



NEWS

FAMILY SEARCHING FOR LOST PET COW NAMED JUNE

Missing since May 13 — Page 3A

COOK OF THE WEEK

AMERSON ENJOYING RECENT RETIREMENT

Johnnie Amerson — Page 1B



THE NESHOBIA DEMOCRAT

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Philadelphia, Mississippi

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MAYOR, ALDERMEN

Municipal elections set for Tuesday

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY

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Philadelphia voters will go to the polls Tuesday to decide who the mayor and board of aldermen will be for the next four years.

Incumbent James A. Young, a Democrat, is seeking his fourth term as mayor of Philadelphia. He is being challenged by retired businessman

Leo E. Renaldo, a Republican.

The polls open at 7 a.m. and will close at 7 p.m.

Mayor Young said he was making his second round of going around knocking on doors and asking people for their vote.

"We have a lot of good things going on," Young said. "We have several projects going on and more coming up. We are still working on crime.

Our police department has increased patrols and we are close to having a full staff in the police department."

Renaldo said he has worn out two pairs of shoes as he has been out asking for votes since the primary elections back in April.

"I believe the people want a change," Renaldo said. "I have gotten out to talk to the people in all wards. The insight I am

getting from people, I am going to have a very good chance of possibly being the next mayor."

Aldermen elections will also be on the ballot:

- Ward 1 — Justin Lewis Clearman, a Republican, is running unopposed. He will replace longtime alderman Joe Tullus who did not seek re-election.

- Ward 2 — Incumbent Jim Fulton, a Republican, is being

challenged by Democrat Mangold Washington III.

- Ward 3 — Democrat James Tatum faces Republican Wright Griffis to replace the retiring Ronnie Jenkins.

- Ward 4 — Democrat Ruthie Nash faces independent Shaun Seales for the Ward 4 seat. They are seeking to replace Cassie Henson Hickman who ran an unsuccessful campaign in the Democrat pri-

mary for mayor.

- Alderman-at-Large — James Carson Waltman, a Republican, is challenging incumbent Leroy Clemon, a Democrat.

Voters have until Saturday to vote absentee. City Hall will be open until noon. If you vote absentee by mail, the letter must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, June 8 and must be received by June 15.



Photo by Coleman Eakes

Wendell Jackson read the names of Neshoba countians who have died in service to our country during the Memorial Day program at Dewitt DeWeese Park on Monday.

War dead remembered Memorial Day

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY

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Remember those who gave their lives while serving in the military and defending the United States during a time of war.

That was the message of the Memorial Day service held Monday at the Fallen Veterans Monument at Dewitt DeWeese Park.

A good crowd gathered to honor the nation's war dead, especially those who came from Neshoba County.

"We don't know them all but we owe them all the gratitude," said SSgt. (retired) Tony Stewart of the American Legion Post 238 in his opening devotion.

"So, this day shall be to the fallen soldiers, the brave men and women who gave their lives

for our country, to protect us from danger and harm," he said.

The program started with the presentation of colors, the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the national anthem. The Gold Star mothers were recognized.

The guest speaker, Brig. Gen. Jonathan Hubbard, was a familiar face to many. He served with the 298th Combat Support Battalion in Philadelphia for several years. Hubbard spoke about the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier located at Arlington National Cemetery.

"We have many national cemeteries across our nation," Hubbard said. "Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are special."

Arlington Cemetery was established in 1864.

In November 1921, an unidentified service member received a state funeral ceremony and was interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

One hundred years ago, our nation laid to rest an unidentified American who fell in the First World War, Hubbard said.

"For many who came to pay their respects, this unknown soldier came to represent their unknown soldier," Hubbard said. "Their brother, father, son or friend, who died aboard and was not identified or buried, far from home. During the early years, thousands came to mourn the tomb and pay their respects not only to that soldier but to all the soldiers he represented."

After Hubbard spoke, the names of the

See **MEMORIAL**, page 8A

2 Neshoba Central students win first-place award with board game

By JOHN LEE

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Two Neshoba Central High School students recently combined their passions to win first place statewide creating their own board game, Flowers and Thorns.

Junior Madison Eickhoff and senior Noah Savell said their game was inspired in part by the popular board game Sorry.

Eickhoff did the overall design and art of Flowers and Thorns and Savell put together the portfolio, which included the rules and description of the game.

Their combined efforts paid off with the first-place award in the state level 2021 Technology Student Association

(TSA) competition held earlier this year.

Second place was taken by Neshoba Central students Ethan Bounds, Zoie Herring, Devin McCoy, Malcolm McDonald, and Mary Moran with their game, Galactic Gamble.

"(Flowers and Thorns) is a lot like the hit board game Sorry, where you knock other players' pieces off the board for your gain," Eickhoff said. "Flowers and Thorns is similar in concept, where the players have to get all of their game pieces to a specific spot on the board. If they get all of their pieces to that spot, they win."

During each turn, a player selects a card, and the card gives the player instructions on what to do, such as moving

forward a few spaces or moving a few spaces back.

"I was inspired to theme the game like I did because I love drawing roses. It's something I'm very good at," Eickhoff said. "When I read through the list of options on what to compete with, it caught my eye and I decided then and there it was what I wanted to do."

Savell created the portfolio for the game, wrote the rules and instructions, and supervised Eickhoff while she designed the game and art.

"I watched Madison create all the art and put a lot of effort into the portfolio that went with it," Savell said. "I was surprised our game took first place, and I'm happy our work paid off."

See **GAME**, page 2A



Neshoba Central junior Madison Eickhoff and senior Noah Savell recently won first place for a board game they produced in a state competition.

OPINION

Rich Lowry

PAGE 4A

JUST AMONG FRIENDS

Marianne Enochs PAGE 1B

OPINION

Patrick Buchanan PAGE 4A



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Family searching for lost pet cow named June

By SCOTT HAWKINS
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Nicki Thrash is asking for help in finding her beloved red beef master cow named June.

"We went to feed them and she didn't come up," said Thrash of June, the 11-year-old cow she bottle-fed and raised from a calf after it was abandoned by its mother near her family's farm.

Thrash said the calf originally belonged to her neighbor who raises cattle and told her if she could nurse the calf she could keep it, which she did and eventually named her June.

Since then, Thrash said June has become like a family member and stays with the other cattle on the Sullivan family's farm in Neshoba County.

June turned up missing weeks ago on Thursday, May 13.

Through the years after

hand-raising June, Thrash, whose maiden name is Sullivan, said she has gotten married to her husband, Robert Thrash, and had a daughter named Elsie Clair, now 2, who loves June and even rides June.

"She is really gentle," Thrash said of June.

While the family, including the Thrash family, raise cattle on their land, Thrash said June lives with the other head of cattle but is treated differently and has even had a few calves of her own, some of which the family have kept and some that have been sold.

Elsie Claire, Thrash said, has asked, "Where is June?" every day since the cow went missing.

"We don't think anyone stole her," Thrash said, adding they have spent a lot of time walking the property and inquiring with neighbors but have had no luck finding June.

Just in case June was

stolen, however, Thrash said they have filed a report with the Neshoba County Sheriff's office and they are offering an unspecified cash reward for information that leads to June's recovery.

Thrash said she believes someone fishing on the property might have accidentally left a gate open that allowed June to wander off the property.

Meanwhile, Thrash is getting the word out via social media.

"Please be on the look out for June! Red cow beef master very friendly!" Thrash wrote in a recent Facebook post with a picture of June. "Older cow scar on back leg! She is a PET! PLEASE help us find her, we thinking someone fishing may have let her out! Road 737 hwy 486 road 456, Philadelphia MS, 601-416-7966, 601-663-8028."



Elsie Clair Thrash visits with the family's pet cow, June, who has been missing since May 13.



Photo by Coleman Eakes
Emergency personnel at the scene after an accident at the Fast Pace Urgent Care building last Wednesday afternoon.

Driver runs into urgent care building

By DUNCAN DENT
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Police are investigating a one-vehicle wreck in which a driver ran a vehicle into a building on Beacon Street last Wednesday afternoon.

Philadelphia Police Det. Bobby Pattillo said that at

approximately 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26, PPD received a call regarding a motor vehicle accident involving a vehicle and a building at the Fast Pace Urgent Care, 1017 West Beacon St.

"No reason has been determined (for the wreck)," Pattillo said.

The driver was transported by ambulance to Neshoba General.

"I have no other info on the extent of those injuries or her current condition," Pattillo said of the driver.

The wreck remains under investigation.

**RE-ELECT
Jim
FULTON**

Alderman Ward 2

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Cares about
OUR Future**

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at THE DEPOT
256 W. Beacon St.

Other Saturdays
7 a.m. - 12 p.m.
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704 E. Main St.

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

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For questions about requirements or to register, contact the
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**SUMMER KID'S CLUB AT
CANAL PLACE CINEMA 7**

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING IN JUNE

JUNE 2 - BABE (G)

JUNE 9 - CAT IN THE HAT (PG)

JUNE 16 - Flintstones (PG)

JUNE 23 - Little Rascals (PG)

**JUNE 30 - How the Grinch
Stole Christmas (PG)**

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F **f** **I** **o**

Opinion

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

The country is coming apart

After nine people were shot to death by a public transit worker, who then killed himself in San Jose, the latest mass murder in America, California Governor Gavin Newsom spoke for many on the eve of last Memorial Day weekend.

"What the hell is going on in the United States of America? What the hell is wrong with us?"

Good question. Indeed, it seems that the country is coming apart.

In May, Congress, to address a spate of criminal assaults on Asian Americans, enacted a new hate crimes law to protect them.

May also witnessed a rash of assaults on Jewish Americans to show the attackers' hatred of Israel and support for the Palestinians in the Gaza war.

The terms "racist" and "racism" are now commonplace accusations in political discourse and a public square where whites are expected to ritually denounce the "white privilege" into which they were born.

In the year since the death of George Floyd and the rise of the Black Lives Matter "Defund the Police!" campaign, the shootings and killings of cops and citizens in our great cities have skyrocketed.

In March, and again in April, 167,000 immigrants were caught crossing our southern border illegally. The invaders are now coming not only from Central and South America but also from Africa, the Islamic world and the largest and most populous continent, Asia. And their destiny may be to replace us.

For as the endless invasion proceeds, native-born Americans have ceased to reproduce themselves. Not since the birth dearth of the Great Depression and WWII, when the Silent Generation was born, has the U.S. population experienced such a birth decline as today.

At the same time, a war of all against all in America seems to raise the question, to which recitation of the cliché — "Our diversity is our great-

Equality of opportunity is no longer enough. An equality of rewards is replacing an equality of rights.

est strength" — no longer seems an adequate response:

Is there no limit to the racial, religious, ideological, political, cultural and ethnic diversity the nation can accommodate before it splinters into its component parts?

In professions of religious belief, atheists, agnostics and secularists have become our largest "congregation," followed by Catholics and Protestants, both of which are in numerical decline.

Diversity of faiths leads to irreconcilable, clashing opinions about morality on the most divisive social issues of our era: abortion, homosexuality, same-sex marriage, etc.

Racial diversity, too, is bringing back problems unseen since the 1960s.

America was almost 90% white in 1960, but that figure is down to 60% and falling. In 25 years, we will all belong to racial minorities.

Are we Americans still united in our love of country? Do we still take pride in what we have done for our own people and what America has done for the world in the 400 years since Jamestown?

Hardly. Part of the nation buys into the academic and intellectual elites' version of history, tracing America's birth as a nation to the arrival of the first slave ship in Virginia in 1619.

We not only disagree about our history; some actually hate our history.

That hate can be seen in the statues and monuments destroyed, not just of Confederate military heroes but of the European explorers who discovered America, the Founding Fathers who created the nation, and the leaders, from Thomas Jefferson to Andrew Jackson to Teddy Roosevelt, who built the America we became.

Yet, tens of millions from all over the world still see coming to America as the realization of a life's dream.

Some look at Western civilization as 500 years of colonialism, imperialism, genocide, slavery and segregation — practiced against people of color. This is the source of the West's wealth and power, it is said, and that wealth and power should be redistributed to the descendants of the victims of Western rapacity.

For many, equality of opportunity is no longer enough. We must make restitution, deliver reparations and guarantee a future where an equality of rewards replaces an equality of rights.

Meritocracy must yield to equity. Elite high schools, such as Thomas Jefferson in Virginia, Stuyvesant in New York and Lowell in San Francisco, must abandon their emphasis on grades, tests and exams to gain admissions and prove progress.

And these schools must be remade to mirror the racial and ethnic composition of the communities where they reside.

And a new cancel culture has taken root in America.

Former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, a CNN commentator, was fired for suggesting that Native American institutions and culture played no significant role in the foundation and formation of the American Republic.

"We birthed a nation from nothing. I mean, there was nothing here. I mean, yes, we have Native Americans," Santorum said, adding: "There isn't much Native American culture in American culture."

Impolitic though this rendition was, was it wholly false?

Something is seriously wrong with a country that professes to be great but whose elite cannot abide the mildest of heresies to its established truth.

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

CAL THOMAS

The Jan. 6 commission we really need

How about a commission to examine the source of the anger that produced the attack?

that has misspent our money for years on programs that don't work and to help politicians stay in office. We must live within our means, but government is spending us into unsustainable debt.

Wall Street Journal columnist Gerald Seib attempted to make the case for a commission, even while acknowledging that trials, investigations by journalists and other information about the incident will eventually be known. He seems to think a commission made up of politicians will find credibility with most Americans. Probably the opposite will be true.

How about a commission to examine the source of the anger that produced the attack? The sources aren't conservative talk radio or cable TV. They are merely conduits for many Americans who are fed up with their government and want it to return to the boundaries established by the Founders.

While violence and destruction were not justified on Jan. 6, or at any other time, the riot might go a long way toward heading off future incidents if our leaders understood the depth of feeling held by those rioters who believe their country is being taken away from them without their consent.

We are told we must pay more taxes to a government

behind Russia and China and many other countries in important subjects, such as math and science.

Notice there are no proposals for a commission to investigate Black Lives Matter, or the large amounts of dark money used by both parties flooding in to influence our elections. No, it is only people viewed as the "extreme right" who should be subject to investigations.

There are numerous quotes, even books, about nations that have crumbled under the weight of their own self-indulgence. None surpass the statement by our 16th president. Abraham Lincoln said: "From whence shall we expect the approach of danger? Shall some trans-Atlantic military giant step the earth and crush us at a blow? Never. All the armies of Europe and Asia...could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or make a track on the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men, we will live forever or die by suicide."

If a commission looking into what fueled the Jan. 6 riot is established, that quote would explain our suicidal tendencies. It might also explain the anger many feel.

Cal Thomas, a nationally syndicated columnist, is the author of "America's Expiration Date: The Fall of Empires, Superpowers and the United States" (HarperCollins/Zondervan, January 2020).

BIBLE SELECTION

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

— 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (ESV)

FOUNDED 1881

THE NESHOBIA 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

Memorial Day

This editorial first appeared on May 30, 2018.

Every day could be Memorial Day, but the last Monday in May is set aside as a day of reflection and remembrance of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to country.

On Monday, a grateful nation paused to honor those who didn't come home — or if they did it was in a flag-draped casket.

In ceremonies on town squares, at Arlington National Cemetery, at major league ballparks, at family picnics or in quiet reflection, the dead were again memorialized.

"Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance," former Circuit Judge Vernon Cotten said at a ceremony here a few years ago.

"America's collective consciousness demands that all citizens be aware of and recall on special occasions the deaths of their fellow countrymen during war time," he said.

"Far too often the nation as a whole takes for granted the freedoms all Americans enjoy. Those freedoms were paid for with the lives of others few of us actually knew."

Cotten quoted Abraham Lincoln when he said: "From these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."

Carved into granite at the cemetery in France where 5,076 Americans are buried — most of whom died in the Battle of the Bulge — are Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's words:

"All who shall hereafter live in freedom will be here reminded that to these men and their comrades we owe a debt to be paid with grateful remembrance of their sacrifice and with the high resolve that the cause for which they died shall live eternally."

It doesn't seem that long ago how our whole town turned out and lined the streets waving American flags as funeral proces-

sions for Joshua Ladd and later Matthew Stovall — both of whom died early in the Iraq war — passed.

Sgt. Joshua S. Ladd was killed May 1, 2004, in Iraq. He was 20. He was an eager young man willing to serve a country he believed in.

Second Lt. Matthew Ryan Stovall died Aug. 22, 2004, in Mosul, Iraq. He was 25.

A soldier under Stovall's command wrote to his family not long after reflecting on his outstanding leadership in the hellish outpost of Iraq as a platoon leader who was very much in demand: "The easiest way I found to locate him was to follow the sound of laughter and trail of smiling people, and there, in the center of a group of people joking and laughing, would be lieutenant wearing a grin."

At Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, President Trump honored the wife and 7-year-old son of a fallen Marine. The President met the boy last year and they walked — the kid in full Marine dress — among the grave markers to his father's burial place in a touching moment that captured the nation.

"Last year at Arlington Cemetery, I met a young boy named Christian Jacobs. He was special," Trump said. "He was standing fully in a uniform. His father was a great man to him and he was a great man to me. And Christian was standing over his father's grave, saluting. It was something I'll never forget."

"It was a moment I will always remember. Christian, I want you to know that even though your father has left this world, he's left it for the next. He's not gone, he'll never be gone. Your dad's love, courage, and strength live in you, Christian, and as you grow bigger and stronger, just like him, so, too, does your father's incredible legacy. So thank you both. That's so beautiful. Thank you."

President Trump said to Gold Star mothers everywhere, "May we never, ever forget our honored war dead and their sacrifices."

FLASHBACKS

JUNE 6, 1941

William Harrison Parker of Philadelphia will receive the Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Tennessee medical division in Memphis at the spring graduation. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh M. Parker, who is planning to attend the graduation.

Miss Margie Mulholland, M.S.C.W. and Mr. Dwight Mulholland, Miss. State College, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Mulholland of Philadelphia, just received their B.S. degrees with honors. Miss Mulholland was one of 22 students out of 225 seniors at MSCW who graduated with honors. She received a Bachelors of Science in Home Economics, Cum Laude. Mr. Mulholland was one of 15 out of 101 students in the School of Agriculture who received his degree with honors.

MAY 31, 1951

1-Sgt. Charles Rushing, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.P. Rushing of the Coldwater Community arrived home from Korea, and he is the first Neshoba County resident to come back on the Rotation Plan.

Pfc. Millard and Pfc. Charles B. Chaney, brothers, sons of Mr. and Mrs. L.B. Chaney, who lives in Philadelphia, is in active service. Charles has recently been commended for exemplary service with the 17th Inf Regiment in Korea. Millard with the US marines is stationed at Point Merger, California.

JUNE 1, 1961

Two Neshoba County friends are at basic training together in Camp Carson, Colorado. Pvt. Warren Dewees Jr., and Pvt. Frank Snow entered the service together in March of this year. Pvt. Dewees is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Dewees of the Arlington Community and Pvt. Snow is from the Stallo Community.

JUNE 4, 1971

Mayor Allan King signs a proclamation designating June as Dairy Month, which is also observed statewide and nationally. The people present while he declares this is; R.B. White, county dairy farmer and chairman of June Dairy Month, and Joe Fulton, association county agent.

MAY 28, 1981

Therrell Myers announced today that Mrs. Nancy H. Williams has accepted the position of assistant band director for the Philadelphia city schools for the 1981-82 year. Mrs. Williams is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O.W. Hardy of Philadelphia. She attended Philadelphia schools and graduated in 1963.

MAY 29, 1991

Winners in the championship flight of the ladies golf tournament at the Philadelphia Country Club were; Leigh Ann Perdeye and Yancy Mason, third with 79; Cathay Bailey and Rhonda Tate, first with 75; and Brenda Rhea and

SALLY SCOTT, second with 78.

MAY 30, 2001
The recipient of the Barry Neese Scholarship this year at Leake Academy is Hayley Wooten, daughter of Melvin and Yolanda Wooten of Carthage. The Barry Neese memorial Scholarship was established in the memory of Barry Neese who attended Leake Academy. The scholarship is awarded each year to a Leake Academy senior who is aspiring to achieve a degree in a health related profession.

Thomas Tinsley, fourth grade student at Philadelphia Elementary was recognized as top SUPERKID. Thomas raised the most money in his school for the American Lung Association of Mississippi and their SUPERKIDS tobacco co-education program/fundraiser.

JUNE 1, 2011
This cabbage plant was a school project for Macy Loper, a third grader in Mrs. Pope's class at Neshoba Central Elementary school. She is the granddaughter of Joe and Linda Beckham. The cabbage plant weighed 15 pounds and the head of it was 13 inches across.
Margaret Rivers and grandson Bradley Rivers, both of Union, competed in Attala Bowhunters in Sallis, 3-D bow shoot. Mrs. Rivers placed first with a score of 245 (women's bowhunter division) while Bradley placed first with a score of 250 (youth division).

BIBLE SELECTION

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

— 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (ESV)

Surveillance camera captures suspect in theft at church

By DUNCAN DENT
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Sheriff's deputies are searching for a suspect caught by a surveillance camera in connection with a car burglary at a local church.

The Neshoba Sheriff's Office is looking for the person responsible for taking catalytic converters from the church van at the Ocobia Baptist Church on Mississippi 16 east Thursday morning around 3:30 a.m.

"We are working diligent-

ly," said Sheriff Eric Clark. "We have received tips and are following up on each tip."

The SUV in a photo posted to Clark's Facebook page was missing taillights on the driver's side, officials said.

Earlier in May, Clark said he had heard reports that Lauderdale County law enforcement had been dealing with the issue and he knew of several instances in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Police Chief Eric Lyons said at the time that the city had recorded about

three or four such instances in early May and late April. He said targeted vehicles tend to be Fords and Dodges. The thieves appear to be operating at night, likely after midnight and that most of the vehicles have been parked at businesses.

Lyons said that as of May 11 they did not have a lot to go on because so far they have not been able to get surveillance video footage of potential suspects, though they do have a vehicle description.

PPD spokesman Bobby Pat-

tillo said their investigation continues.

"We are still working on it and are following a few leads," Patillo said.

Clark said in early May his department had already dedicated resources to the case. He said the thieves are sliding under vehicles and cutting the catalytic converters off of the exhaust systems with a cutting tool.

Clark said the street value of the items range between \$75 and \$150 but that victims will

have to spend many times that to replace a stolen catalytic converter.

Specifically, Clark said one had been stolen from a car parked in the lot across the street from D&W Tire. He said a number of vehicles from the AT&T maintenance fleet on Waterview Lane between lakeside Drive and Beacon Street had been hit as well.

"When they came in in the morning and people started cranking up their service trucks they knew something was

wrong," Clark said.

Crimestoppers is offering a reward for information related to the case, Clark and Lyons said. Lyons recommended that residence and business owners invest in cameras and motion sensor lights to deter potential thieves.

If you have any information about these thefts, please call 1-855-485-8477 (TIPS) or 601-656-1414 for the Sheriff's Office and 601-656-2131 for the Police Station.

County unemployment numbers return to pre-pandemic rate

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
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What a difference a year can make.

Unemployment rates jumped throughout the nation from April a year ago. The COVID-19 Pandemic forced businesses and industries to close and send their employees home to avoid infection.

Customers were staying away, too. The April 2020 unemployment rate in Neshoba County jumped to 16.4%, one point above the state average of 15.4% and two points above the national unemployment average of

14.4%.

Neshoba County's unemployment rate has returned to pre-pandemic numbers with the rate falling 10.5 percentage points when compared to last year. The rate stood at 5.9% in April 2021, one-tenth above the 6.0% in March 2021, according to numbers from the Mississippi Employment Security Commission.

Neshoba County's labor force in April stood at 10,200 people. Of that, 610 people were out of work.

Mississippi's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2021 was 5.8%, decreasing

APRIL 2021 MARCH 2021 APRIL 2020

Neshoba	5.9%	6.0%	15.4%
Kemper	7.8%	7.8%	13.5%
Leake	5.7%	6.1%	13.3%
Lauderdale	5.7%	5.8%	15.8%
Newton	5.7%	5.9%	13.6%
Scott	4.8%	4.9%	14.0%
Noxubee	8.9%	8.8%	15.8%
Winston	6.5%	6.9%	13.3%
Attala	6.9%	6.9%	15.4%

four-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month's rate of 6.2%. When compared to the April 2020 rate of 15.4%, the rate decreased 9.6 percentage points.

The number of unemployed decreased 3,900 over the month, while the employed total increased 12,800 from the prior month. The Nation's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2021 at 5.7 percent was down five-tenths of a percentage point from 6.2% in March 2021 and 8.7 percentage points from 14.4% in April 2020.

Mississippi's not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased 2,400 over the month

and 107,400 over the year.

Industry sectors registering the largest monthly employment gains were leisure and hospitality, and educational and health services.

For the month of April 2021, 32 counties in Mississippi posted unemployment rates less than or equal to the state's rate of 5.8%. Rankin County posted the lowest unemployment rate for the month of April at 3.7% followed by Lamar County at 4.2%. Jefferson County had the highest unemployment rate for April at 16.0% followed by Humphreys County at 12.7%.

OBITUARIES

Vida Lovelle Fleming

Services for Mrs. Vida Lovelle Fleming were Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Bro. Wade Chappell and Bro. Bobby Waggoner officiating. Burial followed in Old Pearl Valley Baptist Cemetery. Vida Fleming, 107, of Neshoba County, died Thursday, May 27, 2021.



Vida
Fleming

A native of Neshoba County, she lived in the Arlington Community until 1994. She retired from Whitfield.

Mrs. Lovelle was a lifelong member of Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church. She enjoyed reading and teaching God's Word up to 100 years old.

Survivors include her granddaughter and two great-grandsons.

Preceding Mrs. Fleming in death were husband, Bill Fleming; parents, Cora and Bert Tullos; son, Wayne and wife, Betty; infant grandsons, Jonathan and David; siblings Melvin Tullos, Marvin Tullos, Eunice Eubanks and James Tullos.

Mrs. Skipper, 63, of Union, died Friday, May 28, 2021.

She was a native of Meridian and longtime resident of House Community of Neshoba County. She formerly worked in nursing at Laird's Hospital, East MS State Hospital, Neshoba General Nursing Home, and Queen City Nursing Home in Meridian. Mrs. Skipper was a member of Antioch Baptist Church.

Survivors include husband, Wallace "Skip" Skipper of Union; daughter, Amy Sartin of Jayess; nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; mother, Sara E. Smith; sisters, Sarita Rainey and Susan Smith; brothers, Johnnie Smith, Luke Smith and Bobbie Slaton.

Preceding Mrs. Skipper in death were her son, John Anthony; father, Junior Smith; and sister, Hazel Thorp.

Mary Beth Skipper

Visitation for Mary Beth Skipper was held Sunday, May 30, 2021 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. at McClain-Hays Funeral Home. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Skipper, 63, of Union, died Friday, May 28, 2021.

She was a native of Meridian and longtime resident of House Community of Neshoba County. She formerly worked in nursing at Laird's Hospital, East MS State Hospital, Neshoba General Nursing Home, and Queen City Nursing Home in Meridian. Mrs. Skipper was a member of Antioch Baptist Church.

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Preceding Mrs. Skipper in death were her son, John Anthony; father, Junior Smith; and sister, Hazel Thorp.

Doris Clay Swicegood

Funeral services for Doris Clay Swicegood will be held Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 11 a.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Pastor Butch Clay and Pastor Ruskin Clay officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be held Wednesday, June 2, 2021 from 9 a.m. until service time at McClain-Hays Funeral Home. McClain-Hays Funeral Home will be in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Swicegood, 86, of Philadelphia, died Saturday, May 29, 2021 at her home.

She was a native of Oklahoma

and a former longtime resident of New Orleans. She retired from Ochsner Hospital where she worked numerous years in clerical work and then moved back to Philadelphia to be with family. Mrs. Swicegood was the Church of Christ by faith.

Survivors include her daughter, Sissy Killen (Buddy) of Philadelphia; sons, Butch Clay (Charlene) of Macon, MS and Steve Clay of Philadelphia; grandchildren, Ruskin Clay, Raleigh Clay, Amber Rand, Chad Clay, Cody Killen and Colt Killen; great-grandchildren; Mak Clay, Charis Clay, Leo Clay and Charlie Cruz Killen; sister, Louise Ellis of Colcord, OK; numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

Mrs. Swicegood was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Clay, Sr.; parents, Lloyd and Harriet May Brown; sister, Marlene Lawrence; brothers, Kenny and Earl Brown.

Survivors include daughters, Sharlene Vasquez, Cynthia Smith Dixon; sisters, Annie Kate Sam, Mattie Mae Smith; 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers are Vincent Smith, Melford Smith, Martin Smith, Barry Jim, Jr., Garronen Sam, Vince Smith.

Visitation was 5:30 pm Thursday, May 13, 2021 at Wilcox Funeral Home and from 1-2 pm Friday May 14 at Sunrise Baptist Church. Services were 2:00 pm Friday, May 14, 2021 at Sunrise Baptist Church with Rev. Guy Odom and Rev. Joe Abel officiating. Interment with military honors followed in the Springfield Cemetery. Wilcox Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Thaggard was a native of St. Louis, MO. She was a member of Sunrise Baptist Church, the American Legion, Sunrisers, and Samaritan Purse (Operation Christmas Child). She served in the United States Marine Corp.

Survivors include: her husband, Gary Thaggard of Madalen; 4 sons, Russ Thaggard of Madalen, Dan Thaggard of Madalen, Lee Thaggard of Meridian,

and Andy Thaggard of Fort Rucker, AL; a daughter, Kelly Stone of Cordova, TN; a sister, Annette "Toni" Rulo of Hartford, CN; 9 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Chanss Thaggard, Andy Thaggard, Cooper Thaggard, David Thaggard, Kasey Johnson, and Joseph Thaggard.

and Andy Thaggard of Fort Rucker, AL; a daughter, Kelly Stone of Cordova, TN; a sister, Annette "Toni" Rulo of Hartford, CN; 9 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her daughter, Sissy Killen (Buddy) of Philadelphia; sons, Butch Clay (Charlene) of Macon, MS and Steve Clay of Philadelphia; grandchildren, Ruskin Clay, Raleigh Clay, Amber Rand, Chad Clay, Cody Killen and Colt Killen; great-grandchildren; Mak Clay, Charis Clay, Leo Clay and Charlie Cruz Killen; sister, Louise Ellis of Colcord, OK; numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

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Mrs. Thaggard was a native of St.

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— Matthew 24:13 (KJV)

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

Mass conversions to Christ

The first part of this chapter gives us the account of the church spreading to Samaria and of mass conversions to Christ occurring. The growth was through the evangelist Philip's preaching first and then through the apostles Peter and John.

The Lord now directs Philip to leave that happy scene and go to a lightly traveled road in a desert place. There he encounters an Ethiopian eunuch traveling home in a chariot from Jerusalem. This man was a high court official of the queen of Ethiopia, and he had been to Jerusalem to worship (verses 27-28).

The man is reading the book of Isaiah, and the Lord directs Philip to go over to him. Philip approaches the man and asks, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man knows he needs help, so he invites Philip to sit with him.

The passage the man was reading was from Isaiah 53, a chapter about the servant of God bearing the iniquity of sinner. Philip begins with the passage in Isaiah and tells him the good news about Jesus (verse 35). The man believes, is baptized, and then continues his journey rejoicing (verse 39).

One of the things we learn here is that evangelism is about the person and work of Christ Jesus. This is taught to us in the Scriptures. Philip explains Scripture to the man. Isaiah 53 points to the suffering and atoning work of Christ on the cross for sinners.

In Isaiah 53:4-5 we read, "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities, upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed."

The principle of substitution is plain; he is bearing the guilt of others in their place. Also, it is penal. He is punished not for his own guilt, but the guilt of others. And the guilt of those he dies for is from willful transgression. In verse 6, the prophet says, "We all like sheep have gone astray, each to his own way." Your "own way" means not God's way, not the righteous way. So Christ died for sinners.

The Ethiopian man was sinful and knew it. His traveling on a desert highway was indicative of his soul, parched and thirsty. This man rejoices after his baptism, as only a forgiven sinner can rejoice. And he is not alone. Jesus said in Luke 15 that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. They don't rejoice over men going their own way. They rejoice over one who, knowing his sinful condition, turns to Christ. Do angels rejoice over you?

This joy of coming to Christ is unlike any other joy. It is of the Holy Spirit, so it comes with the light of God's word. It is a glorious word that shines out of the darkness. It is a pleasant and delightful thing to the soul to behold this light.

In his ministry on earth, Jesus healed many blind men. It is not burdensome to a man to go from years of darkness to having his eyes opened if he can see the grass of the fields, and the heavens above. The soul that comes into an understanding of God's word discovers the excellency of God and the beauty of Christ the Savior. He sees by faith the light that was hidden to him before.

It is pleasing and refreshing to the soul to give oneself to Christ upon seeing the light of his truth, as it would be for a man locked up in a dark dungeon in chains to be set free and brought out into the world. So too, those escaping from the darkness of the devil's kingdom can't but rejoice in entering into the kingdom of God's beloved Son (Colossians 1).

Thankfulness, humility, and love toward the Lord Jesus for bearing your sin are not miserable to the soul, but are the spring of all happiness. The way of Christ is the best way, and the most pleasing way for your soul. It is a great joy to me to confess my Lord. Whatever my sins may be, I am not ashamed of Jesus, nor do I fear to declare the doctrines of his cross.

The Ethiopian man, on a long journey, found the path of life; the narrow way, but joyful way. Jesus promises to confess before his Father those who confess him in this world.

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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Members of the Choctaw Veterans Color Guard, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, 2019-2021 Choctaw Princess Elisah Jimmie, Choctaw Veteran Affairs Director Sammie Wilson, and Chief Master

Sergeant Ricky Alex gather around the center of the Veterans Memorial to lay the wreath in honor of Memorial Day.

Tribe honors veterans with memorial wreath laying

By JOHN LEE
john@neshobademocrat.com

In honor of Memorial Day, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held the Memorial Laying of the Wreath Ceremony last Friday at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial.

The ceremony honored members of the military who died in service defending the freedom and ideals of the nation.

Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, 2019-2021 Choctaw Indian Princess Elisah Jimmie, Tribal Council Representatives Wilma Simpson-McMillan and Ronnie Henry Sr., Choctaw Veterans Color Guard, Protective Services Unit officials, Choctaw Veterans Affairs officials, other Tribal officials, and several Tribal member Veterans, as well as members of the Tribal community were present.

Princess Elisah led the program as emcee and introduced the Choctaw Veterans Color Guard, who presented the colors. Darien Tubby sang the National Anthem in the Choctaw language and the Rev. Thomas Ben gave the invocation.

Ben offered remarks and thanked the members of the military for their service and sacrifice,

as well as honoring those members who paid the ultimate price for freedom.

Chief Master Sgt. Ricky Alex was the guest speaker and reminded everyone of the sacrifices made by not only the military members but their families as well. He spoke of his own personal struggle with being simultaneously proud and concerned for his own son, who is consider-

ing joining the military.

Ben, Alex, Elisah and Choctaw Veterans Affairs Director Sammie Wilson then gathered around the wall near the center of the Veterans Memorial and laid the wreath. Members of

the Protective Services Unit then fired a gun salute, and one member played taps.

Wilson concluded the ceremony by thanking attendees for coming out to honor the veterans.

COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail Docket from 5/24-5/31

- Patrick Barnett, 31, of 10200 Hwy 491 N 3; hold for investigations

- Paula C Barnett, 52, of 14567 Hwy 21 S; false pretense X2, false ID information

- Edwin Bell, 47, of 117 Mable Jackson; failure to appear, driving under the influence-1st offense, no insurance, careless driving, suspended drivers license

- Jaron Branning, 34, of BIA Rd 0241; hold circuit court

- Mike E Cannon, 39, of 10100 Rd 260, Union; driving under the influence-1st offense

- Lori Canterbury, 47, of 6308 Pioneer Trail, Moss Point; no charges listed

- Nicholas Lamar Catchings, 35, of 303 E Pizza St, Crystal Springs; hold circuit court

- Jesse Lee Cravatt, 34, of 186 Goat Ranch Rd; serving sentence

- John Nathan Davis, 34, of 10343 Rd 383; hold for other agency

- Welton Dennis, 26, of 1845 Hwy 21 S; hold circuit court

- Burlon Keith Goodin, 55, of 10751 Rd 452; probation violation

- Nijel Malik Goss, 21, of 115 Madison St, Carthage; driving under the influence-2nd offense, disorderly conduct, simple assault on a police officer, false ID information

- Piotr James Gullett, 27, of 946 Mt Olive Rd, Starkville; fleeing arrest, burglary-dwelling house

- Dontae C Harris, 19, of Philadelphia; possession of marijuana-vehicle

- Rose Jones, 45, of 3468 State Blvd; robbery-armed

- Casey Zanta Lyons, 21, of 10340 Rd 844; failure to appear

- Tellas Moore, 47, of 421 Barham St; hold circuit court

- Rachel Morris, 39, of 13580 Hwy 491 N; public drunk

- Joshua Lewis Quintana, 30, of 11620 Hwy 482 Lot 9; contempt of court

- Bryson Sam, 23, of 1197 Mills Rd, Conehatta; disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, public drunk, contempt of court-circuit

- Shelly Sharp, 25, of 11620 Hwy 482 Lot 9; contempt of court

- Brandon Lee Smith, 19, of 5615 Westgate Hills Dr, Meridian; malicious mischief under \$1000.00

- James Nolan Smith, 58, of 15909 Hwy 482 Lot 8; hold circuit court

- Leroy Stahl, 42, of 10270 Hwy 16 W; hold circuit court

- Jarrod Keith Stuart, 34, of 325 North St, Union; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia, false ID information X3

- Braxton Sullivan, 42, of 10051 Rd 337; possession of stolen property X2

- Ashley Williams, 37, of 220 Oswald Rd; failure to appear, possession of marijuana-vehicle

- Dalton Elliot Woods, 18, of 105 Bates Rd, Louisville; driving under the influence other substance, careless driving, possession of marijuana-1st offense

- Helena N Sanchez, 47, of 14931 Hwy 488; contempt of court-municipal court

- Willie J Smith, 34, of 1310 C McDonald Rd, Preston; failing or eluding a law enforcement officer in a motor vehicle-results in serious bodily injury to another, resisting arrest, MV-reckless driving, MV-seatbelt violation, hold for MDOC, accident-giving false information

- Tommie Boler, 52, of 581 Center Ave; disorderly conduct – failure to comply with request or command of law enforcement officers, resisting arrest, obstructing public streets - willful obstruction of use by impeding traffic

- Darius Carter, 28, of 1031 Jessie White Rd, Noxapater; disorderly conduct – failure to comply with request or command of law enforcement officers

- Willasia Clemons, 18, of 279 Gum St; obstruction-hindering prosecution-1st degree

- Frank Coleman, 61, of 269 Martin Luther King Dr; disorderly conduct – disturbing the peace

- Porchea S Davis, 27, of 3503 12th Ave East Apt 2, Tuscaloosa, AL; hold-detainer for other agency

- Bradley W Dixon, 37, of 14470 Hwy 15 N; aggravated assault-domestic

- Johnny Gibson, 52, of 101 Saint Francis Dr; domestic violence-simple assault-1st or 2nd offense, contempt of court-municipal court

- Terry Hardin, 56, of 1436 Miller Ave, Louisville; grand larceny

- Labrecia N McDonald, 26, of 1126 West Ave; contempt of court-municipal court

- Chad Monk, 47, of 3000 Hwy 16 E, Carthage; DUI-1st offense

- Thomas B Quintana, 35, of 555 Line St; controlled substance-possession of marijuana less than 30 grams or synthetic cannabinoids 10 grams or less in motor vehicle, controlled substance-possession of paraphernalia, controlled substance-possession of schedule I or II – 1/10th gram-2 grams or 2-10 dosage units

- Jaelyn K Rush, 20, of 145 Valley Rd, Preston; public drunk

- Kalisha T Talley, 20, of 246 Rea St; obstruction-hindering prosecution-1st degree

- Marcell Tubby, 28, of 107 Seal Cove Rd; aggravated assault-domestic

- Helena N Sanchez, 47, of 14931 Hwy 488; contempt of court-municipal court

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- Johnny Gibson, 52, of 101 Saint Francis Dr; domestic violence-simple assault-1st or 2nd offense, contempt of court-municipal court

- Terry Hardin, 56, of 1436 Miller Ave, Louisville; grand larceny

Meet the Candidates

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

Mayor

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James A. Young

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Jim Fulton

Ward 3 Alderman

Wright Griffis

Ward 4 Alderman

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Memorial

Continued from page 1A

Neshoba County war dead were read, grouped by the war in which they fell.

Afterward, there was a singing of God Bless America, and a gun salute by the 367th Maintenance Co. Taps was played and the program concluded.

This ceremony was special to Jarvis Winstead who served in the Marines during the Vietnam War.

"I attend this program every year," Winstead said. "I was in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. Some of the people I was with got killed. You never get over something like that. It is just a situation that is hard to get over."

Winstead volunteered for the Marines. After his active duty service, he joined the Army National Guard and served until 1992.

God has blessed the United States, 87-year-old veteran Wendell Jackson said after the ceremony.

"Memorial Day is one of the greatest days we have to commemorate in America.... God has blessed this country in such a marvelous way to recognize what he has provided for us through our military here and abroad, both men and women," he said.

Jackson was one of eight Neshoba County brothers who served the country. Five of his older brothers even served in WWII at the same time.

At the end of WWII Jackson said his father took his shotgun and fired it three times in recognition of the end of the war.

"We have received much, much more than we will ever be able to repay and I believe part of my ministry is to serve others," Jackson said.

Stanley Backstrom said his uncle, John Henry Backstrom, died in 1951 and they still have not found his remains.



Cecil Hooker sang "God Bless America" during the Memorial Day program at Dewitt DeWeese Park on Monday.

"To pay tribute to those that died and when I think about this day I think about my uncle," he said.

Three generations of Ray Crocker's family have served. His grandfather served in France and his father served during WWII.

Crocker, 77, has served 32 years in the military with 22 and a half of those years on active duty.

He has two sons both of whom are colonels. His oldest son commanded the 367th Maintenance Company when they deployed to Iraq.

"Memorial day represents freedom... without the soldiers that paid the ultimate price in order for us to have the freedom we have today... one life is too much to give and the thousands of people that were lost during conflict gave us the freedom to live

the way we want and be free," Crocker said.

He said his advice to young people on Memorial Day is, "Don't forget what happened and what we have.... people died for what we have today and we have to remember that in order to keep our freedom."

Don't worry about who gets credit, he said, "just do things out of the goodness of your heart."

State Sen. Jenifer Branning and Rep. Scott Bounds were recognized for their work to bring in state funds to help pay for the new Fallen Veterans Monument.

"It has been an honor for me to have been a part of this," Branning said. "We as a community need to remember who got us where we are, not just on Memorial Day but every day. Having this monument in our community will help us to pass the gratitude along to the next generation."

"As a long time business owner I believe in hard work with a common sense approach."
- James Waltman

Elect James Carson Waltman for Alderman at Large on June 8th.

Values/Goals

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- ★ I will work to promote unity.
- ★ 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.

If you believe as I do, I humbly ask for your support and vote on Election Day!

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Methamphetamine, also known as meth, is an addictive stimulant drug. Some people notice an urge to use meth after the first use.

Sometimes people use meth in combination with heroin, prescription opioids or other drugs. This greatly increases the likelihood of health problems, overdose and death. Illegal drugs can be mixed with dangerous drugs or toxic chemicals, such as fentanyl, that can cause poisoning or death. Just a sprinkle of fentanyl is deadly.



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Man who shot at deputy in jail

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A felon who allegedly traded gunfire with Neshoba County sheriff's deputies has been released from the hospital and taken to jail, Sheriff Eric Clark said.

Piotr James Gullett, 27, 946 Mt. Olive Road, Starkville, has been charged with fleeing arrest and burglary of a dwelling. He has been denied bond on both charges.

Gullet was arrested on May 21 following a manhunt after he fled on foot having fired shots at a Neshoba County Sheriff's deputy.

Clark said Gullet was released into the custody of deputies on Sunday, May 30. He was then transported to the Neshoba County Detention Center where he remains.

More charges are pending against Gullett in two investigations, Clark said.

First is the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation probe into the officer-involved shoot-

ing. Clark said that Gullett likely faces at least an aggravated assault charge, although others are possible and those will be determined by MBI. Jail records do not show any MBI charges against Gullett as of Tuesday morning.

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

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

Clark said the District Attorney 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 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 a wooded area near the intersection."

Multiple law enforcement agencies quickly responded, Clark said.

The investigation revealed the silver Toyota Tacoma was reported stolen from Oktibbeha County. Gullett was also responsible for the theft of a green Chevrolet pickup in Leflore County earlier on Friday.

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

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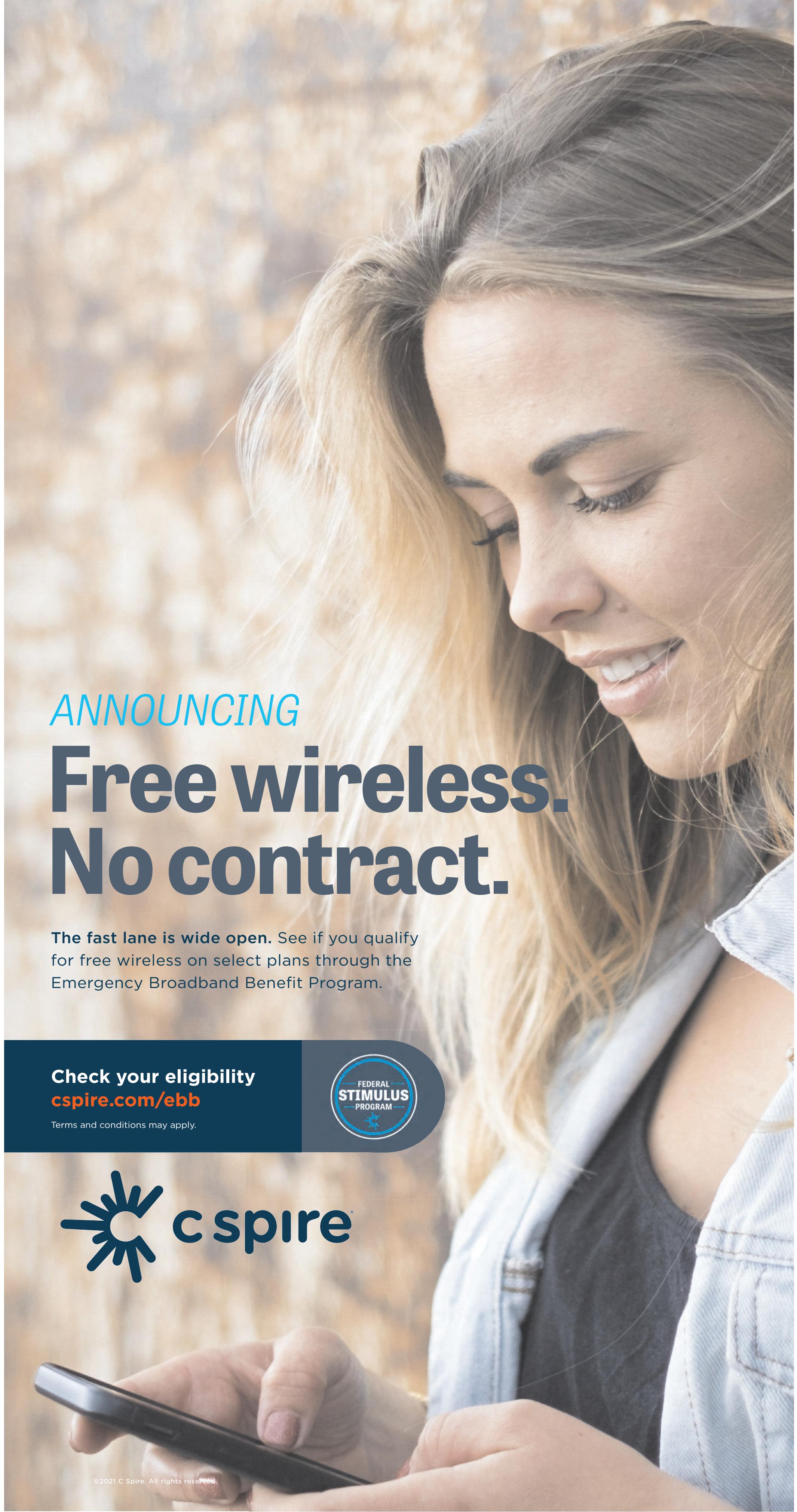
WRIGHT GRIFFIS, ALDERMAN IN WARD 3 (POLLING PLACE: DEPOT)

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Amerson celebrating recent retirement

By SARAH KATHRYN
WATKINS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Johnnie Amerson is celebrating her retirement after 30 years of working at Neshoba Central.

Amerson said she always knew she wanted to help children in any way possible and she has worked at Neshoba Central as a special education teacher assistant for the past 30 years.

Amerson started out working in the school cafeteria, and when the opening came for a teacher assistant, she took the job.

Last Tuesday, many of Amerson's family members traveled to Philadelphia to celebrate her retirement with her.

"They came from Houston, Texas, to Nashville, Tennessee," Amerson said.

Neshoba Central hosted a retirement ceremony for their staff on Tuesday, and the Amerson family watched her celebrate. On Friday, her family hosted a party for her. Amerson was excited to see her family and said she had a wonderful time.

"We ate good food, listened to music and danced," Amerson said. "I had to shed tears of joy that they were here with me."

Since she is now retired, Amerson said she plans to start doing more traveling and things around the house. For example, in July, Amerson will be taking a road trip to Orlando, Florida, but she plans to continue helping people like she has been doing her whole life.

Amerson lives in the Sandtown community with her husband Murkey. The couple met at church and got married in their 20s. Amerson and her husband have four grown children and 11 grandchildren. Two of the children live in Philadelphia, and the other two live away.

Amerson's family started cooking for her on Tuesday.

"Everyone who came brought potluck dishes, and it was enough for all of us," Amerson said. "We got so full we almost couldn't dance."

Amerson said she is thankful that she got to spend time with all her family and that they were able to celebrate her retirement with her. Her husband has been the cook around the house lately, but Amerson loves to cook. Amerson said when she cooks, and she likes to be the only one in the kitchen so she can concentrate.



Pictured, from left are Tim Edwards, Murkey Amerson, Trenell Edwards, Johnnie Amerson, Ken Edwards and Etress Sims.

MACARONI SALAD

- 2 stalks celery
- ½ small onion
- ½ cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon prepared mustard
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 4 cups macaroni, cooked
- 2 eggs, hard boiled

Chop celery and onion. Mix all ingredients except eggs and macaroni. In a large bowl, add macaroni. Mix lightly chill before serving.

7-UP CAKE

- 3 cups flour
- 3 cups sugar
- ¾ cups Crisco shortening
- 2 stick butter
- 5 eggs

Sift flour. Cream butter and shortening sugar together. Add eggs 1 at a time. Add flour and 7-Up alternate. Cook 1 hour at 325 degrees.

COOK OF THE WEEK

NECKBONE SOUP

- 1 small package neckbone
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 cans small green beans drained
- 5 red potatoes, peeled and cut in small chunks
- 1 small can tomato paste
- Salt and pepper to taste

Wash neckbone, add onions, salt and pepper. Let boil until meat is halfway tender (do not pour off broth).

Add green bean and potatoes. Let cook until tender, add tomato paste. Let simmer for about 20 minutes stirring occasionally. Then serve with cornbread.

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCKS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

The Philadelphia Rotary Club made a donation to the Love Out Loud Neshoba Project during the May 24 meeting. Club President Heath Stribling presented a check to Love Out Loud representative David Addy.

Love Out Loud is an opportunity for Philadelphia and Neshoba County to join together and share the love of Jesus with the people in our community. Love Out Loud will hold a week full of service during June 21-24 this year. Join them for a week of service, worship, and fun. For more information, please call 601-656-1820 or 601-656-1507.

Neshoba County has two more graduates from two different major universities in the state. The two are brothers who chose to attend separate universities. Jake Fanning received a diploma from the University of Mississippi where he majored in chemistry and biology. He was also elected Attorney General of the Associated Student Body. Jake has been accepted into dental school at the University Of Mississippi School of Dentistry where he will begin studying in the fall.

Dylan Fanning graduated from Mississippi State University with a bachelor degree in mechanical engineering.

Their very proud parents are Brian and Penny Luke Fanning, mother, Louise Renfrow, and grandmother, Louise Johnson.

Mother's Day this year was a special one for Sherry

Alford. Not only did she and Mack celebrate the holiday with Glen and Jennifer Alford Walker and their children, Emily, Grace, and Joseph, but they were present for Joseph's baptism.

It had been a long time since the Alfords were able to visit Macon, Georgia, and they thoroughly enjoyed it. The Walkers are frequent visitors to Mississippi where they like the country and all of the things they cannot do in the city.

The charming 457 Pecan was the site of a family shower honoring Macy Martin and Tanner Rhodes on Sunday afternoon, May 23 given by the Myatt and Marshall families.

It was a lovely shower with tables in black and white checked cloths, floral centerpieces of pastel flowers, and beams of bright sunshine pouring through the sun porch windows. The refreshment table in the music room with the elegant silver and floral wallpaper held a generous selection of delectable delicacies. A tall arrangement of fresh flowers centered the table. Cookies iced in white frosting with the words, "love, Tanner & Macy, or an R" were written on each in gold or white letters accented by a spray of greenery and a flower. A multi tiered strawberry cake was another delightful treat. Pink punch was served from a crystal punchbowl in matching cups.

A gift table covered in a white cloth with a floral arrangement was filled with beautifully wrapped presents for the couple. One unwrapped gift propped against the wall was a picture framed in white distressed wood with the

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

Bridal Registry

Mary Rhea & Haden Johnson	May 8, 2021
Madalyne McMahon & Taylor Irby	May 15, 2021
Amelia Henson & Austin Rowell	May 29, 2021
Macy Martin & Tanner Rhodes	June 5, 2021
Cecily Kate Price & Lane Waltman	June 26, 2021
Taylor Fulkerson & Nathan Roseberry	July 10, 2021
Kinsey Gentry & Cooper Smith	July 17, 2021
Anna Spears & Jordan Davidson	August 28, 2021
Kalee McCann & Anthony Cypher	September 4, 2021
Savannah Jones & Johnathan Simmons	September 4, 2021
Caroline Willis & Dave Crasto	September 25, 2021
Whitney Strickland & Mitchell Bounds	October 9, 2021
Shelby Herrington & Brandon Garner	October 23, 2021
Skyler Frank & Garrett Myers	October 23, 2021
Sara Watson & Jeremy Bowen	November 13, 2021
Margaret Jordan & Sam Webb	November 20, 2021

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LEGALS

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

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 14th day of May, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi to the undersigned, Nelda R. Wood, upon the Estate of Jennifer R. Rucker, deceased, late of Neshoba County, Mississippi, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred. /s/Nelda R. Wood NELDA R. WOOD EXECUTOR TRIX J. DOUGLAS SMITH Attorney for Executrix81 West Broad St.P.O. Box 567 Decatur, MS 39327(601)635-4444 52618

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

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 21st day of April, 2021, by the Court Clerk of the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to the undersigned upon Jimmie Lee Vaughn, Sr., deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the date or they will be forever barred. /s/Janet Waiter JANET WAITER ADMINISTRATRIX Prepared By: STEVEN D. SETTLE-MIRESETTORNEY FOR ADMINISTRATRIX Settlemires & Graham, PLLC410 East Beacon StreetPhiladelphia, MS 39350(601)656-9597MSBN: 99674 52620

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

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 21st day of April, 2021, by the Court Clerk of the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to the undersigned upon Shirley Ann Wilson, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the date or they will be forever barred. /s/Colton Wilson COLTON WILSON ADMINISTRATOR Prepared By: STEVEN D. SETTLE-MIRESETTORNEY FOR ADMINISTRATRIX Settlemires & Graham, PLLC410 East Beacon StreetPhiladelphia, MS 39350(601)656-9597MSBN: 99674 52621

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOBIA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE CIVIL ACTION, OF KENNETH EARL TOWNSEND, DECEASED FILE NO. 19-428 RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION (ALIAS) THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF NESHOBIA**

TO: All Unknown Heirs of Kenneth Earl Townsend, Deceased You have been made a respondent in the Petition to Determine Heirs filed with the Court by Bonnie Townsend seeking a judicial determination of the rightful heirs at law of Kenneth Earl Townsend. All other known heirs are Petitioner, Bonnie Townsend and Isaiah Townsend. You are summoned to appear and defend against said Petition filed against you in this action at 1:00 o'clock P.M. on the 6th day of July, 2021, at the Carroll County Chancery Courthouse, Vaiden, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the things demanded in the Petition. You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS COURT, this the 28th day of May, 2021. GUY NOWELL NESHOBIA COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK By: /s/W. Save D.C.

Jim Arnold
435 East Beacon Street
Philadelphia, MS

Publish:

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
The Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Public School District will hold a public hearing on the school district's 2021-2022 budget which includes the Special Education and Federal Programs budget on June 17, 2021 at 12:00 P.M. in the Support Services Building, Philadelphia, Mississippi. The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) for the district will also be discussed. The purpose of this hearing is to give the citizens of this school district an opportunity to comment on the expenditure and taxing plans of the district. The hearing is being conducted in compliance with the law as enacted by the 1986 and 1987 Legislative Sessions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT: Dr. Lisa Hull, Superintendent

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOBIA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ALEX HENSON, Deceased BY: ADRIAN HENSON, Petitioner Cause No: 2020-238
RULE 81 SUMMONS
(By Publication)**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF NESHOBIA:::
TO: To the known or unknown heirs-at-law of Alex Henson, Deceased**
You have been made a party in the suit filed in this Court by Adrian Henson, Administrator of the Estate

of Alex Henson, deceased and known heirs at law of Alex Henson, deceased seeking determination of the heirs at law of Alex Henson. You are summoned to appear and defend against the Petition filed in this action at 9:00 a.m. on the 8th day of July, 2021, before the Honorable Judge Joseph Kilgore, at the Attala County Chancery Courthouse, Kosciusko, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the relief or other things demanded in the Petition. You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire. Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court this, the 24th day of May, 2021.

GUY NOWELL, CHANCERY CLERK

WSavell, D.C.

Prepared and requested by:
RaToya Gilmer, Esq., MB # 104487
Gilmer & Green Legal Group, PLLC
Post Office Box 1668
Jackson, Mississippi 39215
Telephone: (769)208-8122
Facsimile: (769)235-6265

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SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2009, Carrie Clemons executed a certain deed of trust to David L. Thurston, Trustee for the use and benefit of Harvard Home Mortgage, Inc., which deed of trust is of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, state of Mississippi, in Deed of Trust Book 2009, Page 6054; and

WHEREAS, Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Champion Mortgage Company, the current holder and/or assignee, substituted Jauregui & Lindsey, LLC as Trustee by instrument recorded in the Chancery Clerk's Office on May 7, 2021 in Book 2021, Page 3916; and WHEREAS, Default having been made in the terms and conditions of said deed of trust and the entire debt secured thereby having been declared to be due and payable in accordance with the terms of said deed of trust, Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Champion Mortgage Company, the legal holder of said indebtedness, having requested the undersigned Substitute Trustee in said deed of trust, will on June 17, 2021 offer for sale at public outcry and sell within legal hours (beginning between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.), at the main front door of the County Courthouse of Neshoba County in Philadelphia, Mississippi, to the highest and best bidder for cash the following described property situated in Neshoba County, Mississippi, to wit: BEGINNING AT THE CENTER CORNER OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 11 NORTH, RANGE 12 EAST, AND RUN 11 NORTH, RANGE 12 EAST, AND RUN EAST ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE QUARTER SECTION LINE 75 FEET TO A CORNER, THENCE RUN NORTH 105 FEET TO A CORNER, THENCE RUN WEST 75 FEET TO THE QUARTER SECTION LINE, THENCE RUN SOUTH ALONG THE QUARTER SECTION LINE 105 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING ONE LOT SITUATED IN THE SW 1/4 OF NE 1/4, SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 11 NORTH, RANGE 12 EAST, LANDS NOT MAPPED IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, NESHOBIA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. I will convey only such title as vested in me as Substituted Trustee.

Jauregui & Lindsey, LLC
Substituted Trustee
Jauregui & Lindsey, LLC
244 Inverness Center Drive
Suite 200
Birmingham, AL 35242
(205) 970-2233

Publication dates: May 26, 2021, June 2, 2021, June 9, 2021, June 16, 2021

CHOCTAW TRIBAL CIVIL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

**THURMAN BEE THOMPSON, JR.
DECEASED**

C. A. NO.: 2021-144

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 26th day of May, 2021, by the Choctaw Tribal Civil Court to the undersigned ELISHIA LASHAY THOMPSON upon the Estate of THURMAN BEE THOMPSON, JR., deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the same, as provided by law, with the Clerk of the Court, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice. Failure to probate and register any such claim within ninety (90) days will forever bar the claim.

WITNESS THE SIGNATURE of the Administrator, this the 26th day of May, 2021.

/s/ ELISHIA LASHAY THOMPSON

ADMINISTRATRIX

SUBMITTED BY:

TIMOTHY L. TAYLOR, MSB# 103036

P. O. Box 6255; Choctaw, MS 39350

Ph: (601) 650-7449 / Fax: (601) 650-7421

Attorney for Administratrix

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Neshoba County School District office, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350 until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2021, for:

Neshoba Central HVAC, Restrooms, Doors, and Windows Replacement (Phase II)

Neshoba County School District (Philadelphia, Mississippi)

PryorMorrow Project Number: 2021104

Bid documents are being made available via original paper copy or electronically. Planholders are required to log-in or register for an account at www.pryor-morrowplans.com to view and order Bid Documents. All planholders are required to have a valid email address for registration.

Bid documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. Electronic bids are not required; however, a submission of an electronic bid in lieu of a sealed bid shall be submitted at www.pryor-morrowplans.com. Questions regarding website registration, online orders electronic bidding please contact Plan House Printing at (662) 407-0193.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with Section 00200 – Instructions to Bidders, bound in the Project Manual.

BID GUARANTEE: Proposals shall be submitted with Proposal Security in the form of Certified Check or acceptable Bid Bond in an amount equal to at least five percent (5%) of the base bid; such security is to be forfeited as liquidated damages, not penalty, by any bidder who fails to carry out the terms of the proposal. The Bid Bond, if used, shall be payable to the Owner.

Bonds on the project must be received on or before the period scheduled for the project and no bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for the project. Bids must be firm for a period of forty-five (45) days after the scheduled time of opening.

PERFORMANCE-PAYMENT BOND: A 100% Performance-Payment Bond issued by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Mississippi will be required within ten (10) days after the successful bidder has been notified of the award of the contract to him.

CERTIFICATE OF RESPONSIBILITY: All bids submitted by a prime or subcontractor for public works or public projects where said bid is in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to perform contracts enumerated in Section 31-3-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall contain on the outside or exterior of the envelope or container of such bid the contractor's current certificate number.

No bid shall be opened or considered unless such contractor's current certificate number appears on the outside or exterior of said envelope or container or unless there appears a statement on the outside or exterior of such envelope or container to the effect that the bid enclosed therewith does not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). When bids are submitted electronically, the requirement for including a certificate of responsibility, or a statement that the bid enclosed does not exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), on the exterior of the bid envelope shall be deemed in compliance by including the same information as an attachment with the electronic bid submittal. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities.

Published: (769)208-8122
Fax: (769)235-6265

May 26, 2021, June 2 and 9, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE SIXTEENTH SECTION LAND RE-CLASSIFICATION

The Board of Trustees of the Neshoba County School District hereby gives notice of the reclassification of the following Sixteenth Section Public School Trust Land from Residential to Forestry classification. Section 16, Township 10 North, Range 11 East Commence at the point where the North right-of-way of County Road 432 intersects the West right-of-way of County Road 355 located in Section 16, Township 10 North, Range 11 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi, this being the Point of Beginning. Thence run West along the North right-of-way of County Road 432 a distance of 260.00 feet more or less; thence run North a distance of 200.00 feet more or less; thence run East a distance of 210.00 feet more or less to the East section line and the West right-of-way of County Road 355; thence run South a distance of 210.00 feet more or less to the Point of Beginning.

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Trustees, Neshoba County School District, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi, up to and not later than 10:00 a.m., Monday, June 11, 2021 for hunting and fishing rights for a five year period on the following parcel of land in Neshoba County, Mississippi. Section 16, Township 12 North, Range 12 East The S 1/2 of NE 1/4; NE 1/4 of SE 1/4; NW 1/4 of NE 1/4, Section 16, Township 12N, Range 12E containing 158 acres, more or less, in Neshoba County, Mississippi, and identified as parcel 2 on map 14 of the Neshoba County Tax Assessor plat maps.

Any interested party desiring to object to this reclassification must submit such objection in writing to the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County on or before 5:00 p.m. on the 9th day of July, 2021. Neshoba County School District Lundy Brantley, Superintendent

Published: May 26, 2021, June 2 and 9, 2021

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
SIXTEENTH SECTION LAND RE-CLASSIFICATION**

Lawn stickers: the bane of bare feet

By FELDER RUSHING
rushingsfelder@yahoo.com

One practical word of advice for managing lawn stickers, the bane of bare feet: Flip-flops.

Call them stickers, burweed, spurreed, or just %\$@#! they are a real pain, both literally and to get rid of. Many gardeners have tried, most fail.

These low-growing distant sunflower relatives, ferny tufts of finely-divided leaves that look like carrot foliage, sprout in Autumn from seed, grow over the winter, make tiny flowers in the spring, and then set new button-like clusters of spurred seeds which are what stick in our feet, hands, elbows or anything else that comes in contact. They are doubly bad for dogs, which have twice as many feet and are unable to pick them out of tender paws.

The most frustrating thing is, by the time the dried seeds start giving us grief, the overwinter annuals are already beginning to die. Spraying them just makes the plants brown, earlier than normal, but we're still, er, stuck with the stickers. And truth is, spraying them with herbicides this time of the year not only won't work well on plants that are already dying, but weed killers that are normally tolerated by lawns, can weaken or damage your lawn if applied during the lawn's sensitive "spring green-up" period.

So, what to do? You can find stuff that will kill them, but which won't solve this year's travails. Bottom line is, there are just three ways to handle stickers, and you're not gonna like one of them.

According to turfgrass weed scientists at MSU, the most effective, albeit inconvenient, method of controlling stickers is to apply a granular pre-emergence herbicide in early fall, before October before the seeds sprout.

Or you can use a liquid herbicide to spray the plants in January or February, when they are small and easier to kill, before they set seed. Whatever will control dandelions, clover, wild

onion and garlic, and other late winter and spring lawn weeds will kill sticker plants. But - and this is crucial - it needs to be done in mid-winter when the plants are small and tender, before they flower and the lawn starts greening up.

Important frustrating note: Because I don't work with pesticides a lot, I can't keep up with ever-changing brands of what products do what the best. Main thing to remember is that not all weed killers are effective or safe for your lawn.; some are specific to certain kinds of weeds (true grasses vs. all others, collectively called "broadleaf" weeds), and many cannot be applied the same on all kinds of grass or at the same strengths. Put plainly, what is safe to use on different weeds in Bermudagrass may kill St. Augustine or centipede, and vice versa. So, just as with insecticides, especially on edible crops, read labels before buying or applying any kind of weed killer.

But pretty much the easiest and most effective way to control stickers, is to simply take better care of your lawn. Unlike perennial weeds that can poke up from underground bits, stickers and other weeds that grow from seed need sunshine to sprout and grow. When you ask about lawn weeds, I hear you saying your lawn is too sparse to shade out most weeds. Unless you do something to thicken up the grass, you will have these weeds year after year, and regular chemotherapy can quickly get old.

So, mow high, fertilize lightly, water deeply at least once a month without rain, and many of your lawn weeds will disappear.

Unable or unwilling to do all that? Flip-flops. Now if someone could just come up with doggy flip-flops.

Felder Rushing is a Mississippi author, columnist, and host of the "Gestalt Gardener" on MPB Think Radio. Email gardening questions to rushingsfelder@yahoo.com.



Lawn stickers are an annoying nuisance that are the bane of bare feet.

MSA accepting applications for dance, vocal, filmmakers

The Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) is accepting applications for the Dance, Vocal and Media Arts/Filmmaking Departments. Students who will be entering 11th grade apply online on the MSA website www.msabrookhaven.org. The process for admission includes on-line application, virtual audition and interview. Accepted students attend their Junior and Senior years of high school at MSA. If you know of students just finishing the 10th grade that will be entering the 11th grade who might be interested in

dance, vocal music or filmmaking, please let them know about this opportunity. Students have the option to be a Commuting Student and live at home if they live within 27 miles of MSA.

MSA is a public statewide eleventh and twelfth grade residential high school located in Brookhaven, MS on the Historic Whitworth College campus. Annually, MSA enrolls students who meet and exceed the traditional Mississippi high school curriculum by receiving intensive instruction in dance, literary arts, theatre, visual arts, vocal

music and media arts/filmmaking.

MSA is a great school for those students who want to explore the arts in an extraordinary way. We also fill a special need for students with demonstrated talent that need a collegiate level learning experience in the arts that is not widely available across our state.

We have some very exciting, unique opportunities for our students in the upcoming 2021-2022 school year! Our Media/Filmmaking students will be doing a collaborative project

with the San Francisco Arts Institute (SFAI) where they will work with MSA Instructor, John Kelly Shelburne and SFAI Instructor, Christopher Coppola to produce short films centered on Jackson, Mississippi and San Francisco, California. Christopher Coppola's inspiration for the project comes in part from his Uncle, Director Francis Ford Coppola, whom he states taught him, "The job and purpose of cinema is to convince people that the world they live in is not the only one available to them."

SFAI students will be traveling

to Mississippi and MSA students will be traveling to San Francisco to work on this project! It will be a class students receive credit for and it is also open to other disciplines.

Jonathan Sharp, Broadway performer and dance instructor at Idyllwild School of the Arts will be doing a Guest Residency at MSA where he will work with our Dance department and also students from our Vocal and Theatre departments that are interested in Broadway and Musical Theatre. His Residency will culminate with a Musical

Theatre Review highlighting performances by MSA students!

In addition to MSA students consistently winning awards for their work on the state, regional and national levels, the school holds the #2 highest ACT average in the state and the college scholarship opportunities for graduating Seniors are amazing!

For additional information and the application, visit our website www.msabrookhaven.org email admissions@msabrookhaven.org or call 601-823-1300.

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MS REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY V POSITION OPENING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC

Philadelphia, Union, DeKalb, Scooba, Macon and Brooksville Areas

The Authority has a position opening for a Maintenance Mechanic based in Scooba. This position will cover the Scooba, Brooksville, and Macon area. Major duties are semi-skilled and skilled structural, plumbing, and electrical building maintenance work at Authority properties. Work involves repair and replacement of items such as windows, doors, gutters, cabinets, walls, ceilings, toilets, faucets, water lines, electrical outlets, and light fixtures. Also performs preventive maintenance tasks and grounds keeping tasks.

Individuals wishing to apply for this position should fax resume to 601-683-0478; or mail to:

Job Maintenance
P.O. Box 419
Newton, MS 39345

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

This job opening is subject to the requirements of Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968. This act requires that wherever HUD financial assistance is expended for the construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of buildings, equal opportunity shall be afforded to all persons, including very-low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing. Section 3 (Residence). Low income is defined as 80% or below the median income of that area. Very low income is defined as 50% or below the median income of that area.

MRAH encourages residents, and those receiving housing assistance to apply.

SOUTHERN MINI STORAGES

Across from Neshoba Central

All sizes 5'x10' to 10'x25'

For rental see
A-1 Auto Parts
224 Beacon St.
Philadelphia

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or **601-650-5475**
after hours

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY

\$545 + Costs

CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

Court Fees Up Front

Jim Arnold, Attorney

601-656-6914

ence with payroll, general ledger, bank reconciliations, and employment taxes.

Must be articulate and able to get along with clients and other staff. Send Resumes to phillyjoboffer@gmail.com.

YARD SALE

Hwy 15 Yard sale will be June 3-6, 2020. Sale runs from Newton to Maben.--

Yard sale, Saturday at 7AM. 1122 East Avenue near Smith Bargain Center--

DRIVERS WANTED

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

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This will be the first of many auctions to liquidate their estate.

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The ins and outs of hand-grabbing catfish

By JAMES L. CUMMINGS
Special to the Democrat

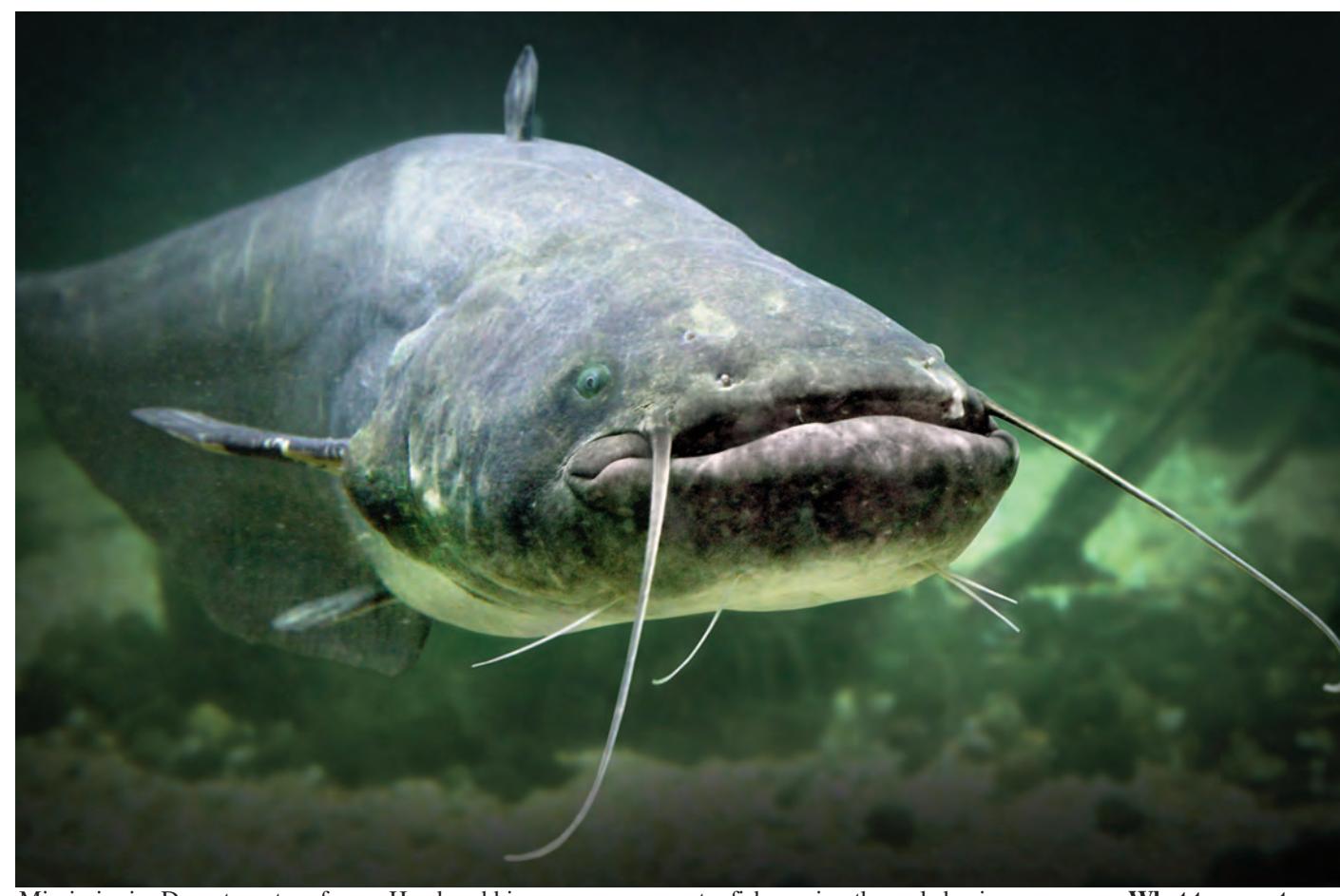
Hand grabbing for catfish has been around for centuries.

Depending on where it is practiced, hand grabbing is known by an assortment of names, including noodling, hogging, and tickling. Some might refer to it as crazy, but in Mississippi, it is a time-honored tradition.

I first learned of this fishing technique as a child listening to stories told by my family. They were usually based on big blue catfish or spotted catfish caught from the Homochitto River by my great-uncles, way before my time.

One story that has been passed around our kitchen a time or two was when one of those uncles found a large water moccasin when grabbing in a log. They say he reached in, grabbed the snake, threw it up on the bank, and told his friends to kill it. Then, back under the water, he went for the catfish that was also in that log. I always assumed he caught the fish, but the story was more about the snake.

Hand grabbing for catfish is only legal in some states, primarily in the Southeast. Anglers enter the water and catch catfish with their hands from either natural or artificial structures. Yep, that is right—no hooks, no forks, no bait ... just their hands. Because research associated with hand grabbing has been limited, the



Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) initiated a project to learn from anglers who participate in this exciting and often misunderstood method. The project included a two-year survey of hand-grabbing anglers at Ross Barnett Reservoir.

When to fish

Hand-grabbing season runs from May 1 through July 15 each year in Mississippi. This period coincides with spawning season when catfish are looking for cavities in which to spawn. Common spawning sites include hollow logs, stumps, or holes in a stream bank; however, artificial structures are also used.

As with most other freshwa-

ter fish species, the male begins searching for and preparing potential spawning sites. The only parental role that a female will play is laying the eggs, and it is the male who will stay and aggressively guard the nest against predators. This aggressive behavior is what gets the adrenaline flowing for many hand-grabbing anglers.

What to expect

Flathead catfish and blue catfish are the two most common species caught by hand grabbers, but channel catfish are also caught. Anglers tend to catch more blues earlier in the season and then start to catch flatheads as the season progresses. The most likely reasons are rising water temperatures and the preference of each

species when spawning.

The most sought-after catfish is the flathead (also called spotted cat, tabby cat, yellow cat, or opelousas cat). This fish has as many nicknames as the fishing technique itself.

Flatheads are preferred by many anglers because they can grow to large sizes and remain great to eat, even when large. Seventy percent of the anglers interviewed during the survey said they preferred to catch flatheads.

More than 200 catfish were harvested during our survey with flathead and blue catfish accounting for 90 percent of the total catch.

Hand-grabbing anglers appeared to be harvest oriented, but not size selective about their catch. Essentially, anglers harvested what they caught.

Fishing in other places may produce larger or smaller fish depending on the body of water. The fertile Big Black and Yazoo rivers are known to provide trophy-size catfish that can grow to 80 pounds or more. Fish this size are often caught and released... after a few social media photographs, of course.

James L. Cummings 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.

Philadelphia Elementary thanks first responders for support

An outpouring of support from the community was on display recently at Philadelphia Elementary as sirens wailed and a parade of police and emergency vehicles gathered to kick off the beginning of testing.

Members of Philadelphia Police and Fire Departments, Neshoba County Sheriff Department and Neshoba General Hospital ambulance personnel lined Stribling Street and led a pep rally to get the young Philly students fired up to do their best during state testing.

Between cheers of, "Rock the test!" by soon-to-be-test-takers, local leaders Jim Fulton, Guy Nowell, Leroy Clemons, Mayor James Young and superintendent Dr. Lisa Hull offered words of encouragement to do their best and reminded the students of the

importance of a good education.

"It was important to me that our first-responders were here because they represent the best in our community. We appreciate the support they showed for our school," shared Philadelphia Elementary School principal, Robert Byrd.

Third-grade students kicked off the testing season with the Reading Gate test, a test given to test reading proficiency.

Stacey Deweese, third-grade teacher and organizer of the event said, "I wanted the community to come together and support our students. Our students needed to know that everyone is behind them and cares about them. This event was a great success!"



Philadelphia Elementary School students thanked first responders earlier this year after they held a pep rally for testing.



Alli Grace Perry
Class President



Mabry Mayfield
Class Vice-President



Morgan Evans
Class Secretary



Mrs. Carla Davis
Senior Sponsor



Mr. Brian Pickens
Head of School



Mrs. Missy Jackson
Senior Sponsor



Emmi Harkins
Class Reporter/Salutatorian



Laura Katherine Clair
Class Treasurer



Hagen Davis
Valedictorian



McKinley Allen



Madeline Boyd



Mikaela Brooks



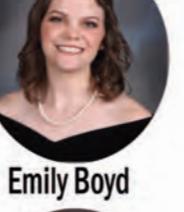
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KOSCIUSKO, MISSISSIPPI



Thomas Cheatham



Garrett Dunn



Cameron Gilbert



Abrey Guidry



Jimmie Lynn Harrell



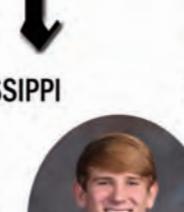
Chance Harris



Rylee Horn



Caroline Jackson



Colten James



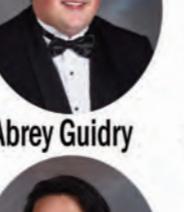
Cameron Johnson



Clay Kemp



Ethan Kinard



Andrew Le



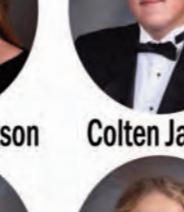
Mallory Long



Will Martin



McKenzie Moore



Charity Rhinewalt



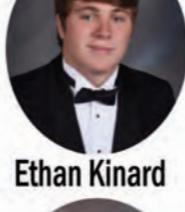
Georgia Claire Rudolph



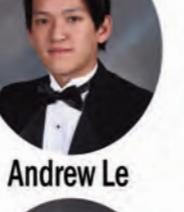
Tripp Rush



Lakin Rushing



Nicolas Sprayberry



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Parker Thomas



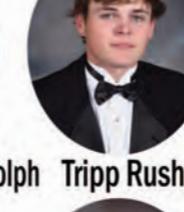
Bailey Katherine Thompson



Emily Trippe



Landon Walley



Ethan Warren



Jarrett Watkins



Mitchell Weaver



Jon Dylan Wilcher

Leake Academy Class of 2021



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Family celebrates five generations

Dorothy Fain, Glenda Vowell, Brian Vowell, Carlee Sharp, and Riaya Sharp made 5 generations!

Johnson awarded Yates scholarship

Lathan Johnson has been awarded a \$4,000 Yates Companies, Inc. Scholarship for the first two years of college. He was selected by a scholarship committee at The Yates Companies, Inc. based upon academics, extra-curricular activities and two short essays.

Carolyn Voyles, Chairperson of The Yates Companies, Inc.

Scholarship Committee said, "We set up the scholarship program to recognize and reward high school seniors of our employees who meet certain criteria and wish to further education at the post-secondary level. This allows us to be a part of preparing young people for the future."

Lathan graduated from

Philadelphia High School this spring and plans to major in welding. He 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.

"NOTICE OF PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX EFFORT"

Philadelphia Public School District

The Philadelphia Public School District will hold a public hearing on its proposed school district budget for fiscal year 2021 on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 12:00 pm at Philadelphia Public School District Support Services Building. At this meeting, a proposed ad valorem tax effort will be considered.

The Philadelphia Public School District is now operating with a projected total budget revenue of \$11,824,979. Of that amount, twenty-nine (29) percent or \$3,388,465 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$18,106,122. Of that amount, nineteen (19) percent or \$3,454,533 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For the next fiscal year, the proposed increase in ad valorem tax effort by Philadelphia Public School District may result in an increase in the ad valorem tax millage rate. Ad Valorem taxes are paid on homes, automobile tags, business fixtures and equipment, and rental real property.

Any citizen of Philadelphia Public School District is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed ad valorem tax effort, and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.