



SPORTS

LADY REBELS SPLIT GAMES IN TOURNAMENT AT ECCC

Softball action — Page 5B

COOK OF THE WEEK

WILSON HAS PASSION FOR BAKING CAKES

Shandra Wilson— Page 1B



THE NESHOBAMA DEMOCRAT

Established 1881 — Oldest Business Institution in Neshoba County Philadelphia, Mississippi Wednesday, August 4, 2021 140th Year No. 31 **\$1.00

PANDEMIC

Millions in relief monies flowing here

By **SCOTT HAWKINS**
scott@neshobademocrat.com

Some of Philadelphia's \$1.6 million in federal COVID relief monies the city has already received could go toward sewer improvements and broadband internet, the mayor said.

Philadelphia, Neshoba County and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians all have received initial COVID-19 monies under the federal

rescue plan approved earlier this year, but spending plans have not been finalized.

Neshoba County is receiving a total of \$5.6 million and Philadelphia \$1.6 million both in two payments.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians received \$53,051,330 in June, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben said in a video at the time detailing how the monies would be allocated. (See story page 3A.)

So far, Neshoba County has received \$2,827,915 and Philadelphia has received \$870,046. Both will receive the remaining monies next year.

Neshoba County Administrator Jeff Mayo said officials are still determining how to spend the monies.

"The board is working on some projects," Mayo said. "We are looking at improving some of the HVAC equipment. Looking at touchless fixtures.

Things of that nature."

That is just a starting point, however. Mayo said the Board of Supervisors has not yet put anything in stone.

"There have been requests, but you still have the issue of compliance with the federal law that has to be looked at also in the context of all of these," Mayo said.

"All of that guidance is done by the Department of Treasury. We just want to tread carefully."

Philadelphia Mayor James A. Young said the city has received its first payment but has not yet put any plan in action for spending.

"We are working on a plan to enhance sewer and water and some other sewer projects," Young said. "That is going to help us in the future."

Young said other projects under consideration include broadband internet.

"They have a part in there

about broadband, and we are trying to figure out how we can tap some of those funds to enhance what we need in the city," Young said of the federal guidelines.

"Right now, we are just in the planning stages. The key to it is these are some improvements that we don't have to burden the local taxpayers with. Otherwise, we couldn't do it at this point. That's the way I look

See **FUNDS**, page 2A

neshoba county fair



Photo by PAYTON BISHOP

A jockey makes his way around the track at the Neshoba County Fair for the races, concerts, political speaking, and fellowship that occurred last week. Thousands of people descended upon the county last week at Mississippi's Giant Houseparty. **For more pics, see 8A.**

NESHOBAMA GENERAL

COVID testing line set up here

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

Neshoba General has established a new call line for drive-thru COVID-19 testing appointments as requests nearly doubled early this week.

Neshoba County reported 169 new COVID-19 cases and one new death over the past week, according to the Mississippi Department of Health's Tuesday report.

Call (601) 663-1221 to schedule a drive-thru testing appointment on the Neshoba General campus.

Philadelphia Mayor James A. Young said he has not instituted a citywide mask mandate but has ordered one at City Hall because of City Court.

The city and county schools as of press time Tuesday had not issued mask mandates for the start of school later this week.

Choctaw Tribal schools have a mask mandate on buses and in facilities.

Neshoba General and Choctaw Health Center are making extra efforts to keep the community safe with a one-day vaccine drive today (Aug. 4) at the Neshoba County Coliseum from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Neshoba General Marketing and PR Director Anette Watkins said hospital staff will be administering the Pfizer vaccine and it is available to everyone 12 years of age and older.

The second shot will be available at the same location on Aug. 25.

Neshoba County's total COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began in March 2020 is now at 4,401.

The one new death brings the county's death toll to 181. Of those deaths, 114 are from the

See **COVID**, page 3A

West African heritage traced

A group of Neshoba countians has formed an organization to research and publish their West African heritage and discover what was behind the decision of their ancestors to settle here.

The organization is made up of individuals from the Stallo, Westside, Dixon and Hopewell communities.

The mission of the group, the Griot Historical Society of Neshoba County, is to collect, collate and compile oral and printed reports in a quest to publish a history of the African-Americans of Neshoba County post-Civil War and through the Civil Rights struggles, said Marthis Riddle, president of the group formed in 2017.

"Our focus is mainly their migration to, their decision to settle and their hope of a better future that caused them to

endure," she said.

Organized in June, 2017, the Griot Society here began with only eight members and most of its meetings were given to planning, envisioning and sharing goal.

The word Griot means the keeper of stories, traditions, songs, and so on. Griots originated in the 13th Century in the Mandé empire of Mali. For centuries they have told and retold the history of the empire, keeping their stories and traditions alive.

Mrs. Eva Tisdale, who herself, is a longtime student of African-American History and has been a very positive influence on AA culture in Philadelphia and Neshoba County, suggested the history research team be called by the West African title Griot, according to Mrs. Riddle. Mrs. Rosie Harris, is the

vice president; Pat McWilliams, is secretary; Edie Riddle; is assistant secretary; Mrs. Eva Tisdale, is treasurer; Mr. Rudolph Tatum, is assistant treasurer; Ms. Vera. Griffin, is chairman of fundraising; Ms. Patsy Cole is facilitator of programs, Black History, Juneteenth and Steven Riddle is the assistant to the facilitator.

Other member are: Melinda Riddle Historian Poplar Springs, Longdale; Mrs. Elden Clemons, Historian, Poplar Springs; Mrs. Nettie Parker, Historian, Poplar Springs;

- Westside community**
- Charles McClellan, The Hill
- Rudolph Tatum, Milling Hill
- Mrs. Gloria Hudson, See **GRIOT**, page 2A



Griot Historical Society of Neshoba County members are, front row from left: Marthis Riddle, Vera Griffin, Bishop Clifton Jones, Melinda Riddle, Cecil Hooker. Back row, from left: Willis A. Lyons, Rudolph Tatum, Jeanette Lloyd, Edie Clay, Patsy McWilliams

OPINION
Rich Lowry

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JUST AMONG FRIENDS
Marianne Enochs PAGE 1B

OPINION
Patrick Buchanan PAGE 4A



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SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

Engagements & Weddings

There is no charge for engagement and wedding announcements. Submit them to weddings@neshobademocrat.com.
 The deadline for submitting engagements and weddings is at noon on Friday before the Wednesday publication.
 Every effort will be made to run the announcement on the date requested, but space requirements and time sometimes prohibit it.
 Wedding copy must not exceed the equivalent of more than two 8 1/2 x 11 inch pages.
 The Democrat reserves the right to edit articles to fit space requirements and style.
 News of parties relating to engagements or weddings can be submitted.

Obituary policy

The Democrat publishes a standard format obituary at no charge.
 The standard obituary includes: service, burial and funeral home details, date of death, age, place of residence, a sentence or two of personal information (no opinionated comments) detailing occupation, education, church affiliation, military service, listing spouse or children, immediate survivors (list only spouses, children, siblings, number of grandchildren, number of nieces and nephews) and pallbearers. In-laws, aunts, uncles, friends and honorary pallbearers are not included in the free listing. The standard obituary may be up to 150 words in length.
 To list extended family and more details, there is a charge of \$125 for up to 300 words total; \$250 for up to 500 words total; \$500 up to 1,200 words total. Photos may be included for an additional charge of \$25.
 Obituaries must be submitted electronically by funeral homes to obituaries@neshobademocrat.com no later than Tuesday at noon for publication in Wednesday's edition. Any obituary not submitted electronically is subject to a \$25 charge.

School and community news

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

Of Local Interest

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

Tips and breaking news

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

Sports

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

Letters to the editor

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

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Man arrested in Saturday murder

By **DUNCAN DENT**
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A Philadelphia man has been charged with murder in a weekend shooting death in northwest Philadelphia.
 Police are investigating the homicide reported on Saturday evening on A Avenue after a suspect turned himself in to authorities.
 Richard Devane Simmons, 34, of Philadelphia was

charged with the murder of 46 year old Willie Latimer of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Police said that the shooting occurred about 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Philadelphia Police Det. Bobby Pattillo said that Simmons allegedly shot Latimer multiple times. Latimer was then transport-



Richard Simmons

ed to Neshoba General and airlifted to University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson where he was pronounced dead.

Pattillo said that the subsequent investigation identified Simmons as a suspect. Simmons turned himself in on Monday morning, he said. Police are still investigating

the incident and interviewing witnesses for a clear picture of what happened, Pattillo said.

Triplet Teresa on Saturday posted on the Neshoba Central Classmates Facebook page: "Asking for prayers for the family of Willie Latimer. Class of 1994 graduate who will always and forever be embraced by his smile, personality, and heart. RiP Willie."

Students return to classrooms this week

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

Ring the bell. The new school year gets underway this week as students return to class. Here is the schedule:

- Choctaw Tribal Schools were to return today (Wednesday);
- Leake Academy and Union High School return Thursday; and,
- Neshoba Central and Philadelphia school districts return on Friday.

Two local schools will be under new principals. Melisha Hancock will be at Philadelphia Elementary School and Jacob Drury will be at Neshoba Central.

Both are looking forward to meeting their students and getting school underway.

"There is a lot of work that has to be done ahead of time before anybody shows up," Hancock said. "We are having an open house (Tuesday, Aug. 3) and I'm looking forward to



Renee Jones, who teaches foundations of biology for 9th grade, at Choctaw Central High School prepares her lesson plans

meeting our students and their parents."

Hancock came to the elementary school from the central office and has been in the district 19 years.

This is Drury's first year in

the Neshoba County district but he is familiar with it. He lives in Neshoba County and his children go to school in the district.

"We are ready to get back and get started," Drury said. "We have an open house on

Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. That is where I will meet the majority of our kids. Some have come in for registration. We are hoping to have a good turnout."

Griot

Continued from page 1A

Goodway Church community
 • Marthis Riddle and Vera Griffin, Gillis Quarters
 • Patsy Cole The Jericho,

Cooks Quarters
 • Marthis Riddle, Vera Griffin, George Garrett, Independence Quarters

Stallo community
 • Dr. Martha Moore, Coordinator of Historical Articles;
 • Mrs. Thelma Wells, His-

torian Stallo and Mt. Airy Church
 • Mr. Tony Riley, history of farms/famous places
 • Mr. Willis Lyon, history of farms/famous places

Dixon community
 • Mrs. Gloria Hadley, histo-

Hopewell Community
 • Mrs. Everette Lloyd, historian
 For more information, contact Marthis Riddle (769) 236-8610 or email mwillie02sr2yahoo.com.

Funds

Continued from page 1A

at it." The state of Mississippi will receive approximately \$6 billion in total, which is equal to the state budget.

The funding will be distributed as follows, according to Mississippi Today:
 • \$429 million for higher education;
 • \$166 million for capital projects for rural broadband access project;
 • \$577 million for counties;
 • \$258 million for smaller

cities:
 • \$97 million for metro cities;
 • \$1.8 billion to be appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature over the next three years primarily to replace revenue lost because of the pandemic for COVID-19-related costs; and

• \$1.6 billion for K-12 education, primarily to be disbursed to local school districts. The monies are part of the federal government's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Act passed by Congress in March to help local governments recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Tribe receives more than \$53M in COVID monies

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@neshobademocrat.com

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians so far has reported receiving \$53 million in the federal government's \$1.9 trillion federal American Rescue Act funds allocated by Congress in March to help local governments recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The monies will be spread out throughout the 10 counties of the Tribe and will be used in health and education including new schools buildings for Choctaw Central and Choctaw Middle schools.

"This is the first of two payments and it totals \$53,051,330," said Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben in a June video detailing their plans. "The federal government is also providing supplemental funding directly to various MBCI departments. Here is a summary of the direct funding that the tribal departments have received under the American Rescue Plan Act to respond to specific sectors such as health and education:

- "Through the Health and Human Services the Choctaw Health Center has received \$46,514,453;

- "Through the Department of Interior the Bureau of Indian Education for Choctaw Tribal Schools has received \$26,714,010;

- "Through Low Income Housing Emergency Assistance (LIHEA) has received \$68,904

- "Through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Justice Services, the Choctaw Police Department has received \$600,788

- "Through the Health and Human Services, Head Start has received \$320,662

"The Tribe will receive one more formally based allocation payment," Ben said. "At this

time the amount is unknown. We should find out more on this information, later ... Regarding how the funds are invested and utilized, the tribe has identified, certain priorities including new housing in all communities, infrastructure, including broadband and improvements to water and sewer utilities. This will help support new housing, community development and economic development and a new Choctaw Central High School and Middle School campus."

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has more than 11,000 members on land that

covers more than 35,000 acres in 10 Mississippi counties.

"Due to the language in the legislation and the guidance of the United States Treasury we also will be seeking financial investments and advance workforce development training and to expand our diversity in our economy," Ben said.

Ben said the Tribe has distributed a needs survey to all tribal departments for input on their highest needs.

"We will also be making a survey available to all tribal members to allow the members of the community to identify their highest priorities," Ben

said. "We will evaluate each request during July and August and we will present our plan during the annual budget hearings in August and September.

"We are grateful for this opportunity to address our crucial needs within our tribe. Today, we already are in the process of using \$25 million of CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funds to build out an emergency management headquarters and an emergency response facility in each of our tribal communities."

Body found in abandoned house identified as woman reported missing July 22

By DUNCAN DENT
scott@neshobademocrat.com

A body found in an abandoned house on Gum Street has been identified as a Philadelphia woman missing for three weeks, the authorities said.

The body has been positively identified as 41-year-old Amelia Williams of Philadelphia, according to Philadelphia Police Detective Bobby Pattillo.

Pattillo said Williams had been reported missing on July

22. A cause of death has not been established by the State Medical Examiner, Pattillo said.

"The investigation is still ongoing with collaboration from the Medical Examiner's office," Pattillo said.

Officers responded to the 900 block of Gum Street near Lewis Avenue at approximately 10:20 a.m. on Wednesday, July 28, after receiving a call of a possible deceased body, a PPD social media post said.

Pattillo said that it appears

that Williams' body had been there approximately three weeks before she was discovered.

"Amelia was last seen walking on Gum St in Philadelphia on July 7," PPD had said on Facebook last week. "She was

frequently seen daily walking around town normally in the area of Lewis Ave and Beacon St."

If anyone has any information on this case please contact the Philadelphia Police Department at 601-656-2131.

COVID

Continued from page 1A

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, according to MSDH.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has reported 66 new positive cases of COVID-19 and no new deaths according to the latest report posted on Aug. 1, with the total number of positive cases for the Tribe standing at 1,935 with 114 deaths since the pandemic began in March 2020.

As of Tuesday, 21% of Neshoba County's population is fully vaccinated, according to MSDH, and 24% of the county's population had received one of the 13,061 total doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in the county.

Vaccinations are being administered at Walgreens at 1002 W. Beacon Street and Walmart at 1005 W. Beacon Street, according to MSDH.

Neshoba General Hospital Chief Executive Officer Lee McCall said people should con-

tinue to take precautions against COVID-19. Those precautions include regular hand washing or sanitizing, wearing facial masks and practicing social distancing.

Mississippi State Department of Health numbers show that confirmed cases and hospitalizations have risen dramatically in recent weeks after reaching pandemic lows earlier this summer.

Earlier this summer, MSDH reported hospitalization cases were below 100 but have recently climbed to more than 1,000 statewide.

The state has 5,928 staffed hospital beds with 1,501 reportedly available as of Aug. 2.

MSDH also reports 827 staffed ICU beds with 108 available statewide. Neshoba General does not have an ICU.

"I fear this is just the tip of the iceberg," McCall said Tuesday afternoon.

Statewide, since the pandemic began in March 2020, 212,906 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded by the MSDH along with 137,164 probable cases, totaling 350,590 cases. There have been 5,237 confirmed COVID-19 deaths,

along with 2,353 probable deaths, totaling 7,590 deaths.

Anyone who does test positive is encouraged to contact their health care provider. Do not go into the emergency room unless there is an emergency, McCall said.

He is also encouraging people to get the vaccine. McCall said vaccinated individuals are less likely to contract the virus, often have milder symptoms and recover more quickly on average.

"The vaccine does not prevent you from contracting the virus but it does help you fight the virus," McCall said. "We have vaccines available to anyone who wants one every day. They are highly effective."

McCall said Neshoba General is testing record numbers of people in recent days. He said that in previous spikes the hospital had usually done fewer than 100 tests a day, Monday they did 186. He said they are seeing a roughly 1-in-3 positivity rate.

McCall said they do not do further testing to see what variant of the virus they are dealing

with, but said that a random sampling test conducted by MSDH revealed that the dominant variant is the much-publicized "delta variant."

He said that in a recent telephone call with health professionals and State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs, Dobbs compared the delta variant's transmissibility to chickenpox or measles.

McCall said contributing factors could include the back-to-back fairs held in town that brought large crowds together and summer traveling, though he said it is hard to pin it on any one thing.

He said the public has "let their guard down" regarding the virus.

As far as a citywide mandate Mayor Young said he would wait.

"Our court is still going on, and we have a lot of outside visitors, so we have that on here at City Hall here for now," Young said, adding it is for everyone regardless of vaccination status. "We don't do any tests."

"Our numbers are up," Young said. "There is no doubt

about that. I think a lot of businesses are doing what they do anyway and hopefully, they will generate the interest in the sake of doing business that they require employees and customers to wear masks while they are in the stores. To me, there is no sense in making a big deal out of a safety precaution. I think we can function without having any shutdowns if everybody follows suit on doing what we need to do to mitigate the spread."

Neshoba Central's Dr. Lundy Brantley said that the school district has made announcements on social media and encourages parents and students to consult the school plan located at their website www.neshobacentral.com. He said that the decision to wear a mask is ultimately up to the student's parents at this time.

"We recommend, along with the CDC and MSDH, that everyone wear masks. However, it is the parents' decision to decide if their child will wear a mask," Brantley said. "Please note that this could change in the future."

Choctaw Tribal Schools said Chief Cyrus Ben has mandated masks to be worn on buses and in all Choctaw Tribal School facilities.

"Exceptions will be outside when small groups can physically distance themselves from others," the CTS policy states. "Bus monitors will be on buses to assist with checking temperatures and to monitor mask-wearing. Regular cleaning schedules will be maintained throughout the school day and enhanced air purification systems are being installed. School nurses will continue to handle contact tracing, working in coordination with Choctaw Health Center. Please contact your school nurse if you have any concerns about your child's health."

Other school officials did not immediately return messages seeking comment on potential mask mandates or other precautions at area schools.

Protect Your Health and Your Future - Avoid Opioid Misuse. Say "No" to Meth and Other Drugs!

The rise of synthetic opioids and stimulant drugs, as well as amplified mental health conditions related to Covid-19, has caused the highest number of overdose deaths ever. Over 87,000 American lives were taken by drugs!

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Opioids are a class of drugs that includes prescription pain killers and heroin. Mixing opioids with alcohol or other drugs can slow down or stop your breathing and your heart. Misuse of opioid drugs is a leading cause of accidental death in the United States.



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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Opinion

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THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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

EDITORIALS

Critical Race Theory is racist

The liberals will claim there are no concerted efforts to make Critical Race Theory part of the K-12 curriculum calling such talk a predictable topic at the Neshoba County Fair last week, so that must mean there is or at least could be soon.

Critical Race Theory is an academic discipline formulated in the 1990s and built on the intellectual framework of identity-based Marxism. It is garbage.

“In what world are we living in where it’s OK to teach children that they’re born racist?” Gov. Tate Reeves said during his speech at Founders Square. “In what world is it OK to teach children that they’ll be judged by the color of their skin, not by the content of their character?”

Reeves continued: “That is not the education that we need for the next generation of America’s leaders. ... They should be learning the truth about the United States — that we are blessed to live in the greatest nation in the history of mankind.”

Relegated for many years to universities and obscure academic journals, Critical Race Theory has increasingly become the default ideology in our public institutions over the past decade and may be coming to a public school near you.

Critical Race Theory has been injected into government agencies, public school systems, teacher training programs, and corporate human-resources departments in the form of diversity-training programs,

human-resources modules, public-policy frameworks, and school curricula.

House Speaker Philip Gunn said at the Fair critical race theory is a “socialist agenda item” and he’s right.

“This an attempt to introduce racism into our schools,” Gunn said.

Both Reeves and Gunn pledged to prevent schools from teaching Critical Race Theory and we wholeheartedly support them and encourage others to join in opposing this liberal lurch.

“I grow increasingly concerned every day with the direction this country is going,” Gunn said, adding he believes the Democrat Party is embracing socialism.

Gunn said the more Democrats have embraced socialism the more poisonous their rhetoric has become.

“Their politics seems to be based on animosity toward this country and animosity toward each other,” Gunn said.

“Their slogan appears to be a charity to none and malice toward all. They continue to push an us vs. them agenda and it will destroy our country.”

Gunn said the House of Representatives will introduce legislation next session to prevent the teaching Critical Race Theory in our public schools.

Critical Race Theory is racist.

Good and decent Mississippians must fight against this attempt by Democrats to indoctrinate and divide by race again.

Ending scourge of abortion

A Mississippi abortion case set to be heard before the U.S. Supreme Court this fall stands a real chance of ending or at least curbing the scourge of abortion on demand in America.

Half a century of judicial malpractice on abortion has undermined our democracy and resulted in the murder of millions of unborn human beings.

Science has been pivotal in shifting many hearts and minds on abortion, but try telling that to a compassionate liberal Democrat hellbent, ironically, on the science of Climate Change.

When Roe was decided in 1973, justices could not comprehend that expectant

parents would one day use sonograms to look at their unborn child’s hands and feet and see themselves in the face, Sen. Roger Wicker observes on this page in urging an end to Roe v. Wade.

We now know that the fetal heartbeat begins as early as six weeks and that an unborn child can feel pain at 20 weeks, if not earlier.

Where is the compassion among heartless liberals more concerned about free sex and convenience than a human life?

Banning most abortions after 15 weeks makes Mississippi’s law one of the toughest. Let’s hope the high court will use this case to end the scourge of abortion.

FLASHBACKS

AUGUST 8, 1941

Mrs. Enily Donald of the Plattsburg community states that most of her income is come dairying. The Donald’s are building a new barn, digging a silo, and making every improvement possible for their cows. They are growing the feed in order to eliminate expenses in their dairying enterprise.

AUGUST 2, 1951

Janelle Johnson lovely daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Johnson of the Coldwater community is crowned “Miss Neshoba County” for 1951.

On August 14, Miss Thurla K. Tatum will receive a Master of Arts Degree from Mississippi Southern College, Hattiesburg. Miss Tatum has taught in Neshoba County, and in Philadelphia City School.

AUGUST 3, 1961

One of the most charming personalities ever to come from the friendly city of Philadelphia, the lovely and charming Miss Mary Helen Massey, will represent Philadelphia VFW at Acker-

man Sunday, August 13 in the “Miss Choctaw Lake” event as sponsored by the Ackerman VFW post.

AUGUST 5, 1971

Homer L. Rutland has been named one of the outstanding famers of America for 1971 by the Apollo Company. Rutland, 59, operates 2500 acre farm of cotton, soybeans, and timber. He is a Baptist, serves on the community ASC Committee, and belongs to the cattleman’s association. The son of Mrs. Bertie Allen and the late Joe Pete Rutland of Mt. Olive, Miss., Rutland was born and reared in Covington County and attended Smith School.

JULY 30, 1981

The Sertoma will be presented to the first person to cross the finish line in the second annual Heart ‘O Dixie Triathlon. Silver plated trays will be presented to the first three men and first three women finishers after the overall winner. Men and women finishing in the fourth through 10th slots will be presented silver-plated wine goblets.

JULY 27, 1991

A new Miss Neshoba County was crowned at the Neshoba County Fair and the new queen is Tonya Boswell, 16, was crowned by the outgoing Miss Neshoba County Kim Smith. Miss Boswell is the daughter of Lynda and Mitchell Boswell, and she was also named Most Photogenic.

AUGUST 1, 2001

Sydney Nowell, a senior at Philadelphia High School, was named an All-American Cheerleader at 2001 NCA Cheerleader Camp at Mississippi State University. Sydney was also named to the All-American Team her junior year. Nominations are made by the NCA instructors and are based on leadership, stunts, jumps, and tumbling ability.

AUGUST 3, 2011

Neshoba County’s Miss Hospitality Elizabeth Bailey fared well in the state pageant over the weekend. She was placed as Third Alternate Honors.

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Our great leap into socialism

Just seven weeks into his presidency, Joe Biden signed a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill. Among the largest spending bills in history, it was passed without the vote of a single Republican.

The plan sent direct payments of up to \$1,400 to most Americans, extended a \$300 per week unemployment insurance boost until Sept. 6 and expanded the child tax credit for a year. It also put \$350 billion into state, local and tribal relief.

This weekend, a bipartisan group of senators crafted a \$1 trillion measure to repair and expand the nation’s roads, bridges, ports, airports and broadband. Last week, this trillion-dollar infrastructure plan got a green light from 17 Republican senators, including Sen. Mitch McConnell.

Boasted Biden: “The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal is the largest infrastructure bill in a century. It will grow the economy, create good-paying jobs, and set America on a path to win the future.”

Up next is a \$3.5 trillion measure to remake America, which is also to be enacted without GOP support via a process called “reconciliation,” which enables the Senate to pass measures with a simple majority.

This \$3.5 trillion measure would expand social and environmental programs, extend the reach of education and health care, tax the rich and take on the challenge of the century — climate change.

Among programs funded are universal prekindergarten for all 3- and 4-year-olds, two years of free community college, clean energy mandates for utilities and lower prescription drug prices. Medicare benefits would be expanded and amnesty extended to millions of illegal migrants.

All that is needed for its enactment into law is a Democrat majority in Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s House, the votes of the 50 Democratic senators and the signature of Biden.

After effecting passage of his \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, if Biden gets

America may cross a divide from which history teaches us there is no return.

the \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal and the \$3.5 trillion package, he will have enlarged federal spending by \$6 trillion.

This would constitute the greatest leap forward toward socialism of any American president, with Biden’s only rivals being previous record-holders Franklin D. Roosevelt during the 1930s’ New Deal and Lyndon B. Johnson’s Great Society in the 1960s.

If Biden succeeds in getting it all, this would not only be a quantum leap toward European-style socialism. It would cross a divide for America, from which history teaches us there is no return.

“A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you’re talking real money,” said Sen. Everett Dirksen in the 1960s, when he was leading a badly outmanned Republican minority in the Senate after the Barry Goldwater defeat.

Today, we talk not about billions but about trillions, and that \$6 trillion in spending Biden is reaching for translates into more than six thousand billion dollars.

As of today, however, neither the infrastructure bill nor the \$3.5 trillion omnibus bill is a done deal, with the former looking more probable than the latter. But if both are passed, they would create new records and new realities for the U.S. government.

The federal debt would exceed the U.S. economy for the first time since World War II. The deficits for this year and last, roughly \$3 trillion in each year, already exceed any past deficits since World War II.

Passage of the \$3.5 trillion omnibus bill would constitute a quantum leap in the number of Americans dependent on the federal government for the necessities of life.

It would increase America’s ratio of tax consumers to taxpayers.

It would be tantamount to

an admission of belief that the real engine of economic growth in America, the truly indispensable provider upon whom an ever-expanding share of the population of the nation depend for food, rent, health care, education and cash income, is the government of the United States, not the American free market system.

As for the Republican Party, the conservative party of lower taxes, balanced budgets and free market solutions to social problems, the fiscal debate will be over in a way it has never been before.

Passage of that \$3.5 trillion omnibus bill would represent the triumph of Great Society liberalism over Reaganite conservatism.

In his first inaugural address, President Ronald Reagan declared that government is not the solution to our problems. Government is the problem.

In his State of the Union address in 1996, President Bill Clinton seemed to concede the triumph of Reaganism over liberalism and socialism:

“We know big government does not have all the answers. We know there’s not a program for every problem. We have worked to give the American people a smaller, less bureaucratic government in Washington. And we have to give the American people one that lives within its means.”

“The era of big government is over.”

In 2021, Biden and his party are saying: Clinton was wrong to concede Reaganism its victory. When there is a big crisis in the country, FDR was right: Big government is the solution.

If the terrain looks unfamiliar, that is because we are crossing a new continental divide. We are entering Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez country.

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

SEN. ROGER WICKER | GUEST COLUMN

Urgency of ending Roe v. Wade

■ Mississippi abortion case set to be heard by Supreme Court this fall.

Mississippi attorney general Lynn Fitch made history last month when she submitted written arguments to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*. Mounting a forceful defense of Mississippi’s 15-week abortion ban, Ms. Fitch asked the court to take the historic step of overturning *Roe v. Wade* and send abortion policy back to the states. She deserves high praise for taking the right stand.

With *Dobbs* set for argument this fall, Mississippi has taken center stage in a growing nationwide push to protect the unborn. Since Mississippi enacted its law 2018, states have passed a wave of pro-life bills. Indiana has barred second-trimester abortions and strengthened ultrasound requirements. Missouri has outlawed abortion after eight weeks. Texas has adopted a “heartbeat” bill protecting the fetus as early as six weeks. And states are linking arms to defend these laws in court. Just this week, 228 members of Congress joined my amicus brief supporting our state’s reasonable statute.

This uptick in pro-life activity is matched by steady trends in public opinion showing healthy support for life. Since 1995, the share of Americans identifying as “pro-life” has surged from 33 to 47 percent.

Half a century of judicial malpractice on abortion has undermined democracy.

More tellingly, 65 percent of Americans support banning most abortions in the second trimester — something Supreme Court precedent does not allow — and 80 percent oppose late-term abortions. If the authors of *Roe* thought public opinion would conform to their ruling, they were spectacularly wrong.

Science has been pivotal in shifting many hearts and minds on abortion. Written in 1973, *Roe* could not comprehend that expectant parents would one day use sonograms to look at their unborn children’s hands and feet and see themselves in the faces of their offspring. We now know that the fetal heartbeat begins as early as six weeks and that an unborn child can feel pain at 20 weeks, if not earlier. These realities weigh heavily on the hearts of millions of Americans, and they are driving pro-life change in state after state.

Unfortunately, the courts have blocked much of this progress from taking effect. Federal judges have struck down multiple state laws that conflict with existing precedent, bringing the work of democracy to a halt. This is a tragic irony for the world’s beacon of democracy. While our

European friends settle the abortion question at the ballot box, Americans remain locked in a straitjacket of precedent that cannot adjust to new scientific information.

This precedent places America completely outside the mainstream by global standards. Only seven countries allow elective abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, and they include China, North Korea, and the United States. Our inclusion in such an unseemly group is unsettling. At the same time, the United States finds itself to the far left of European countries that have legislated on abortion through the normal democratic process. Denmark, France, and Norway all prohibit elective abortion after twelve weeks, as do most European countries. Germany and Belgium draw the line at 14 weeks. Mississippi’s 15-week ban would be mainstream in Europe, yet our passage of such a law has prompted a major showdown at the U.S. Supreme Court.

This challenge to *Roe* is long overdue. After half a century of overreach, it is time for the Court to admit that it has been wrong to overrule the states on abortion. Let’s hope they treat Attorney General Fitch’s brief and our amicus with the seriousness they deserve.

Sen. Roger Wicker represents Mississippi in the United States Senate.

LETTERS

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BIBLE SELECTION

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

— James 1:22 (ESV)

Fitch prepares to argue abortion ban

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@neshobademocrat.com

Attorney General Lynn Fitch said at the Neshoba County Fair last week her office is working to fight the opioid crisis and to defend Mississippians' Second Amendment gun rights.

Her team is also preparing to defend Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban this fall before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The case is *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization* expected to be heard in November.

"We are asking the Supreme

Court to have a discussion giving us a guidepost on viability," Fitch said. "What is that line? It is blurred. Give us some direction so that the state can act within and understand that that is a strong line instead of a blurred line."

Fitch said the court's decision will impact not only Mississippi but the rest of the nation.

In her speech Fitch focused on highlighting the work her office has been doing over the past year and a half of her tenure.

Her staff never quit working

for Mississippians throughout the COVID-19 pandemic focusing on ending human trafficking, fighting big tech and big pharma, equal pay for women and preparing to defend Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban before the U.S. Supreme Court, she said.

Fitch said all of those efforts have been in concert with partnerships throughout the state.

"First and foremost we have been partnering with and supporting our law enforcement, and we are so proud of them," she said.

Her office also is working to

fight the opioid crisis and to defend Mississippians' second amendment (gun) rights and to fight companies that perpetrate fraud.

She is battling big tech companies that "should not be able to censor you" or curtail people's rights.

Fitch also said she is battling big pharma that she said charges people too much for life-saving pharmaceuticals such as insulin for diabetics.

"They should not as a diabetic have to risk their lives or ration their insulin or not take it or use expired insulin just to stay

alive," Fitch said. "So, I'm going after them with my team because insulin should be affordable to every Mississippi-an."

Mississippi also has a human trafficking problem and Fitch said she has implemented an initiative called "Be the Solution" to encourage people to speak up when they believe children are being exploited.

"Fifty percent of those young victims are trafficked by family members and they do it for quick cash," Fitch said. "They do it for drugs. How unfortunate to ruin someone's life for that."

"Be the Solution" trains and encourages school bus drivers, commercial drivers and others to recognize and report suspected human trafficking.

It is time for Mississippi to institute equal pay for women, she said, adding Mississippi is the only state in the nation without such a law.

"The national pay gap is 19%," Fitch said. "In Mississippi, it is 27%. What would that be in real dollars? If we had equal pay right now it would be \$6 billion a year into the economy — \$6 billion. That is significant."

Speaker Gunn: Democrats under Biden embracing socialism across country

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@neshobademocrat.com

A "new brand of Democrats" who are embracing socialism was the focus of House Speaker Philip Gunn address at the Neshoba County Fair last week.

He took the podium at the

Pavillion Thursday concerned about the direction the nation is taking under the President Joe Biden.

"I grow increasingly concerned every day with the direction this country is going," Gunn said, adding he believes the Democrat Party is embracing Socialism.

He said during his last visit to speak at the Fair in 2019, he warned about Alexandria Ocasia Cortez and said that in the past three years she has increasingly come to represent the new brand of Democrats who "embrace Socialism."

"Today, three years later, she is simply known as AOC, and

she has become a national figure," Gunn said. "The nation's embrace of socialism has only gotten worse since then."

Gunn said the more Democrats have embraced socialism the more poisonous their rhetoric has become.

"Another socialist agenda item that is being pushed is crit-

ical race theory," Gunn said. "This is an attempt to introduce racism into our schools."

He said Mississippians know the "devastating effects" that racism can have on society.

"That is exactly why we must fight against this attempt to re-introduce racism back into our school districts and undo all

the progress that we have made," Gunn said. "Ladies and gentlemen, we just can't take that chance."

Gunn said the House of Representatives will introduce legislation during the next session to prevent teaching critical race theory.

OBITUARIES

Mitchell Dwayne Frazier

Funeral service for Mr. Mitchell Dwayne Frazier will be held at 10 AM Saturday, July 31, 2021 at John Memorial Methodist Church with Rev. Samuel Dixon officiating. Cremation to follow. Visitation will begin at 12 Noon Thursday, July 31, 2021 at John Memorial Methodist Church. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Frazier, 38, passed away Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at his home. He enjoyed working on cars, yard work, playing with animals, spending time with his favorite cousins.

Mr. Frazier is preceded in death by his parents, David Frazier, Sr. and Abie Mitch; brother, Michael Keith Frazier.

Survivors include sisters, Megan Frazier and Janice Tubby; brothers, David Frazier, Jr., Devin Lewis and Emilio Frazier.

Dewayne Wallace

Graveside service for Mr. Dewayne Wallace will be held at 10 AM Friday, July 30, 2021 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church Cemetery with Father Bob Goodyear officiating. Visitation will begin at 5:30 PM Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at the Tucker Gym. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Wallace, 41, passed away Sunday, July 25, 2021 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian, MS. He enjoyed watching tv, playing games and being with kids and family.

Mr. Wallace is preceded in death by his mother, Sherry Wallace.

Survivors include daughters, Keira Willis, Kitana Willis; sister, Sacajawea McMillan; brother, Raphael McMillan, Jr.; special friend, Vanessa Willis.

Clay George

Graveside service for Mr. Clay George will be held 10 AM Thursday, July 29, 2021 at Sandtown United Methodist Cemetery with Rev. John Branning officiating. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge.

Mr. George, 34, passed away Tuesday, July 27, 2021. He lived in Neshoba Co. his whole life where he was a construction worker. He was a member of Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church. His hobbies and special interests were guns, fishing, and working out.

He was preceded in death by his sister Brandy Michelle George and infant brother David Glenn George.

Survivors include his father, Glenn George of Philadelphia; mother, Tohynis George of Philadelphia; son, Bentley Andrew George of Philadelphia; sister, Shannon McBeath of Philadelphia; brother, Scott George (Jessica) of Collinsville; (3) nieces, Madison, Alaina, and Lyla George.

Pallbearers: Mitchell Madison, Andy Kirkland, Casey Kirkland, Joey Edwards, Josh Caldwell, Scott George, Glenn George, Chris George, Ted George.

Master Lucas Seth Allen

Funeral service for Master Lucas Seth Allen will be held at 2 PM Saturday, July 31, 2021 at Bogue Chitto Facility Building

with Rev. Mark Roth officiating. Burial will be in the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 5 PM Friday, July 30, 2021 at the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

Master Allen, 12, passed away Monday, July 26, 2021 at St. Jude Children's Hospital. He enjoyed video games, playing on the internet and stickball.

Lucas is preceded in death by his grandparents, Nellie Mae Bell, Foster Bell, Stewart Wallace, Clifton Hickman, Sr., N. Reubin Orphan, Ester McKinney Orphan.

Survivors include his parents, Cami Hickman and William Allen; sister, Kalyanna "Bug" Allen; brother, Rueshawn "Rue" Allen; grandparents, Clifton Hickman, Jr., June Mae Wallace, Leslie Willis and James Willis.

Pallbearers are Marvin Marcus, Jr., Mushula Tubby, Elijah Jimmie, D'Zytae Williams, Lijah Tubby, Eric Willis, Cord Tutor.

Lahoma Littlevoice

Funeral service for Ms. Lahoma Littlevoice will be held at 2 PM Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at the Pearl River Facility Building with Rev. Mark Roth officiating. Interment will be in Nanih Waiya Mennonite Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 5 PM Monday, August 2, 2021 at Pearl River Facility Building. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Littlevoice, 43, passed away Sunday, July 25, 2021 at Texas Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, TX. She is preceded in death by her mother, Sarah Bell.

Survivors include her father, Albert Littlevoice, Sr.; sisters, Melissa Littlevoice, Neid Littlevoice, Laura Cooley, Juanita Littlevoice; brother, Albert Littlevoice, Jr.

Pallbearers are Sammy Littlevoice, Austin Dunn, Caleb Roller, Sebastian Bell, Jason Littlevoice, Tyler Sam, Mika Sam, Marvin Marcus.

Charles Levi Pike

Charles Levi Pike of Clinton, MS died peacefully in his home surrounded by loved ones on July 31st, 2021 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Irene Gonzales Pike; son, Eddie Pike; grandson, Adam Pike; parents, Croque and Mabel Beckham Pike; brothers, Bobby, Johnny, Wayne and Mike Pike.

He is survived by his son, Chuck Pike (Angela) of Florence, MS; daughter, Angel Bowman (Doug) of Pochontas, MS; brothers, Rex, Bill, Jerry and Luke Pike of Philadelphia, MS; sisters, Kathy Kitrell and Linda Wilcher of Philadelphia, MS, Judy Travis (Larry) of Brandon, MS, Charlotte Boyd (Garland) of Birmingham, AL, and Betty Land of Durant, MS. Grandchildren, Charlie Bowman, Amanda Bowman Murphy, Troy and Houston Pike, Matt and Kristine Pike. Great-grandchildren Beckham and Morghyn Payne.

Charles was an avid outdoorsman who had a great passion for hunting and fishing, which he shared with his family and friends. He began working at a ship yard as a young man in Mobile, Alabama. He later returned to MS where he began managing Paul's restaurant in Jackson before beginning work

at Heart's Bakery and eventually leaving to work at Harden's Bakery and retiring as a district manager. Later he would open Broadmoor Meat Market and successfully run it for several years before finally retiring completely in 2002. He was dearly loved and respected by all who knew him. He will be deeply missed.

A future memorial service will be announced in the coming days and held in Philadelphia, MS. In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at www.pancan.org.

Anthony Mims

Services for Anthony Mims were Saturday, July 31, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Bro. Nathan Moore, Bro. Johnny Peden and Bro. Sam Fulton officiating. Burial followed in Cedarlawn Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Mims, 60, of Philadelphia, died Monday, July 26, 2021.

He was born in Biloxi, MS, and raised in the Longino Community of Neshoba County. Mr. Mims was an active member of North Bend United Pentecostal Church.

Survivors include wife, Shelia Mims of Philadelphia; daughter, Patience Mims of Philadelphia; three stepdaughters, Lacosta Yates of Louisville, Angela Jenkins of Stewart, Shelly Bishop of Philadelphia; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sisters, Nancy Gunn of Olive Branch, Patsy Chapman and Cynthia Mims of Philadelphia.

Preceding Mr. Mims in death were parents, Charles and Mary Margaret Mims; grandparents, Herbert Columbus Mims and Nancy Gennie Mims, Emmitt Ethridge and Mary Demarius Peden Ethridge.

Judy Wiggins

Services for Judy Wiggins were Sunday, August 1, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. from Hopewell United Methodist Church in Kemper County with Rev. Dennis Robinson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Wiggins, 74, died Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

She was a native of Kemper County and a longtime resident of the Hopewell Community. She retired from the Kemper County High School cafeteria and formerly worked in the dietary department at Kemper County Hospital in DeKalb. Ms. Wiggins was a member of the Hopewell United Methodist Church.

Survivors include daughter, Lisa Stovall of DeKalb; son, Justin Wiggins of Marion; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister, Beth Clay; brother, John Chisolm.

Preceding Ms. Wiggins in

death were parents, Lelia and Herschel Chisolm; son, Dustin Wiggins; sister, Ann Salter; and son-in-law, Joey Stovall.

Sammie C. Sharp

Services for Mrs. Sammie C. Sharp were held Monday, August 2, 2021, at 11:00 a. m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Dr. Dan Howard officiating. Burial followed in Cedarlawn Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Sharp, 95, of Philadelphia, died Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

She was a native and longtime resident of Neshoba County, and a retired school teacher. She taught in city, county, and tribal schools. Mrs. Sharp was a member of First Baptist Church where she was active with B. A. L. L. She formerly attended North Bend United Methodist Church. She was an artist who loved painting and a former active member of the Philadelphia Neshoba County Arts Council.

Survivors include daughter, Donna (Herman) Alford of Philadelphia; grandchildren, John Critz, Jessie Foster, Charleigh Vickers, Andrew Alford, Madison Alford; great-grandchildren, Maddilyn Foster, Jack Critz, Ridge Vickers; several nieces, nephews, and their families.

Mrs. Sharp was preceded in death by husbands, Floyd "Madison" Fulton, Olen May, and Rev. Kermit Sharp; daughter, Debbie Critz; siblings, Charles Arlin Carter and Juanita Fulton.

Ruth Ellingburg Clark

Services for Ruth Ellingburg Clark were Friday, July 30, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Rev. Len Wedgeworth officiating. Burial followed in Good Hope Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Clark, 88, of Philadelphia, died Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

A native of Neshoba County, she lived in Meridian, MS, for 50 years until her husband, L. D. Clark, retired. She was employed with Lauderdale Safety Council for several years. Mrs. Clark was a member of Good Hope Baptist Church.

Survivors include daughters, Kathy Brittain of McKinney, TX, Karen Humphreys of Lawrence, MS; and one grand-

daughter.

Mrs. Clark was preceded in death by husband, L. D. Clark; mother, Onnie Gilbert; father, Louis Ellingburg; sisters, Dale Moore and Jean Francis; brother, Harold Ellingburg.

George Larry Smith

Funeral services for George Larry Smith were Saturday, July 31, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. from Hope Baptist Church with Rev. Dennis Duval and Rev. Justin Chaney officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Smith, 73, of Philadelphia, died Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

A native of Neshoba County, he was a graduate of NCHS in 1966. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy in 1968 and was honorably discharged in 1972. After his service in the Navy he was employed by BellSouth (AT&T) until his retirement in 1999. Mr. Smith was a member of Hope Baptist Church.

Survivors include daughter, Sierra Smith of Atlanta, GA; sister, Ann Huffman of Philadelphia.

Mr. Smith was preceded in death by his parents, Travis and Dorothy Jolly; grandparents, Lessie and Jess Clark.

Harmon O'Neal

A graveside service for Har-



MRS. RUTH ELLINGBURG CLARK SERVICES JULY 30 MCCLAIN-HAYS CHAPEL INTERMENT GOOD HOPE CEMETERY

MR. HARMON O'NEAL GRAVESIDE SERVICE JULY 30 NEWTON COUNTY CEMETERY

MR. ANTHONY MIMS SERVICES JULY 31 MCCLAIN-HAYS CHAPEL INTERMENT CEDARLAWN CEMETERY

MR. GEORGE LARRY SMITH SERVICES JULY 31 HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH INTERMENT HOPE CEMETERY

MS. JUDY WIGGINS SERVICES AUGUST 1 HOPEWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH INTERMENT HOPEWELL CEMETERY

MRS. SAMMIE C. SHARP SERVICES AUGUST 2 MCCLAIN-HAYS CHAPEL INTERMENT CEDARLAWN CEMETERY



McClain-Hays Funeral Home 601-656-1212 www.mcclainhays.com

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THE LORD'S DAY
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School (All Ages) 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Activities
Family Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Bible Study and Prayer Service 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)
Children's Program 7:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia
"For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever"
533 Main Street ■ 601-656-4312
Pastor David Stormont
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

mon O'Neal was held Friday, July 30, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. from the Newton County Cemetery in Newton, MS, with Dr. Dan Howard officiating. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. O'Neal, 77, of Philadelphia, died Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at his home.

A native of Hazlehurst, MS, he was a graduate of Mississippi State and worked for MDOT for several years. He helped his wife in her business for many years after leaving MDOT.

Survivors include his wife, Tien O'Neal of Philadelphia; and brother, Lynn Robert O'Neal.

Camdyn Lachelle Wess

Graveside service for Infant Camdyn Lachelle Wess was held 5 PM Sunday, August 1, 2021 at Morrow Cemetery with Rev. John E. Stephens officiating. John E. Stephens Chapel was in charge.

Infant Wess passed away Sunday, July 11, 2021 in Grand Junction, CO.

She is survived by her parents, Chantele Lucas and Chris Wess of CO; sisters, Taylor Harris, Kambrie Renea Sullivan; brothers, Ryker Wallace Sullivan; grandparents, Kimberly Kosina and Johnny White, Carolyn Wess.

JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL FUNERAL SERVICES

MR. CLAY GEORGE 10 AM THURS., JULY 29, 2021 GRAVESIDE SANDTOWN UNITED METH. CEM.

MR. DEWAYNE WALLACE 10 AM FRI., JULY 30, 2021 GRAVESIDE HOLY ROSARY CEMETERY

MR. MITCHELL DWAYNE FRAZIER 10 AM SAT., JULY 31, 2021 JOHN MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH CREMATION

MASTER LUCAS ALLEN 2 PM SAT., JULY 31, 2021 BOGUE CHITTO FACILITY BUILDING NANIH WAIYA MENNONITE CEMETERY

MR. DAVID LINTON SR. 2 PM SUN., AUG. 1, 2021 NEW ZION PENTECOSTAL CHURCH HENRY'S CHAPEL CEMETERY

INFANT CAMDYN LACHELLE WESS 5 PM SUN., AUG. 1, 2021 GRAVESIDE MORROW CEMETERY (DIXON)

MS. LAHOMA LITTLEVOICE 2 PM TUES., AUG. 3, 2021 PEARL RIVER FACILITY BUILDING NANIH WAIYA MENNONITE CEM.

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Reeves calls for teacher pay raises

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@neshobademocrat.com

Gov. Tate Reeves proposed raising teacher pay and eliminating the state's income tax in his speech at the Neshoba County Fair last week.

Reeves called for an immediate \$1,300 a year across-the-board teacher payraise followed by a \$1,000 per year raise in each of the next two years.

Reeves said he supports the teacher payraise for the efforts teachers put in during the past year and a half of the COVID-19 pandemic and eliminating the income tax because Mississippi's workforce excelled through the pandemic and contributed to a robust economy.

"If we are successful in getting this done," Reeves said of the teacher pay raise. "This additional \$3,300 a year on top of the \$1,000 a year raise we did this year will result in Mississippi going from 37th nationally to 21st (in teacher pay)."

Reeves said despite the pandemic teachers performed better than teachers in other states.

"Mississippi has led the entire nation in education over the last year," Reeves said. "While teachers in some other states kept kids chained to laptops or smartphones and pretended it was school, Mississippi insisted on in-person instruction. Other states said, 'We can't,' but Mississippi teachers said, 'Yes we can.' And they

did it."

Reeves said that as a result of the hard work, Mississippi was recently ranked first in the nation for fourth-grade reading improvement over the last three years and first in the nation in fourth-grade math improvement over the last three years.

"The Biden Administration likes to throw around the term 'equity,'" Reeves said. "Well, here in Mississippi both black and white students from low-income homes have achieved higher scores than the national average. . . . When the pandemic hit, our teachers knew that we could not afford to give up that momentum. They knew that our kids needed to get all of the instruction that we could give them."

Reeves said he has never been more proud to be a Mississippian several times throughout his 15-minute speech at the Pavillion noting the difficulties his administration has faced throughout the past year and a half, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

He credited Mississippians with pulling the state through the crisis and said that throughout the pandemic Mississippi's economy thrived.

"Last year during 2020 we saw \$1.9 billion in new capital investment in our state," Reeves said. "To put that into perspective, in the previous 10 years before I was governor, Mississippi averaged approximately \$900 million per year. We did twice as good during

2020 than in the previous 10 years and we plan to do even better in the years to come."

Why? Reeves asked. "The major reason is you, our workforce," Reeves said. "You attracted that investment. You created those jobs. You really are second to none, and I'm committed to making sure our state invests back in you."

Reeves then proposed eliminating the state income tax, saying the economic growth was good for the state's coffers.

"Mississippi just ended our fiscal year having a budget a billion dollars more than was originally anticipated," Reeves said. "This is because while the rest of the country shut down we reopened."

Mississippi reopened faster

than many other states, he said.

"I didn't do the hard work," Reeves said. "You know who did? You did. You woke up. You went to work. You provided for your family and you helped move our state ahead. In my view, because of that, you should reap the rewards. You should keep more of your paycheck. You're the reason why we are in the financial shape that we are in and that is why I stand before you today to propose once and for all that we eliminate the state income tax in Mississippi."

Other speakers throughout the day included State Auditor Shad White, Attorney General Lynn Fitch and Mississippi House Speaker Phillip Gunn.

Police investigating Sunday shooting at Holland Avenue motel

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

Police are investigating a Sunday afternoon shooting at a Holland Avenue motel that left one man injured.

Philadelphia Police Det. Bobby Pattillo said officers were dispatched to the Western Motel on Holland Avenue on Sunday, Aug. 1, at 12:01 p.m. He said they were responding

to a report of shots fired.

Pattillo said an investigation revealed that the victim, 31-year-old Kendrick Steve, was shot in the leg.

He then left the area and was found on the Choctaw

Indian Reservation. He was then transported to Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian for treatment.

Pattillo said that the case remains under investigation.

Shots fired into a dwelling

on West Avenue over the weekend are also being investigated by police.

Pattillo said that on Saturday, July 31, a residence at 1126 West Avenue was shot into multiple times at about

10:30 p.m.

No one was reported injured and the case is currently under investigation, Pattillo said.

COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail Docket from 7/26-8/2

- Keaton Abel, 23, of 10061 Road 446, motor vehicle theft-felony
- Cody Ganton Anderson, 26, of 576 Conehatta Prospect Road, public drunk, littering
- Charles Lee Blair, 44, of 10141 Road 383, public drunk
- Joslyn M. Branch, 25, of 105 Street Francis Drive Apartment A4, 2 counts of failure to appear
- Derrick Cox, 36, of 3831 42nd Street of Meridian, possession of controlled substance, possession of a stolen firearm, possession of marijuana, vehicle, possession of paraphernalia
- Jason Creekmoore, 42, of 11748 Road 539, hold for investigations
- Christopher Dean, 33, of 10301 Road 1535, felony pursuit
- Dregen Lee Denson, 18, of 106 Tiakosi Road of Walnut Grove, alcoholic beverages, Possession under 21, false id information
- Jackie K. Dove, 59, of 10650 Road 129, contempt of court
- Janiya Edwards, 20, of 10261 Road 763, contempt of court, possession of controlled substance, contempt of court
- Jamie Lee Elliott, 28, of 10301 Road 288 of Union, driving under the influence-1st offense
- Jon William Garrett, 21, of 6095 Attala Co HWY 14 of Goodman, driving under the influence- 1st offense
- Gavin Grady, 38, of 10520 Road 747, possession of controlled substance
- Dontae C. Harris, 20, of 536 Valley View Drive, failure to appear
- Jerry Lynn Hester, 53, of 3517 Ferrigrick Street of Pascagoula, possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia, failure to appear
- Joey Holley, 43, of 12401 Road 325 of Union, contempt of court, hold for investigations
- Thomas Gage Hollingsworth, 20, 12634 Two Late Lane of Collinsville, public drunk
- William B. James, 27, of 581 Rice Creek Road of Carthage, disorderly conduct
- Rita Jenkins, 46, of 423 Hoyce Pace Road of Conehatta, driving under the influence- 3rd offense (felony), careless driving
- Heather Jensen, 43, of 383 Gum Street, public drunk
- Jerry Lynn Lee, 45, of 8419 Margaret Drive of Lauderdale, disorderly conduct
- Kayla Margrave Sims, 32, of 12661 Circle 270 of Union, possession of controlled substance
- Tyreekus Maul, 22, of 626 Jessie White Road of Noxapater, disorderly conduct
- Corie Mccallum, 34, of Pleasant Valley Drive, contempt of court
- Justin Tyler McKinney, 24, of 10190 Road 428 of Union, failure to appear, resisting arrest, petit larceny-less than \$1000.00
- Amis Wyatt McMillian, 19, of 2398 Bea Clene Drive of

- Biloxi, public drunk, alcoholic beverage, possession under 21, false id information
- Mathew Miller, 19, of 3107 Old Hwy 25 of Starkville, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, 2 counts of false id information
- John Kenneth Morehead, 53, of 537 Well Street, failure to appear, public drunk, disorderly conduct, public profanity
- Chad Neese, 43, of 12372 Road 325, burglary-dwelling house
- Logan P. Parisi, 21, of 4903 Cliffton Hillsboro Road of Forest, public drunk
- Dylan Pilgrim, 24, of 2290 Mars Hill Road of Carthage, public drunk, disorderly conduct
- Jerry Pittman, 36, of 958 Hwy 15 of Maben, charges unknown
- Tansil Edward Porter III, 21, of 515 Rear Cemetery Road of Carrollton, driving under the influence- 1st offense
- Corey Rayborn, 33, of 12140 Road 325 of Union, hold for investigations, 2 counts of possession of controlled substance
- Wesley Carl Rolins, 19, of 624 South Lane of Columbus, public drunk, false id information
- Casey Dian Russell, 34, of 393 Dr Brantley Road, hold for investigations, possession of paraphernalia
- Paul Dylan Sanders, 23, of 1173 South Pontotoc Road of Pontotoc, public drunk
- Joe Lewis Shamburger, 58, 1724 10th Avenue, public drunk, disorderly conduct
- Shane Shuler, 40, of 10832 Hwy 494 of Meridian, reckless driving
- Kayla Nichole Sims, 32, of 12661 Road 270, possession of controlled substance
- Johnnie Alton Stokes, 31, of 10160 Road 365, disorderly conduct
- Jason J. Stribling, 44, of

- 411 Austin Street, disturbing the peace
- Jimmy Thrash,, 50, of 262 Fred Holiness Road of Noxapater, failure to appear
- Hunter Chatham Walker, 20, of 111 Myrtle Wood Lane of Mobile, Alabama, public drunk, alcoholic beverage, possession under 21, false id information
- Joseph Wilson, 19, of 4260 Reform Sturgis Road of Ackerman, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest

Winston County Jail Docket for Philadelphia Police arrests from 7/26-8/1

- Cameron Allen, 23, of 44 Jimmy Cook Road of Heidelberg, contempt of court; municipal court
- Joshua R. Anderson, 39, of 317 Breland Street, contempt of court; municipal court
- Alyssa C. Beason, 26, of 1873 Laurel Hill Road of Carthage, contempt of court; municipal court
- Sheshena Bobbit, 24, of 503 Lamar Street, civil contempt; failure to appear or complete jury service, controlled substance; possession of marijuana less than 30 grams or synthetic cannabinoids 10 grams or less in motor vehicle
- Taylor M. Dabis, 29, of 10161 Bounds Avenue, contempt of court; municipal court, larceny- trespass less than- (joy riding)
- Darlene C. Dunn, 43, of 10962 Road 701 of Union, contempt of court; municipal court
- Gavin J. Grady, 38, of 10520 Road 747, simple assault- attempt by physical menace to create fear
- Santana N. Isaac, 33, of 102 McMillian Circle, contempt of court; municipal court, 2 counts of MV- failure to give signal, MV- no insurance, MV- failure to yield at intersection

- Regina M. Miller, 39, of 260 Davis Road, public drunk, disorderly conduct- failure to comply with request or command of law enforcement officers, controlled substance; possession of paraphernalia
- Marissa Mingo, 36, of 159 Thompson Road, DUI-3rd offense, MV- driver's license- none, MV- no insurance
- Brianna Mitch, 21, of 106 2nd Duplex Circle, controlled substance; possession of marijuana less than 30 grams or synthetic cannabinoids 10 grams or less in motor vehicle
- Joshua C. Morgan, 34, 10261 Road 763, DUI- test refusal, MV- failure to give signal, MV- drivers license- none, MV- no insurance
- Murphy Reid, 21, of 10337 Reowwill Road of

- Meridian, DUI- 1st offense, MV- driving on the wrong side of the road
- Valerie L. Thompson, 45, of 11357 HWY 25 South of Louisville, controlled substance; simple possession of marijuana- less than 30 grams, hold; detainer for other agency, controlled substance;

- possession of paraphernalia
- Neal O. Vaughn, 50, of 176 Choctaw Road of Conehatta, hold; detainer for other agency
- Vernalline Williams, 39, of 376 Choctaw Road of Conehatta, civil contempt; failure to appear or complete jury service



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Philadelphia native HARDY performed last Tuesday night to a massive audience.



Colorful cabins along Sunset Strip were full of laughter and fellowship.

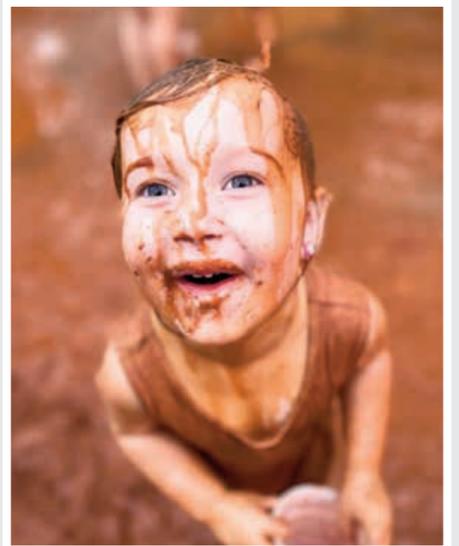
neshoba county fair



The Williams Manning Jordan family gathered for their traditional Sunday lunch that included fried chicken.



Cabin 317 held their first ever talent show this year. Pictured are Levi Dees, Mattie Sledge, Gracie Dees, Atley Boulden, Hudson Crosswhite, Brax Boulden, Russell Crosswhite, Tiffin Henig, Hayden Crosswhite, Gray Sledge, Mary Thomas Crosswhite, Tiffany Jones, Emma McDonald, Finleigh Henig, Jayden Muyres and Amzie Boulden.



Mud was a central theme of this year's Fair and Madelyn Hardy had her fun in it.



Anthony Murphy poses with Mississippi State Head Football Coach Mike Leach.

Wilson has passion for baking cakes

By SARAH KATHRYN WATKINS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Shandra Wilson grew up watching her mother bake in the kitchen.

"When it came to baking, I was not interested," said Wilson, daughter of the late Jimmy and Lillie Moore Johnson of Philadelphia.

Now baking has become not only a passion for Wilson but also a form of therapy because it reminds her of her mother who died in 2018.

Wilson's mother was featured in the Neshoba County Magazine for her cooking and baking in the summer of 2013.

"When I bake in my mom's kitchen, it makes me feel closer to her," Wilson said.

A couple of years ago, Wilson a social media post featuring a cake she had baked, and shortly after, she went into the cake-baking business. Now Wilson has clients from as far away as Chicago and Texas.

Wilson said she receives cake orders throughout the week.

"I'll take maybe one day to just kind of relax and not make cakes," Wilson said.

Her family is supportive of her efforts.

"My family helps me with the cakes," Wilson said of her children, Kyleigh, 15, Ja'Marquis, 11, and husband, Marcus Wilson, who help her in the kitchen as much as possible.

Wilson takes cake orders through Facebook or by phone at 601-575-1128.

On top of making cakes Wilson holds a certificate in Phlebotomy and has been working as a phlebotomist for 20 years and works at Quest Diagnostics Laboratories in Dekalb.

Wilson's husband Marcus works at Neshoba General, and according to Wilson, he loves cooking also.

Wilson and her husband take turns cooking dinner, she said. Marcus enjoys cooking with his smoker and doing different meats.

"My daughter has learned how to cook from just watching my mom and me and my husband," Wilson said.



Shandra Wilson

SWEET ALABAMA PECAN BREAD

- 1 c sugar
- 1 c brown sugar
- 4 eggs beaten
- 1 c oil
- 1 1/2 c self-rising flour
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 c pecans, finely chopped

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease and flour a 9x13 inch baking dish.

Using a spoon stir together sugar, brown sugar, eggs and oil in a mixing bowl until

smooth. Stir in flour and vanilla. Add pecans, then stir until evenly mixed. Spoon mixture into pan and bake for 30-35 minutes.

Whipping Cream Pound Cake

(This is the first cake my Mom taught me how to practice baking.)

- 3 sticks salted butter (softened)
- 3 cups granulated sugar
- 6 eggs
- 3 cups sifted Swans Down Cake Flour
- 1/2 pint heavy whipping

COOK OF THE WEEK

- cream
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 325. Butter and flour 10-inch cake pan. Combine sugar and butter in large mixing bowl. Mix together until the two ingredients are creamy. Add eggs one at a time. Beat eggs well after each addition. Add flour and whipping cream by alternat-

ing it into the mixture. Mix in your vanilla flavoring. Then pour batter into your cake pan. Bake for 1 hr 15 minutes or until tester inserted into middle of cake comes out completely clean. Allow cake to cool completely.

SHANDRA'S SPECIAL PARTY DIP

- 1 lb of ground beef (cooked and drained)
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- One 8-ounce package cream cheese softened
- 1 cup shredded sharp

- Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 2 green onions, finely chopped
- 1 dash cayenne pepper
- 8 ritz crackers, crushed
- Corn chips, crackers or bagel chips, for serving
- 8 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- Preheat the oven to 325. In a skillet season and brown ground beef. Using a spatula break ground beef into smaller pieces. After ground beef has browned be sure to drain. Place drained ground beef on

a plate covered with sheets of paper towel. In a medium bowl, mix the mayonnaise, cream cheese, Cheddar cheese, Monterey Jack cheese, green onions and cayenne pepper. Then add the ground beef to mixture. Transfer the mixture into a round baking dish. Top the mixture with the cracker crumbs and bake until heated about 15 to 20 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and top with the bacon. Serve with Tostitos or crackers

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

It was a great morning on July 29 for Annika Jones who received the news that she had passed the exam for Certified Occupational Therapists. She is so excited to be officially finished with the stress of studying!

Annika is a graduate of East Central Community College and recently graduated from the Occupational Therapist Program at Pearl River Community College. She is now a Certified Occupational Therapist. Annika is the daughter of Doug and Deanna Prince Jones. Congratulations!

The National Youth Cutting Horse Association World Finals competition was held in Fort Worth, Texas. Two young competitors from Neshoba County had the honor of competing after winning places in the Finals. Annie Kate White and Taylor Allen competed for a place in different categories in the Finals.

The NYCHA Finals kicked off with a Family Fun Night on July 26 with great food and fun. The Finals ran for one week of competition in several categories for the young people who attended.

Annie Kate White is the daughter of William and Leigh Ann Hatcher White. Taylor Allen's parents are Shane and Janet Yates Allen. These girls enjoy horsemanship year round. They take care of their own horses on a daily basis which includes feeding and grooming them.

A beautiful summer evening, flowers, music, lus-

cious food, white tents around a swimming pool and family and friends made the engagement party for Margaret Jordan and Sam Webb seem magical. The event was hosted by Jeremy and Dawn Lea Mars Chalmers at their lovely home in Cherry Level Place recently. A large group of hostesses all contributed to making the first event for the couple a very special one.

The sound of happy voices and laughter floated through the night air as the guests wished the couple happiness and blessings. It was a memorable evening!

Parents of the bride are Dr. Joe Jordan and Cynthia Williams Jordan. Sam's parents are John and Melody Webb of Oxford.

Philadelphia native, Greg Antonio Eiland, who was drafted by the Seattle Seahawks NFL team left on July 26 for Seattle where he will begin pursuing his dream of playing on an NFL team.

He will now wear a #75 jersey in place of the # 55 he wore in high school as a Tornado and at Mississippi State University as a Bulldog. His mother, Lesa Eiland, took him to the airport and watched him board his flight. Although she is so proud of him, it was not easy to see him leave again. Philadelphia is also very proud of him. We send our best wishes to him for a safe, successful year.

The 2021 Neshoba County Fair seemed to be an outstanding one in spite of the high temperatures. Fairgoers went on with their fun as usual. Missing the 2020 Fair seemed

to make this year's Fair attendees appreciate it so much more.

It was a fabulous Fair for the Bobby Hardy family of Philadelphia. Their family was part of the program on Monday and Tuesday nights.

Madison Hardy Dennis helped open the Fair on Monday night. She has a lovely voice and sang the National Anthem to mark the opening. She was accompanied by Burgin McClellan who signed the anthem using the American Sign Language.

On Tuesday night, Mike Hardy introduced his son, Hardy, who was the entertainment for the evening. He is a rising country music performer and songwriter who lives in Nashville. The grandstand and chairs in front were filled with an enthusiastic audience.

Not only were Bobby and Joyce's grandchildren from Nashville visiting, but their twin great grandchildren, Olivia and Levi Dennis, who came with their parents, Madison and Daniel Dennis, along with their grandparents, Mike and Sarah Hardy who also live in Nashville. It was such a fun time for the Hardy family this year. Bobby and Joyce are always so delighted to have their Nashville family visit. It is such a long distance from Philadelphia.

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

Bridal Registry

- Macken'z Smith & Keller Bradford August 7, 2021
- Anna Spears & Jordan Davidson August 28, 2021
- Kalee McCann & Anthony Cypher September 4, 2021
- Savannah Jones & Johnathan Simmons September 4, 2021
- Makayla Chamblee & David Fernandez September 11, 2021
- Caroline Willis & Dave Crasto September 25, 2021
- Anna Crawford & Bradley Broom September 25, 2021
- Whitney Strickland & Mitchell Bounds October 9, 2021
- Laurel Ball & Michael Beckham October 16, 2021
- Caroline Henson & Joseph Willis October 16, 2021
- Shelby Herrington & Brandon Garner October 23, 2021
- Skyler Frank & Garrett Myers October 23, 2021
- Abby Wright & Kip Clark November 6, 2021
- Sara Watson & Jeremy Bowen November 13, 2021
- Margaret Jordan & Sam Webb November 20, 2021
- Julia Rester & Brandon Ladd January 23, 2022

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Gardening has a lot to do with science

By FELDER RUSHING
rushingfelder@yahoo.com

Watching my native evening primrose unfurl at dusk should have been soothing to my romantic right brain. But the interwoven dance of flowers, fragrance, and a large, hovering sphinx moth kicked my scientific left brain into overdrive.

After acing college plant physiology courses, I thought I was done with krebs cycle, phytochromes, amyloplasts, and all that. But nope, as a "person of curiosity," little garden events prompt questions. The latest for me is "What makes some plants flower at night?"

You probably grow a few; just a handful of mine includes

evening primrose, moonflower vine, four o'clocks, angel trumpets, and night-blooming cereus (Epiphyllum).

Digging back into my class notes showed me how much in just my own lifetime we've learned about the chemistry and mechanics of how plants keep track of time, how they "know" when to flower (technically, they measure the hours of darkness, not the hours of daylight). And how they tell seasons apart.

But we still don't know for sure why some flower only at night. Best theories surmise that light-colored flowers open in darkness to welcome shy pollinators trying to avoid predators, and maybe to help plants growing in arid climates conserve moisture and energy.

Slowly, over millennia, it dawned on some plants that holding their beauty, perfumes, and pollen until dark brings out the best suitors!

Anyway, while jonesing for explanations, I pored over scientific reports, trying to wrap my frazzled old head around technical concepts; here are some (scroll down if reading science makes your eyes bleed):

First off, plants respond to direct stimuli, like towards light (phototropism), gravity (geotropism), or to wrap around supports (thigmotropism). They also respond to non-directional factors like temperature, humidity, and daylength.

Without getting into photosynthesis and how plants use

solar energy to create sugars, and through respiration they convert those sugars into carbohydrates which they need to grow. Or how respiration happens even after dark, enabling plants to keep growing when they aren't are busy with the daytime stuff. Suffice to say it's a lot like how our own bodies are most active during the day, then repair and rebuild as we sleep.

Anyway, plants don't sleep like we do, but they do have light sensors that trigger biological switches, turning night/day responses on and off. Full sun exposes plants to lots of visible red light, which switches plants into active growth mode; shaded or late afternoon sun has more far-red wavelengths, which put them

into night mode.

Some plant chemicals break down slowly overnight, letting plants keep track of how many hours they spend on and off, which affects flowering; plus, as nights get successively shorter or longer, plants "predict" what seasons are approaching. Horticulturists take advantage of this by using extra lighting or shading to trick poinsettias, Easter lilies, chrysanthemums, and other flowers to bloom out of season.

In general, stimuli such as sunlight, air temperatures, and even humidity can pressurize fluids to move into or out of "hinges" at the base of leaves and flowers, or cause cells to get bigger or smaller, longer or shorter. This is what makes

leaves of some plants to fold and unfold, flowers open and close, and stems to bend towards light.

Still don't know why. But while I'm at this, in case you wondered, amyloplasts, which I mentioned at the beginning of this treatise, are tiny granules in cells dragged down by gravity to irritate cell walls so plants know which way is up and down.

Ain't science grand? But I've got to relax now, try to get back to just soaking in the evening garden's natural allures.

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



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF NESHOBA COUNTY

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

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- Money Matters/Field Trips/Activities
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 - All-Day Summer Enrichment Program
 - 200+ children attend each day

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Philadelphia, MS 39350

For more info on how you can invest in our children, call 601-656-4343.
For program info/enroll a child, call Jermaine Harris, County Unit Director, 601-880-6322.



Why can't all life's problems come to us when we're 18 and know everything?

Where there's whispering, there's probably lying.

Little boy to his father on the golf course: "Daddy, why isn't the ball supposed to go in the little hole?"

Today's students are more punctual than yesterday's. If they don't get to the parking lot early, they won't find a space.

You're only young once. After that, you need another excuse.

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Evening primrose is one of a few plants that flower at night.



SAVE THE
DATE

- Macy Martin & Tanner Rhodes June 5, 2021
- Cecily Kate Price & Lane Waltman June 26, 2021
- Jamie Claire Musselwhite & Wesley Smith July 3, 2021
- Kinsey Gentry & Cooper Smith July 17, 2021
- Macken'z Smith & Keller Bradford August 7, 2021
- Kalee McCann & Anthony Cypher September 4, 2021
- Brianna Whittle & Jamie Rickles September 11, 2021
- Caroline Willis & Dave Crasto September 25, 2021
- Alexa Harrison & Cody Vernon October 6, 2021
- Kayleigh Hancock & Tim Cardwell October 9, 2021
- Whitney Strickland & Mitchell Bounds October 9, 2021
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Of Local Interest

CHURCH REVIVAL
God's Tabernacle Church, 392 Loper Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350. Revival, Revival, Revival Service. August 8-10, 2021. Sunday-August 8 @ 6PM. Monday & Tuesday-August 9-10 @

7PM. Pastor Sylvester Hampton

NARFE MEETING
The monthly meeting of the Central MS Chapter 1251 of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employee

es) will be held Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at 11:30 A.M. at Ronnie's Steak and Grill, 734 Pecan Avenue, Philadelphia. All active and retired federal employees and guests are invited to attend. For additional information about the meeting, please call 601-416-1053.

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AMERICAN LEGION YARD SALE

We, the members of the American Legion Post 238, is having a yard sale. August 7, 2021 at 7 a.m. -until; Blood Mobile, will be out from 900-12. Please come out to help support the American Legion Post 238.

P.S. We will be selling hot fish sandwiches as well as hotdogs, and smoked sausage.

THE MIRACLES

Antioch Baptist Church will host The Miracles, a nationally renowned choir of musically gifted adults with intellectual disabilities, at their church service on August 15, 2021. The service will begin at 10:30 AM with Brother JR Eaton as pastor. The Miracles travel 15,000 miles and perform 80 concerts in over 40 venues annually. Come share this wonderful experience with our church family.

ECCC orientation set for Aug. 11

By SCHOOL REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

East Central Community College will offer a Warrior Wednesday Orientation and Registration session on Wednesday, Aug. 11, on the Decatur campus.

It is the final orientation session before fall 2021 day and evening classes begin on Monday, Aug. 16.

Warrior Wednesday will be from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 11 beginning in the Vickers Fine Arts Center. New students can begin signing in for the session at 8:30 a.m.

In addition to registering for fall 2021 classes, those participating will receive information on financial aid, admissions, housing, student activities, and discipline and security. Following a tutorial on registering for

classes using the college's myEC portal, new students will move to their programs of study to be advised by faculty and register for fall classes.

Following registration, students will tour campus and acquire their student IDs.

In order to attend the Orientation and register for fall term classes, students must complete three steps in admissions:

ECCC Application for Admission (available online at www.eccc.edu); ACT or Accuplacer scores, which will be used for placement in English and mathematics courses; and high school/college transcripts. For more information on taking the Accuplacer, contact Leslie Hughes at 601-635-6220 or lhughes@eccc.edu. Transfer students must have all college transcripts on file before they

can register for classes.

Students who have already satisfied all three steps in the admissions process will have received information from the Office of Admissions on how to register for the Orientation session on Aug. 11. Students attending Warrior Wednesday must RSVP in advance using the myEC link at www.eccc.edu.

New students who have

questions about their admissions status should contact the Office of Admissions at sholling@eccc.edu or 601-635-6207. For more information about the Warrior Wednesday Orientation on Aug. 11, contact Dr. Randall Lee, vice president for student services, at 601-635-6204 or rlee@eccc.edu.

LEGALS NOTICE FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Commissioners of Philadelphia Utilities, Philadelphia, Mississippi, that sealed bids will be accepted until Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. for the sale of surplus vehicle described as follows:

One (1) 2015 Ford Taurus
White in Color
Mileage: 24,628
VIN: 1FAHP2D84FG154467

This vehicle will be sold as is where is without warranty. Vehicle may be examined by bidders at Philadelphia Utilities Water Plant at 226 West Myrtle Street prior to submitting bid.

Envelopes containing bids should be marked "SEALED BID" on the outside. Each bid submitted should specifically state the VIN number. All bids should be mailed to Philadelphia Utilities, c/o Kirk Morgan General Manager, Post Office Box 88, Philadelphia, MS 39350 or may be delivered to the office of Philadelphia Utilities at 435 East Myrtle Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi. The Board of Commissioners of Philadelphia Utilities reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Published by order of the Board of Commissioners of Philadelphia Utilities, Philadelphia, Mississippi, on this the 17th day of June 2021.

Publication Dates:
August 4, 2021
August 11, 2021

SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2006, Justin C. Stovall and Heather Thompson Stovall executed a Land Deed of Trust to L. Scott Pickle, Trustee for the benefit of First Financial Bank, Beneficiary, which Deed of Trust is filed for record in Book 2006 at Page 8998 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi ("Deed of Trust 1"); and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2006, Justin C. Stovall and Heather Thompson Stovall executed a Land Deed of Trust to L. Scott Pickle, Trustee for the benefit of First Financial Bank, Beneficiary, which Deed of Trust is filed for record in Book 2006 at Page 9010 in the office of the aforesaid Chancery Clerk ("Deed of Trust 2"); and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2008, Justin C. Stovall and Heather Thompson Stovall executed a Deed of Trust to L. Scott Pickle, Trustee for the benefit of First Financial Bank, Beneficiary, which Deed of Trust is filed for record in Book 2008 at Page 10379 in the office of the aforesaid Chancery Clerk ("Deed of Trust 3"); and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2010, Justin C. Stovall and Heather Thompson Stovall executed a Deed of Trust to L. Scott Pickle, Trustee for the benefit of First Financial Bank, Beneficiary, which Deed of Trust is filed for record in Book 2010 at Page 1239 in the office of the aforesaid Chancery Clerk ("Deed of Trust 4") (Deed of Trust 1, Deed of Trust 2, Deed of Trust 3, and Deed of Trust 4 are collectively referred to as the "Deeds of Trust"); and

WHEREAS, the Deeds of Trust authorized the appointment and substitution of another Trustee in the place of the Trustee named in the Deeds of Trust or subsequently substituted therein, and First Financial Bank appointed and substituted Chad J. Hammons as Trustee therein, by instrument dated June 7, 2021, and duly filed for record in the office of the aforesaid Chancery Clerk in Book 2021 at Page 5015; and

WHEREAS, default having been made in the performance of the terms and conditions of the Deeds of Trust, and the entire indebtedness secured thereby having been declared to be due and payable pursuant to the terms of the Deeds of Trust, and First Financial Bank, the holder of the notes and the Deeds of Trust, having requested the undersigned Substituted Trustee so to do, I will, on the 20th day of August, 2021, offer for sale at public outcry and sell during legal hours, being between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., at the north door of the County Courthouse of Neshoba County at 401 Beacon Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi, for cash to the highest and best bidder, the following described land and property lying and being situated in Neshoba County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

TRACT ONE:
W 1/2 of NE 1/4, Section 29, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi, containing 80 acres, more or less.

TRACT TWO:
Begin where the South line of County Road No. 814 crosses the East line of the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East; then run South 210 feet; then run West 210 feet; then run North 380 feet to the South line of County Road No. 814; then run in a Southeasterly direction along the South line of Road 260 feet to the point of beginning, being 1.4 acres, more or less, in the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

TRACT THREE:
Commence where the South line of Road 814 intersects the East line of the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, and thence run Northwesterly along the road 620 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence run Southwesterly perpendicular to the road 210 feet; thence

run Northwesterly parallel to the road 210 feet; thence run Northeasterly perpendicular to the road 210 feet; thence run Southeasterly along the road 210 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 1 acre, more or less, in the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

TRACT FOUR:
All of the SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 East of County Road No. 814, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, containing 38 acres, more or less, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

TRACT FIVE:
Begin where the East line of County Road 814 crosses the South line of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East; run thence North along the East line of Road 230 feet; thence East 300 feet; thence South parallel to road 230 feet; thence West 300 feet to the point of beginning, being 1.58 acres, more or less, in the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

TRACT SIX:
The SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

LESS AND EXCEPT:
Begin where the East line of County Road 814 crosses the South line of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East; run thence North along the East line of road 230 feet; thence East 300 feet; thence South parallel to road 230 feet; thence West 300 feet to the point of beginning, being 1.58 acres, more or less, in the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT:
Begin where the South line of County Road No. 814 crosses the East line of the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East; then run South 210 feet; then run West 210 feet; then run North 380 feet to the South line of County Road No. 814; then run in a Southeasterly direction along the South line of road 260 feet to the point of beginning, being 1.4 acres, more or less, in the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT:
Begin where the North line of County Road No. 814 intersects the West line of the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, thence run North 540 feet to the Northeast Corner of SE 1/4 of SW 1/4; thence run East 170 feet; thence run South 400 feet to the North right of way of Road No. 814; thence run in a Southwesterly direction along the North right of way of Road No. 814, to the Point of Beginning, being 1.8 acres, more or less, in the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT:
Begin where the North line of County Road No. 814 intersects the West line of the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, thence run North 540 feet to the Northeast Corner of SE 1/4 of SW 1/4; thence run East 170 feet; thence run South 400 feet to the North right of way of Road No. 814; thence run in a Southwesterly direction along the North right of way of Road No. 814, to the Point of Beginning, being 1.8 acres, more or less, in the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT:
Commence where the South line of Road 814 intersects the East line of the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, and thence run Northwesterly along the road 620 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence run Southwesterly perpendicular to the road 210 feet; thence run Northwesterly parallel to the road 210 feet; thence run Northeasterly perpendicular to the road 210 feet; thence run Southeasterly along the road 210 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 1 acre, more or less, in the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT:
Commence where the South line of Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, intersects the East line of County Road No. 814; thence run East 300 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence run North 1320 feet to the North line of SE 1/4 of SW 1/4; thence run East 330 feet; thence run South 1320 feet to the South line of the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4; thence run West 330 feet to the point of beginning, containing 10 acres, more or less, in the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

TRACT SEVEN:
South 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, Section 28, Township 12 North, Range 10 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi. Together with all rights, easements, appurtenances, and improvements erected on and all structures and fixtures of any and every description attached to, the real property.

Tracts 1 through 6 described above will be offered together for sale, and Tract 7 described above will be offered for sale. Hereafter, all of the real estate described above will be offered for sale together as a whole. The bid or combination of bids that bring the highest amount will be accepted as the highest and best bid. The poultry farm equipment described hereinabove will be sold with Tract 7, to the extent it remains on the property. No warranties or assurances are given with respect to the existence or condition of any such equipment.

In conjunction with the aforesaid sale of real property and at the same place and time as the sale, I will offer for sale at public outcry and sell to the highest and best bidder any and all equipment, machinery, fixtures, farm machinery and equipment, tools, poultry equipment, parts, accessories, repairs, replacements, improvements, and acccessions thereto located on the real estate described or situated within the poultry production facilities located on Country Road 167, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350. No representation is made as to the existence or condition of any equipment described above. The equipment will not be removed to the place of sale. All equipment will

be sold as is and where is. The real property described in Tract 7 and any equipment will be offered together as a whole. There is no warranty relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment, fitness, merchantability or the like in this sale and disposition of the collateral. I will convey only such title as is vested in me as Substituted Trustee.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this the 22nd day of July, 2021.
/s/Chad J. Hammons
CHAD J. HAMMONS, SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE

JONES WALKER LLP
P. O. Box 427
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
(601) 949-4900
PUBLISH:
July 28, 2021
August 4, 2021
August 11, 2021
August 18, 2021

CHOCTAW TRIBAL CIVIL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KATIE THOMPSON, DECEASED C. A. NO. 2021-297

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 21st day of July, 2021 by the Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to the undersigned upon the Estate of Katie Thompson, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to probate and register 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 said ninety (90) day period will forever bar the claim.

WITNESS THE SIGNATURE of the Executrix, this the 21st day of July, 2021.

/s/ Beth Henry
Beth Henry, Executrix of the Estate of Katie Thompson, deceased
SUBMITTED BY:
Kevin W. Brady (MSB # 100753)
Choctaw Legal Defense
P.O. Box 6255
Choctaw, Mississippi 39350
Telephone: (601) 650-7449
Attorney for Beth Henry

Advertisement for Bids
Neshoba County Schools

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS for the purchase of Apple iMacs and iPads will be received in the NESHOB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350, until 2:00 p.m. on August 17, 2021, and there opened and tabulated. The NCSd reserves the right to reject any and all bids in whole or in part when in the best interest of the State. Description of products are as follows:

- Quantity 29 of 27" iMac with 5k Retina Display (Product Number: 20ZX)
 - Processor: 8 GHz 8-core 10th-generation Intel Core i7 processor, Turbo Boost up to 5.0 GHz
 - Memory: 8GB 2666MHz DDR4 memory
 - Storage: 2TB
 - Graphics: Radeon Pro 5500 XT with 8GB of GDDR6 memory
 - Display: Standard Glass
 - 11ac Wi-Fi wireless networking IEEE 802.11a/b/g/n compatible
 - Bluetooth 5.0 wireless technology
 - 5 mm headphone jack
 - SDXC card slot
 - Four USB-A ports
 - Two Thunderbolt 3 (USB-C) ports
 - Gigabit Ethernet
 - Wired Keyboards & Mice
 - Maxon Cinema 4D
 - Preloaded Logic Pro, Final Cut ProX, and Motion
 - Preloaded with Microsoft Office for Mac
 - AppleCare+ for Mac – 3 years coverage (Product Number: S7729LL/A)
 - Quantity 15 of 12.9" iPad Pro (Product Number: PHNF3LL/A)
 - Storage: 128 GB
 - Apple Pencil
 - Magic Keyboard
 - Connectivity: 11ax Wi-Fi 6
 - Free Engraving: Neshoba County School District
 - AppleCare+ for iPad – 3 years coverage (Product Number: S7744LL/A)
 - Quantity 10 of 10.9" iPad Air (Product Number: PYFM2LL/A)
 - Capacity: 64 GB
 - Connectivity: 11ax Wi-Fi 6
 - Free Engraving: Neshoba County School District
 - AppleCare+ for iPad – 3 years coverage (Product Number: S7743LL/A)
- Publish: Wednesday, July 28, and Wednesday August 4, 2021.

CHOCTAW TRIBAL CIVIL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RICHARD JAMES ISAAC, DECEASED C. A. NO. 2020-834

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: The heirs at law of **RICHARD JAMES ISAAC**, deceased, and any and all other persons claiming any right, title or interest in and to the estate of **RICHARD JAMES ISAAC**,

deceased, whose post office and street addresses are unknown to the Petitioner after diligent search and inquiry, and upon whom service of process may be had by publication as prescribed by law. You have been made a Respondent in a Petition for Determination of Heirship filed in this court by the Petitioner Margaret Bell, Administrator of the Estate of **RICHARD JAMES ISAAC**, deceased. You are summoned to appear and defend against the petition filed against you in this action at **1:00 P.M. on the 20th day of October, 2021**, in the courtroom of the Choctaw Tribal Civil Court at Choctaw, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for 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 this Court, this the 27th day of July, 2021.

/s/ Jennileen Young
CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT CLERK

CHOCTAW TRIBAL CIVIL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WANDA GAIL THOMPSON DAVIDSON, DECEASED C. A. NO. 2021-151

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 20th day of July, 2021 by the Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to the undersigned upon the Estate of Wanda Gail Thompson Davidson, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to probate and register 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 said ninety (90) day period will forever bar the claim.

WITNESS THE SIGNATURE of the Executor, this the 20th day of July, 2021.

/s/ Farrell Davidson
Farrell Davidson , Executor of the Estate of Wanda Gail Thompson Davidson , deceased

SUBMITTED BY:
Kevin W. Brady (MSB # 100753)
Choctaw Legal Defense
P.O. Box 6255
Choctaw, Mississippi 39350
Telephone: (601) 650-7449
Attorney for Executor

CHOCTAW TRIBAL CIVIL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANNIE MARIE BELL, DECEASED C. A. NO. 2021-149

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 20th day of July, 2021, by the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to the undersigned upon the Estate of Annie Marie Bell, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to probate and register 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 said ninety (90) day period will forever bar the claim.

WITNESS THE SIGNATURE of the Administrator, this the 20th day of July, 2021.

/s/ Hayward Bell
Hayward Bell,
Administrator of the Estate of Annie Marie Bell deceased

SUBMITTED BY:
Kevin W. Brady, MSB 100753
Choctaw Legal Defense
P.O. Box 6255
Choctaw, Mississippi 39350
Phone: (601) 650-7449
Attorney for Administrator

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOB COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIE MARVIN ANDERSON, DECEASED

CIVIL ACTION NO.:2021-168

TERRY W. ANDERSON
PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi, on the Estate of Willie Marvin Anderson, Deceased, on the 1st day of July, 2021, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the said Estate to have their claims probated and registered by the Clerk of the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, and that failure to probate and register their claims with the Clerk within that time will forever bar the claim.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE this the 12th day of July, 2021.

/s/Terry W. Anderson
TERRY W. ANDERSON

EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIE MARVIN ANDERSON

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

SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2013, William Ernest Daniels and Martha V. Daniels, husband and wife executed a certain deed of trust to Resource Title, LLC, Trustee for the benefit of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as beneficiary, as nominee for Proficio Mortgage Ventures, LLC, its successors and assigns which deed of trust is of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, State of Mississippi in Book 2013 at Page 10125; and

WHEREAS, Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC has heretofore substituted LOGS Legal Group, LLP as Trustee by instrument dated June 17, 2021 and recorded in the aforesaid Chancery Clerk's Office in Book 2021 Page 5451; 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, Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC, the legal holder of said indebtedness, having requested the undersigned Substituted Trustee to execute the trust and sell said land and property in accordance with the terms of said deed of trust and for the purpose of raising the sums due thereunder, together with attorney's fees, trustee's fees and expense of sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOGS Legal Group, LLP, Substituted Trustee in said deed of trust, will on August 18, 2021 offer for sale at public outcry and sell within legal hours (being between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.), at the North Door of the County Courthouse of Neshoba County, located at 401 East Beacon Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350, to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds the following described property situated in Neshoba County, State of Mississippi, to-wit:

The following described property lying and being situated in Neshoba County, Mississippi, to-wit:

One acre square in the SW corner of the E 1/2 of SW 1/4 of NW 1/4, Section 23, Township 12 North, Range 11 East, more particularly described as beginning at the SW corner of said twenty and running East along the quarter section line 70 yards, thence run North 70 yards, thence run West 70 yards, and thence run South 70 yards to the point of beginning, containing one acre in the SW corner of the E 1/2 of SW 1/4 of NW 1/4, Section 23, Township 12 North Range 11 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

The improvements thereon being known as 10511 Road 3403, Philadelphia, MS. 39350

Being the same lot or parcel of ground which by Deed dated 7/9/07 and recorded 7/9/07 among the Land Records of Neshoba County, State of Mississippi, in Liber/Book 2007, folio/page 2392, was granted and conveyed by and between William Ernest Daniels, unto William Ernest Daniels and Martha V. Daniels

I WILL CONVEY only such title as vested in me as Substituted Trustee.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE on this 7th day of July, 2021.

Tammy Scott, Officer
LOGS Legal Group, LLP
SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE

LOGS Legal Group LLP
1080 River Oaks Drive, Suite B-202
Flowood, MS 39232
(601) 981-9299

10511 Road 3403
Philadelphia, MS 39350
21-026906

Publication Dates:
July 21, July 28, August 4 and August 11, 2021

THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOB COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ERDIS K. CHANEY, DECEASED

JAMES PATRICK CHANEY, EXECUTOR
CV-181

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 12th day of July, 2021, by the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the undersigned, **JAMES PATRICK CHANEY**, upon the **ESTATE OF ERDIS K. CHANEY**, the deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said **ESTATE** to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety(90) days from the date of the first publication of this Notice or they will be forever barred.

This the 12th day of July 2021.

James

Patrick Chaney
JAMES

PATRICK CHANEY, EXECUTOR OF THE

TATE ERDIS K. CHANEY

ROBERT L. THOMAS, MSBN 8159
ALFORD, THOMAS & THOMAS, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
POST OFFICE BOX 96
PHILADELPHIA, MS 39350
(601)656-1871

JULY 12TH, 2021
NESHOB COUNTY
CHANCERY CLERK
GUY HOWELL

INVITATION FOR BIDS HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS

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., August 13, 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 13 East

The S ½ of SW ¼ less and except two 1.3 acre parcels located on the West side of County Road 2826, Section 16, Township 12N, Range 13E containing 76.6 acres, more or less, in Neshoba County, Mississippi, and identified as parcels #22, #22.01, and #22.04 on map 5 of the Neshoba County Tax Assessor plat maps.

Bids will be opened and read at the date and time specified for acceptance. Complete information concerning the lease and the lease bid form can be obtained from the office of the Superintendent, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi, 39350. The minimum bid



Pictured are 3rd Alternate Piper Fulton, 1st Alternate Madison Delaney, Miss Neshoba County Fair Abby Seal, 2nd Alternate Zoey Bell

Seale excited after winning Pageant

By SARAH KATHRYN WATKINS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Abby Seale was ecstatic after being crowned Miss Neshoba County Fair 2021 last week. "It was honestly just a dream come true," Seal said.

Seale, 20, is the daughter of

Steve and Tina Seale of the Forestdale community in Neshoba County.

Seale said she has dreamed of becoming Miss Neshoba County Fair since she was a little girl. Her sister Miriam Seale was crowned Miss Neshoba County Fair in 2016.

Miriam Seale helped her sis-

ter with her fashion choices, and Abby said she welcomed her sister's input in such decisions as picking out dresses.

"It has just been such a beautiful tradition to watch the young women of Neshoba County compete in the past," Abby Seal said.

She said she enjoyed getting

to know the 12 other competitors in the pageant, and before the pageant, they all prayed and put everything in God's hands.

Seale served as Neshoba County's Distinguish Young Woman in 2019 and she also placed in the top 10 of the Miss Maroon and White competition in Starkville.

After her win last week, Seale had many Fairgoers congratulate her on being crowned 2021's Miss Neshoba County Fair, and she posed for numerous pictures with people at the Fair throughout the week.

Seale is a member of Kappa Delta at Mississippi State University, and several of her soror-

ity sisters came to support Seale in the pageant last week.

Seale is going into her junior year at Mississippi State University, majoring in kinesiology with concentrations in neuromechanics and pre-nursing.

"I hope to further my education by getting a doctorate in physical therapy," she said.

Holland selected for Rural Physician Program

By SCHOOL REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Tyler Holland, a Philadelphia native and junior at Mississippi State University, was recently selected to participate in the undergraduate portion of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP).

Holland is the son of Tommy and Sharon Holland.

Created in 2007, MRPSP

identifies college sophomores and juniors who demonstrate the necessary commitment and academic achievement to become competent, well-trained rural primary care physicians in our state.

"My whole life, I have always wanted to do something related to science and I really wanted to do something to help people," Holland said. "My mom works in health care. It has always been a passion of mine

to help people and do something that is job related."

The program offers undergraduate academic enrichment and a clinical experience in a rural setting. Upon completion of all medical school admissions requirements, the student can use the scholarship at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine or William



Tyler Holland

Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

During medical school, each MRPSP scholar may receive \$30,000 per year based on available funding. Consistent legislative support of MRPSP translates to 61 medical students receiving a total of \$1,830,000 to support their education this fall. In addition to the

legislative support, three privately funded scholarships are also awarded from the Madison Charitable Foundation, the Selby and Richard McRae Foundation, and the Medical Assurance Company of Mississippi. Additional benefits include personalized mentoring from practicing rural physicians and academic support.

Upon completion of medical school, MRPSP scholars must enter a residency program in

one of five primary care specialties: family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatrics, medicine-pediatrics, or obstetrics/gynecology. The MRPSP Scholar must provide four years of service in a clinic-based practice in an approved Mississippi community of 15,000 or fewer population located more than 20 miles from a medically served area.

CLASSIFIEDS

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DEADLINE

601-656-4000

Rates ■ 15 words or less \$7.50 per week, each word over 50¢ per word ■ Display classified ads \$13.30 per column inch ■ Place your ad online: neshobademocrat.com/classifieds

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All sizes 5'x10' to 10'x25'
For rental see
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or 601-650-5475
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SERVICES
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FOR SALE
For sale: 10 acres of land, Highway 404, joined the property with St. Paul MB Church. \$44,000 will not

divide. Call 601-604-8497--

Five piece drum set for sale. 601-780-0105. 601-502-5190.--

HELP WANTED
MS Care Center of DeKalb is accepting applications for the following position
Dietary Aide , Floor Tech , CNA also Nurse Aide Trainee students. Very competitive salary and benefits. Applications will be accepted until position are filled.--

YARD SALE
3 Family Yard Sales, Saturday at 7 a.m. lots of baby and kids clothes.
1122 East Avenue (near Smiths Bargain Center).

Rates ■ 15 words or less \$7.50 per week, each word over 50¢ per word ■ Display classified ads - \$13.30 per column inch ■ Place your ad online: neshobademocrat.com/classifieds

CLASSIFIEDS Monday 5 p.m. DEADLINE

CLASSIFIEDS Monday 5 p.m. DEADLINE

CLASSIFIEDS Monday 5 p.m. DEADLINE

CERTIFIED STAFF OPENINGS
For School Year 2021-2022

CLOSING DATE: 8/10/21 or until filled

CTS TRANSPORTATION
Bus Driver/Technician Assistant

Qualifications: High School Diploma or GED. Must possess or be able to obtain a valid Mississippi Class B, Endorsement P, Commercial Driver's License, a valid School Bus Driver's Certification issued by the State Department of Education, personal automobile liability insurance and adequate transportation.

Complete a criminal background check on county, state, and national levels. Any record or conviction of criminal or child abuse charges will result in immediate termination. Employee in this position is subject to random alcohol/drug testing. Must possess a valid Mississippi Driver's license, adequate transportation and personal automobile liability insurance.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE REQUESTED OR SUBMITTED TO:

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Attention: Human Resources
P.O. Box 6033, Choctaw Branch
Choctaw, Mississippi 39350

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\$545 + Costs
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY
Court Fees Up Front
Jim Arnold, Attorney
601-656-6914

Sports

'Football at the Fair' draws big crowd

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Head football coaches from Mississippi State, Ole Miss and Southern Mississippi took time to update fans about their teams' upcoming seasons last week at The Neshoba County Fair.

The "Football at the Fair" gathering was a first for the Fair as a big crowd turned out at the Pavilion in Founders Square. For Lane Kiffin of Ole Miss and Mike Leach of Mississippi State, this was their first visit to

the Fair. Southern Mississippi's Will Hall grew up in Mississippi and was familiar with it.

At the time, with little more than a week away from the start of fall practice, all briefly discussed their programs and answered questions.

All looked back at the 2020 season, which was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and talked about what their programs were doing to combat the dread disease this year. Getting all of their players vaccinated was a key concern.

"We are looking forward to having a normal season with our fans back in the stands," said Kiffin, whose Rebels finished 5-5 and defeated Indiana 26-20 in the Outback Bowl. "We are starting the season with a National TV game and we are all excited about that."

Ole Miss opens Monday, Sept. 6, against Louisville in a game that will be played in Atlanta. Kiffin said a focus will be on improving the Ole Miss defense which gave up some big points last year, especially in a

63-48 loss to Alabama.

Moderator Sid Salter said the Rebels gave the Tide their toughest test last year. Kiffin said the offense scored enough points to win.

"We hope to make people punt more this year," Kiffin said.

Hall's Golden Eagles are opening the season Sept. 4 at South Alabama. Hall took over the program that finished 3-7 last year. He talked about bringing back old traditions from Southern Miss's football past.

"It is a thrill for me to be back in this state," Hall said. "We have a lot to be proud of at Southern Miss. I think the big thing for us is getting back to who we were under former coaches like Bobby Collins, Jim Carmody, Thad "Pie" Vann, Jeff Bower and Larry Fedora.

"We have to get back to recruiting Mississippi, lower Alabama, the Florida panhandle and southeast Louisiana as hard as we can. We need to be finding those kids who can play and help our program and building

those relationships. We have tradition. Good facilities, people being drafted into the NFL. We have a lot to be proud of, and we want to sell that."

Leach is leading the Bulldogs toward their season opener at home against Louisiana Tech, also on Sept. 4.

The Bulldogs compiled a 3-7 record in a 10-game all-SEC schedule but were competitive, never knowing who was going to be available for the next

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Warriors prepping for upcoming season

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
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The Choctaw Central Warriors are going back to work as they try to improve on last season's 2-6 record.

The Warriors earned a place in the playoffs and battled Pontotoc before dropping a 38-24 season.

The COVID-19 pandemic kept things up in the air last season. Coach Pepper Posey said he and his assistant coaches have been mindful of the threat of COVID-19 and the different variants. At the same time, he said participation has been good.

"We had a pretty good summer," Posey said. "We lifted weights for most of the summer and had good participation. Between junior and varsity, we have 60 out. That was one of the things when I was hired, we wanted to do, get the numbers up."

"We have some mini-camp workouts to see where we are. We are ready to get started."

According to the Mississippi High School Activities Association, fall practices start Monday, Aug. 9. Teams will be allowed to play a jamboree/ scrimmage game on Aug. 20, and the season kicks off Aug. 27. The Warriors will play in the East Central jamboree. Choctaw Central started its season at Union.

Posey said the Warriors will return seven starters on offense from last year. However, the player losses were on the offensive line.

"We are going to be young on our offensive line," Posey said. "We lost eight out of 11 starters on defense. We are going to see what some of our younger guys can do but we will have some guys going both ways."

"Our focus right now is finding the guys who are going to fill these open positions."

The Warriors went to several camps over the summer, including Mississippi State.

Posey said making the playoffs last year was a plus.

"No one gave us a chance and we were leading at half-time," Posey said. "We gave them a run for their money. It showed our kids they could compete."

The Warriors compete in the tough Region 4-4A along with Louisville, West Lauderdale, Kosciusko, Northeast Lauderdale and Leake Central.



Photo by Robbie Robertson

Leake Academy's Jenna Chamblee makes a throw to first base against Hartfield on Saturday.

Lady Rebels split pair in ECCC tournament

By ROBBIE ROBERTSON
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The Leake Academy Lady Rebels kicked off the fast-pitch softball season this week with a pair of games at East Central Community College on Saturday.

The Lady Rebels lost the home opener 4-2 to Hartfield and then bounced back to beat Newton County Academy 5-1.

Leake has three games scheduled for this week as they will travel to Newton on Monday and then host the Lady Generals on Thursday.

They finish out the week on Friday at defending state champion, Hillcrest Christian.

Lady Rebelettes 5 NCA 1

The Lady Rebels scored three runs late to pull away and beat the Lady Generals on Saturday.

After four scoreless innings, Leake scored two in the top of the fifth and three in the top of the seventh. NCA scored its lone run in the fifth.

Leake outhit NCA 5-3 in the contest. Emeri Warren had three RBIs while Olivia

Rudolph and Raylea Atkinson singled and scored a run. Carolyn Cheatham singled and scored twice.

Lynleigh Burt started and pitched four innings and struck out four without giving up a hit. Atkinson pitched the last three innings and gave up one run on three hits.

Hartfield 4 Lady Rebels 2

The Lady Rebels struck early but couldn't pull out the win in the season opener on Saturday.

Leake scored both of its

runs in the top of the first while Hartfield answered with three in the bottom of the first and one in the fifth.

Hartfield outhit Leake 14-7 in the contest. Lilly McDonald was 3-for-3 to lead the Lady Rebels. Jenna Chamblee was 2-for-4 with a double while Emeri Warren tripled. Grace Maxey had Leake's other hit.

Raylea Atkinson started and pitched four innings for Leake, giving up three runs on nine hits and three walks. Lynleigh Burt pitched the last two innings and gave up one run on five hits.

Senior Spotlight: Neshoba Central QB Eli Anderson

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
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Neshoba Central quarterback Eli Anderson is looking forward to putting the ball in the air this season and he says he has to receivers to go and get it.

Anderson and his Rocket teammates will begin fall practice drills Monday as they get ready for their season opener at home against South Panola on Aug. 27.

"I'm looking forward to my senior year at Neshoba Central," Anderson said. "We had Janaylon Dupree and Desmon Williams move in. They are going to help us sling it around through the air. And Bryceton Spencer is coming back. He has taken his game to another level this summer."

The Rockets have had a busy summer, working out

Monday through Thursday most weeks.

"We played a lot of 7-on-7 this summer," Anderson said. "We did good. We went to Auburn for a tournament. We went all the way to the championship game and lost to a good Alabama team. And every Monday, we went up to Starkville. Our passing game has been tested by teams like Starkville, West Point and Louisville. We matched up well with them."

"Throwing the ball is going to be the key this year. It will be a new thing. We usually have been a pound and grind team. We had Jarquez Hunter and he would get us 10 yards every time. Now we have guys outside who can go get it. And that can open up the running game some. Our offensive line is going to be big and nasty. They are going to be physical."



File photo

Neshoba Central QB Eli Anderson is looking forward to his senior year.

Anderson also attended several football camps, including Memphis, Southern Miss and Mississippi State. He was planning to go to North Alabama and UT-Martin in late

July.

The Rockets finished last year with a 9-2 record. He still has a bad taste about the two losses to Ridgeland, especially the playoff game that ended

the Rockets' season.

"I still have the picture of them celebrating in front of the scoreboard after the game on my phone," Anderson said. "It wasn't a good feeling. After that last game, we went to work for this year."

Neshoba Central coach Patrick Scholar said Anderson has done what he had to do to be ready for the season.

"He's a tremendous worker," Scholar said. "He is self-motivated and doesn't mind putting in time whatsoever. He has had a good off-season. His arm has gotten stronger. He has some weapons to throw the ball to. I think he is going to have a great senior season. He has two years of experience under his belt and that helps too."

Last season, Anderson fin-

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The questions now are how will those additions affect our two SEC schools? Will we be able to keep up or be non-factors in the future? Only time will tell.

Last week we reported on SEC Media Days and C-USA. This week we will recap the other Media Days. The Atlantic Coast Conference media chose Clemson to win the ACC Championship over North Carolina. North Carolina was chosen to win the Coastal Division of the ACC while Clemson was picked to win the Atlantic. In the Big Ten media poll, Ohio State of the Eastern Division was overwhelmingly chosen to win the championship game over Wisconsin of the Big Ten West. Oklahoma was named by the Big 12 media to win the championship over preseason runner-up Iowa State. The final Power 5 Media Days was the PAC-12, which was staged last week. Their media picked Oregon to win the championship game as

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Tornadoes preparing for Noxubee

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
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The Philadelphia Tornadoes are looking forward to a tough football schedule in 2021, and it doesn't get much harder than their season opener at Noxubee County on Aug. 27.

The Tigers made it to the finals of the Class 3A state play-

offs last season where they lost to Magee 49-26.

Other teams on the Tornadoes' non-district schedule include Winona, which lost to Noxubee County in the state quarterfinals, Bay Springs, Leake Central and West Lauderdale.

"I am good at making tough schedules," Coach David Frey said. "We have Noxubee,

Winona, Bay Springs, West Lauderdale. You would think those games will get you ready for your district. I want to play the best. That should prepare us for our district."

The Tornadoes are playing in Region 5-2A along with Kemper County, Lake, Newton and Nanih Waiya.

"Kemper County is going to have a good team this year,"

Frey said. "They will probably compete for state 2A championship. Newton and Lake are going to be good. And Nanih Waiya is a new team for us. They are always strong."

Frey is an alumnus of Nanih Waiya and knows the Warriors well.

"It will be a homecoming for me," Frey said.

According to the Mississippi

High School Activities Association, fall practices start on Monday, Aug. 9. Teams will be allowed to play a jamboree/scrimmage game on Aug. 20, and the season kicks off on Aug. 27.

Frey said the heat is going to be a factor in the first few games and getting ready for that has been a focus during the off-season program.

"We will be watching our kids as far as the heat goes," Frey said. "They are going to have to play in it so we have to get used to it. We have been running a lot so they can get used to it for those first few games. Those first few games are going to be brutal."

Fair

Continued from page 5B

game. They ended the season on a high note by taking a 28-26 win over Tulsa in the Armed Services Bowl.

"We had a great season," said Leach as he looks forward to his second season in Starkville. "We are excited to start practice and see where our players are. Ready to get to work and get started."

Leach was asked if he agreed that the SEC West Division was college football's toughest.

"I think that is pretty accurate, that it is the toughest division," Leach said. "That goes around some, but right now, it is."

When asked about the SEC's expansion, adding Texas and Oklahoma, both Leach and Kiffin seemed neutral, declining to say much about things they don't control.

Both Kiffin and Leach, who are relatively new to Mississippi, agreed the people were friendly and the food is great.



Sid Salter, far right, moderates a discussion with Southern Miss Coach Will Hall, left, Ole Miss Coach Lane Kiffin center and Mississippi State Mike Leach at Founders Square last Thursday at the Neshoba County Fair.

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Eli

Continued from page 5B

ished with 1,166 total yards, according to Max Preps. He completed 52-of-101 passes for 780 yards and six touchdowns. He rushed 54 times for 386 yards and six touchdowns.

Along with football, Anderson likes to hunt and fishing. He especially likes turkey hunting.

"It's amazing," Anderson said. "That is a hard bird to hunt but I got one last year."

He hopes to play college football.

"I am hoping for a D-1 offer," Anderson said. "I have

talked to Southern Mississippi, Nicholls State and Mississippi State. If that doesn't work, I will try to play for a junior college."

- He lists as his favorites:
- Movie – Remember the Titans.
 - Dinner – Steak,
 - Class – Agriculture; and,

• Hobbies – fishing and hunting.

Anderson said as far as career plans go, he wants to be a coach. That's not much of a surprise since his dad, Brian Anderson, is a longtime coach.

In addition to practicing football, Anderson worked a McClain Plumbing this summer, cutting grass.

82% of Consumers Still Shop Local after the Pandemic.

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THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT



McKee

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the North Division champ over South Division champ USC.

Baseball Notes

Former DeSoto Central star Austin Riley knocked his 22nd home run of the season last Friday night for the Atlanta Braves.

A trio of former Magnolia State baseball stars were involved in Major League baseball trades this past week. One of the top relief pitchers Kendall Graveman was sent from Seattle to Houston. Former Meridi-

an CC star Corey Dickerson was sent from Miami to Toronto. Former MSU ace Konnor Pilkington was traded from the Chicago White Sox Double AA Birmingham team to the Cleveland Indians AA team in Akron.

Odds & ends

There was some sad news to report recently on the pro football front as Clinton native Cam Akers of the L.A. Rams ruptured his Achilles while working out and is expected to miss the 2021 NFL season.

New Orleans all-pro receiver Michael Thomas could miss a large portion of the upcoming football season. He had ligaments in his ankles surgically repaired last month and he could miss over half of the regular season games. Last year, Thomas missed nine games.

Dale McKee, a Waynesboro native, has been writing about Mississippi sports since 1973.

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