbers on their hats and everyone voted by paper ballots for the winners. Everyone seemed to enjoy being together on such a happy occasion.

Evie Fortenberry set a new AR record at Neshoba Central Elementary School this year. This fifth grader ended her school year with a grand total of 962.6 Accelerated Reader

See FRIENDS, page 2B

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New Choctaw Sportsplex unveiled Monday

The new recreation sports complex at Lake Pushmataha was officially named the Choctaw Sportsplex in a ceremony Monday. Pictured are Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, 2019-2021 Choctaw Princess Elisah Jimmie, Choctaw Tribal Council Members, Tribal Recreation Staff, Construction Management Staff and members of the Tribal Community gather together for the Choctaw Sportsplex unveiling.

Of Local Interest

NESHOPA COUNTY FAIR EXHIBIT HALL SIGN UP

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

NESHOPA 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 children 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.

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.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF NESHOPA COUNTY

You are invited to become a "2020 Dream Builder" for our youth by supporting the future of our boys & girls through club programs such as:

- Power Hour (Tutoring) Mentoring Program
- Healthy Habits/Choosing the Best Passport to Manhood/Smart Girls
- Money Matters/Field Trips/Activities
- After-School Program (City & County Schools): 150+ children attend each day
- All-Day Summer Enrichment Program 200+ children attend each day

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"Boys & Girls Club of Neshoba County"
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For more info on how you can invest in our children, call 601-656-4343.

For program info/enroll a child, call Jermaine Harris, County Unit Director, 601-880-6322.



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Small town: a place where you're no longer a stranger after five minutes, but still a newcomer after 50 years.

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Cook

Continued from page 1B

nate adding the dry ingredients and milk to the batter mixture making sure that all ingredients are well combined before adding the next. Be sure to start and end with flour. In a separate bowl use a mixer to beat egg whites to peak texture. Carefully fold egg whites into batter being careful not to overmix. Pour mixture into cake pans and cook for 35-40 minutes, or until they pass the toothpick test. Allow cakes to cool completely before icing them.

- Icing:
- 2 cups unsalted butter (room temperature)
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - 6 cups powdered sugar
 - 6 tbsp heavy cream
 - 2 tbsp vanilla extract
 - 1/2 cup chopped pecans
 - 3 tbsp Anthon's Maple

Flavored Syrup

Beat butter with electric mixer until creamy. Sprinkle salt over butter and combine. Gradually add powdered sugar about 1/2 cup at a time, making sure it is completely mixed before adding more. With mixer on medium-low speed, add heavy cream one tablespoon at a time. Add Maple syrup. Once ingredients are well incorporated, increase speed to high and beat for 30 seconds, and Vanilla Extract and stir together. Ice cooled cakes, putting chopped pecans between each layer and on the top of the cake. Add a drizzle of Anthon's syrup over the top.

GLAZED BRUSSEL SPORUTS

- 2 shallots, minced

- cubed bacon
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 3 spoonfuls of Uncle John's Molasses
- 1 tbsp Coconut oil
- Chopped Pecans (optional)
- Minced rosemary
- Roasted Brussels sprouts

To roast Brussels sprouts, heat pan to 400. Half sprouts and lay out on pan. Toss in olive oil, salt, and pepper. Cook until lightly browned (about 20 minutes) For glaze: add coconut oil to a hot skillet. When melted, add bacon pieces. Brown bacon and add minced shallots. After 1 minute, add brown sugar and molasses. Cook until bubbles are dime-size. Add rosemary and pecans to finish. Toss sprouts with glaze and serve.

Friends

Continued from page 1B

points! This was the highest in NCES history.

Her fifth grade teachers treated her to a steak lunch from Ronnie's Steak and Grill. Her teachers are Mandy Coghlan, Robin McClellan, Crystal McKinney, and Tena Reynolds. I think it is safe to say that Evie enjoyed her

lunch!

The congregation of First United Methodist Church celebrated the baptism of little Scarlett Day Vowell on May 16 administered by the Rev. Chris Young. Scarlett looked angelic in a beautiful white dress and shoes. She seemed

happy to meet the congregation when she was introduced by the pastor with her family.

Scarlett's grandparents are Bill and Janice Griffin and David and Brenda Vowell. Her parents are Craig and Melody Vowell. Her big sister, Mary Laurence, was present during the ceremony and her late brother Wyatt was present in memory.

After church, the family ate lunch together at a local restaurant before attending Janice Griffin's art show in Newton with works by her art students. Mary Laurence had several of her paintings on display. It was a wonderful day for the family!

Congratulations to Steve and Jenny Lynn Wilkerson who celebrated their 42nd Wedding Anniversary on May 19. They are one of our favorite couples!



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Kilpatrick enjoys successful first season

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Colt Kilpatrick's first season as head baseball coach at Kemper Academy ended with his team making it to the second round of the playoffs and finishing with an 11-8 record.

Kilpatrick grew up in Laurel Hill and went to Neshoba Central where he played baseball.

After they got started, Kemper Academy had a seven-game winning streak going. This led to them tying for the district championship and carried them through the first round of the playoffs. Kilpatrick is now getting ready for the next school year in which he will be wearing

a few more hats.

"Our baseball team far exceeded my expectations when we first started back in January," Kilpatrick said. "I am going to be busy this summer but not quite as busy as during the school year. We are looking to go further in the playoffs next year. We are playing a summer schedule in June. And we have our athletes lifting weights Monday, Tuesday and Thursday during the summer."

Last year, Kilpatrick taught health classes and elementary school physical education. He will be doing that next year along with being an assistant football coach and taking on the duties as the school's athletic



Colt Kilpatrick and son Fenton Kilpatrick

director.

After graduation in 2014, he attended East Central Community College and got a degree in electrical technology. He later attended William Carey University in Hattiesburg where he got a degree in health, PE and recreation. He finished in 2020 and started to work at Kemper Academy.

"I have a passion for coaching and preparing young people for their futures," Kilpatrick said. "I want to have an impact on the kids' lives, not just on the field but off the field as well."

Kilpatrick played under coaches Brian Jones and Justin Stovall while at Neshoba Central. He said he used a lot of

what he learned from them during his first season as a head coach.

Kilpatrick is married to his wife, Dakota, who he first met when they were freshmen in high school. They have been married five years and have two sons, Senton and Jhett. They live on a farm on family land between House and Collinsville.

When he isn't working, he likes to hunt and fish. Senton is old enough to start helping prepare hunting sites.

He has been going to the Neshoba County Fair all of his life. His family owns cabin No. 393. He loves the horse races.

Philadelphia High School students honored for academics

By JOHN LEE
john@neshobademocrat.com

Principal's and Superintendent's List."

Philadelphia High School students who excelled academically and in citizenship were honored during an awards ceremony on May 18.

The ceremony was held at Philadelphia High School and recognized students ranging from seventh grade through 12th grade.

Kimberly Jackson, administrator at Philadelphia High School, said parents, representatives from colleges and universities, community organizations and partners were invited to attend.

"Several students, many of them being seniors, were awarded scholarships, certificates of achievement, medallions and pins," Jackson said. "These students are now on our official

Principal's List Award Winners:

7th Grade:

- Da'Nasia Spencer
- Alecia Rush
- Melody Suttles
- Kendalyn Avery
- Ka'terial Moore
- Attallah Seales
- Christany Spencer
- Giselle Spurlock
- Kemya Thomas
- LaJaden Tyler
- Jada Thames
- Kiristen McGowan
- Korbyen Houston
- Javonah Johnson
- Nicholas Walker

8th Grade:

- Bryson Boler
- Ladarius Clemons

- Christopher Coburn
- Kelian Coburn
- Katelyn Entrekin
- Keyon McCarty
- Chrislyn McGowan
- Kawan Powell
- Lucy Ray
- Kensleigh Shields
- Destinee Spencer
- Tre'Vious Talley
- Bre'Lon Tanksley
- Trinity Townner

9th Grade:

- Isaiah Autry
- Emily Booker
- Katelyn Burnside
- Patience Chinn
- Myrehnia Clemons
- Carleigh Edwards
- Brooke Leader
- Jacquaysia Mitchell
- Jahkre Moore
- Kabria Moore
- Kyleigh Moore
- Rayleigh Parkison

- Charlie Perkins
- Kelendria Roberson
- Jamarqus Stewart
- Krislyn Warren

10th Grade:

- Ariel Burnside
- Jaiden Burnside
- Haven Coburn
- Portland Hayes
- Kendall Moore
- London Moore

11th Grade:

- Layla Carter
- Kamry Coleman
- Kenterious Everson
- Jada Gray
- Paris Hantzis
- Baley Massey
- T'Kenzley Moore
- Nathan Overstreet
- Ruthie Storment
- Danajah Willis

12th Grade:

- Aayanna Coleman
- Jayanna Coleman
- Alandaesia Culberson
- Markasia Dupree
- Teonna Gadsdon
- Kamary Houston
- Kam'bree Houston
- Mason McCann
- Genesis Osby
- Skylar Plummer
- Sunshine Spivey

Superintendent's List Award Winners:

7th Grade:

- Victoria Clements
- Aja Dupree
- Rebekah Storment

8th Grade:

- Emma Creel
- Alexandria Hudson
- Malorie Little
- Abby Peeples
- Sarah Renee Richardson

9th Grade:

- Charmaine Manzano
- Niasia Moore
- Zavien Spencer
- Margaret Taylor

10th Grade:

- Zariyah Jackson
- Jahendrick Evans

11th Grade:

- Marcus Beamon
- Hailey Donald
- David Fowler
- Elizabeth Gonzalez
- Robert "Trey" Posey
- Kameron Tucker

12th Grade:

- Mary Ellen Booker
- Kara Daly
- Kaiya Tucker
- Emma Taylor

Celebrate National Fishing and Boating Week responsibly

By JAMES L. CUMMINGS
Special to the Democrat

National Fishing and Boating Week is June 5 through June 13, 2021, which is the perfect time to celebrate

Mississippi's bountiful fisheries and other aquatic resources, as well as relax. A few reminders if you plan on fishing or boating. Check both state and local town/city regulations. Keep a 6-foot social distance between yourself and others. Do not touch public surfaces, such as benches or water fountains. Wash your hands thoroughly before and

after fishing and after touching any public surfaces. Stay home if you are sick or have any symptoms of COVID-19.

Let's look at a few quotes regarding fishing...

President Herbert Hoover once said, "To go fishing is the chance to wash one's soul with pure air, with the rush of the brook, or with the shimmer of sun on blue water. It brings meekness and inspiration from the decency of nature, charity toward tackle-makers, patience toward fish, a mockery of profits and egos, a quieting of hate, a rejoicing that you do not have to decide a damned

thing until next week. And it is discipline in the equality of men—for all men are equal before fish."

And President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "The problems of juvenile delinquency decrease in direct proportion to the opportunities of our young people to enjoy outlets for their energies in sports...I have observed the resourcefulness and stability of young who have had an opportunity to learn how to take care of themselves...as fishermen." Sometimes I wonder if many of the problems of our young people could not be solved by intro-

ducing them to activities that are wholesome and result in a greater appreciation of the world around them, not become hostile to it. And there is no better time than the present to introduce them to fishing.

Mississippi is blessed with farm ponds, reservoirs, oxbow lakes, rivers, and streams. We are also the beneficiaries of good fisheries management by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the USDA Forest

Service. Participation in fishing and boating week events actually helps fund efforts to conserve our natural waterways. A portion of all fishing tackle and license sales fund the conservation of our nation's waterways through a program called the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

During National Fishing and Boating Week, I encourage you to carry your son, daughter, niece, nephew, or other young person fishing. The values it will instill will last a lifetime. And there is no better way to celebrate Nation-

al Fishing and Boating Week while you still can!

And finally, another quote from President Herbert Hoover, "Fishing is much more than fish. It is the great occasion when we may return to the fine simplicity of our forefathers."

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is www.wildlifemiss.org.

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Ability to work in a rural school system with bilingual students. Complete a criminal background check on county, state, and national levels. Any record or conviction of criminal or child abuse charges will result in immediate termination.

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