



SPORTS

ROCKETS MOVE ON TO 2-0 WITH WEST LAUDERDALE VICTORY

Football — Page 5B

COOK OF THE WEEK

GATES' GARDEN IS A YEARLY TRADITION

Vetty Gates — Page 1B



THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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Philadelphia, Mississippi

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**\$1.00

Drug running op nets 37th arrest

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

An additional arrest has been made in a multi-year, ongoing federal drug running investigation that has so far netted 37 of 38 suspects wanted since May.

The arrests have involved the seizure of more than \$5 million worth of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine

and marijuana in Neshoba County, the authorities said.

The latest suspect, Timothy Kaleb Smith, 20, 324 North Street, Union, was arrested on Sept. 3 and charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit a felony, which is what most of the chargers were with no specificity.

Smith was brought into custody just before noon Sept. 3, according to Neshoba

County Detention Center records. He remained in custody as of Tuesday morning.

Smith's arrest comes as arrest number 37 of the 38 suspects targeted by Operation High Life, which netted 27 people on one day back in May.

The multi-agency investi-



Kaleb Smith

gation, dubbed Operation High Life, was led by Homeland Security out of New Orleans.

The investigation's most recent conviction occurred on May 12 with the sentencing of Landon Marquale Dupree, 35, of Philadelphia, who was charged with and pleaded guilty in the

Southern District of Mississippi to selling methamphetamine to an individual on July 15, 2019.

Dupree was sentenced to serve 189 months in federal prison, followed by eight years of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay \$4,595 in restitution to the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

Authorities are seeking the

last remaining suspect, Timothy Stewart, in connection with the alleged drug crimes.

The most recent arrest before Smith's arrest on Friday was John Netherland, 55, of Philadelphia who was arrested in Flowood in early June and was extradited to the custody of the Neshoba County Sheriff's Office after

See **DRUGS**, page 2A



PES students Ely Kilgore and Avie Deaton film a segment for "Tornado TV."

Students learning by producing TV shows

By **SARAH KATHRYN WATKINS**
news@neshobademocrat.com

Philadelphia students are learning valuable communications and social skills through producing their own weekly television programs titled "Tornado TV."

Philadelphia Schools Superintendent Lisa Hull came up with the idea.

"Tornado TV" is a good way to encourage interests in scholastic broadcasting and to provide a forum for students to share ideas, ask questions and learn about their school, teachers and community," Hull said.

Philadelphia Elementary School and Philadelphia High School students produce the weekly

newscasts for fellow students and the community in episodes of "Tornado TV" that are broadcast on the school's YouTube and Facebook accounts.

The Philadelphia Elementary School students who participate in "Tornado TV" are all in Katie Monday's Gifted Program and the Philadelphia High School students are all in Josh Rushing's creative writing and oral communications classes.

Monday and Rushing serve as the directors of "Tornado TV" and help students gather news from teachers, students and administrators.

Each weekly broadcast includes teacher and student interviews along with scholastic and sports updates.

"Students learn valuable communication and social skills," Hull said of their participation.

"Tornado TV" provides interactive experiences for students that involve working with teachers, staff and other students."

Monday said she thinks the program is great for the students.

"I love watching the students engaging in 'Tornado TV,'" Monday said. "It is something they are very passionate about."

"Tornado TV" is currently looking for sponsorships to help build up the school's media center and to be able to purchase a new scoreboard to showcase student-athletes.

Any person or business interested in sponsoring "Tornado TV" and posting an ad in weekly videos can email Katie Monday at katie.monday@phillytornadoes.com for more information.

SPECIAL SESSION

Branning keeps open mind on marijuana

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

State Sen. Jenifer Branning said a special session to consider a state medical marijuana legislation could be called as soon as within the next two weeks and she is keeping an open mind on the issue.

"I haven't seen a bill yet," Branning said late last week.

State Sen. Kevin Blackwell and State Rep. Lee Yancey have been working through the summer to reach an agreement on legislation that both the Senate and House could support since Gov. Tate Reeves has said he will not call a special session until the two chambers have a consensus.

"I did talk to chairman Blackwell today," Branning said last Friday, "and let him know that I am going to with an open mind consider what the final product is but certainly cannot make any commitment on my vote until I see that final product until I look at it and study it and get feedback from my community and that is what I plan to do before making a decision on my vote in special session."

Talk of a special session has been looming on the issue since the state Supreme Court in May overturned a medical marijuana initiative approved by voters in the 2020 general election. The high court sided with Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler who challenged the process by which the measure was placed on the ballots and overturned Initiative 65 that was approved by 58% of the vote, according to certified election results.

Lawmakers immediately vowed to create a state medical marijuana program and urged

See **SESSION**, page 2A

ECCC STUDENT

'Chunky' remembered as hard worker

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

Instead of running out onto the field Friday night, the Philadelphia High School football team walked arm in arm in memory of former teammate Jalen "Chunky" Leavey, an East Central student who died early Friday morning on the campus in Decatur.

Leavey, a 2020 Tornado graduate currently attending ECCC, was a member of the Warrior marching band and remembered a sweet, respectful and hard-working young man.

Funeral arrangements had not been announced by press time Tuesday.

While at PHS Leavey was a

member of the football team and the band and a "very beloved student and friend to all," the PHS cheerleader Facebook page said Friday night.

"In memory of Jalen 'Chunky' Leavey the cheerleaders are wearing Blue ribbons tonight at the Football game against Raymond," they said.

"With deep sympathy to family and friends your Tornado family grieves with you."

Leavey, 19, died returning to campus from ECCC's football game at Scooba Thursday night, the Newton County Appeal reported.

"This right here hit hard," Alexis Johnson wrote on Facebook.

She said Leavey was the

"sweetest respectful hard working young man I know everyone love Jalen at work we will miss you from the Burger King family. We are praying for your family if y'all need anything please let us know We are here."

Leavey got off the band bus and collapsed, the Appeal reported.

Leavey was pronounced dead on the campus at 12:22 a.m. and died of natural causes from a previous medical condition, Newton County Deputy Coroner Rebecca Burton told the Appeal.

"Still in shock abt this, he was one of the sweetest person ever," Shaytrece Desiree posted on Facebook. "He knew how to make your day when you aren't in the mood."



Philadelphia High School football players carry the jersey number of Jalen "Chunky" Leavey.

OPINION
Rich Lowry

PAGE 4A

JUST AMONG FRIENDS
Marianne Enochs PAGE 1B

OPINION
Patrick Buchanan PAGE 4A



SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

Engagements & Weddings

There is no charge for engagement and wedding announcements. Submit them to weddings@neshobademocrat.com.

The deadline for submitting engagements and weddings is at noon on Friday before the Wednesday publication.

Every effort will be made to run the announcement on the date requested, but space requirements and time sometimes prohibit it.

Wedding copy must not exceed the equivalent of more than two 8 1/2 x 11 inch pages.

The Democrat reserves the right to edit articles to fit space requirements and style.

News of parties relating to engagements or weddings can be submitted.

Obituary policy

The Democrat publishes a standard format obituary at no charge.

The standard obituary includes: service, burial and funeral home details, date of death, age, place of residence, a sentence or two of personal information (no opinionated comments) detailing occupation, education, church affiliation, military service, listing spouse or children, immediate survivors (list only spouses, children, siblings, number of grandchildren, number of nieces and nephews) and pallbearers. In-laws, aunts, uncles, friends and honorary pallbearers are not included in the free listing. The standard obituary may be up to 150 words in length.

To list extended family and more details, there is a charge of \$125 for up to 300 words total; \$250 for up to 500 words total; \$500 up to 1,200 words total. Photos may be included for an additional charge of \$25.

Obituaries must be submitted electronically by funeral homes to obituaries@neshobademocrat.com no later than Tuesday at noon for publication in Wednesday's edition. Any obituary not submitted electronically is subject to a \$25 charge.

School and community news

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

Of Local Interest

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

Tips and breaking news

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

Sports

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

Letters to the editor

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

How to contact us

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Telephone: 601-656-4000

Facsimile: 601-656-6379

Electronically

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

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Physical address

439 Beacon ST
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Mailing address

P.O. Box 30
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Advertising sales

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

Editor & Publisher

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

Managing Editor

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

Sports editor

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

Sports editor

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

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3rd grader surprised by Marine brother

By JOHN LEE

john@neshobademocrat.com

Neshoba Central Elementary School was filled with patriotism last week when U.S. Marine Austin Anderson surprised his little sister, third-grader Hallie Anderson, after he returned from finishing boot camp at the end of August.

Anderson is preparing for deployment in less than three weeks, although he does not yet know where he is going.

Administrators walked Anderson through the hallways of the school with a long line of elementary school students clapping and waving flags while holding up signs that read such sayings as "Thank you for your service!" The applause only grew as Anderson walked further through the hallway.

Hallie Anderson ran through the crowd to hug her brother.

One of the teachers asked her, "Did you have a good day?" Anderson nodded in agreement as she embraced her brother.

The third grade wished Marine Anderson well on his immediate deployment.



Hallie Anderson hugs her brother, U.S. Marine Austin Anderson, after a surprise visit.

COVID-19 cases on the decline in county

By JOHN LEE

john@neshobademocrat.com

Neshoba County recorded 181 new COVID-19 cases and two new deaths in the past week, according to the Mississippi State Department of Health's Sep. 7 report.

Neshoba County has now recorded a total of 6,181 cases of COVID-19 and 192 deaths since the pandemic began in March 2020.

Last week, Neshoba County reported 211 new weekly cases and three weeks ago 222 new weekly cases. The total new weekly cases has decreased weekly from the peak four weeks ago with 451

cases in one week when the New York Times COVID-19 database reported that Neshoba County was the No. 1 hotspot per capita in the world.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has reported 41 new positive cases of COVID-19 and one death in the past week as of Sep. 7, with the total number of positive cases for the Tribe standing at 2,380 with 121 deaths since the pandemic began in March 2020. Nine new hospitalizations have been reported.

In Neshoba Central Elementary School, 28 students tested positive for COVID-19 between Aug. 23-27 and 11

students tested positive during that period at Neshoba Central High School. Seven students tested positive at Neshoba Central Middle School and between 1 and 5 students tested positive at Philadelphia Elementary School, according to the Aug. 27 schools report from MSDH. Between 1 and 5 staff members at Neshoba Central Elementary and Philadelphia Elementary also tested positive. One student at Philadelphia Elementary has been quarantined.

As of Monday, 24% of Neshoba County's population is fully vaccinated, according to MSDH, and 29% of the county's population had

received one of the 15,437 total doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in the county.

Vaccinations are being administered at Walgreens at 1002 W. Beacon Street in Philadelphia, according to the MSDH.

Statewide, since the pandemic began in March 2020, 264,932 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded by the MSDH along with 188,416 probable cases, totaling 453,348 cases. There have been 5,899 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, along with 2,786 probable deaths, totaling 8,685 deaths.

Session

Continued from page 1A

Gov. Tate Reeves to call a special session. Reeves has said he will not call a special session until the Senate and House have a proposal they agree on as a special session is estimated to cost taxpayers \$35,000 per day.

Branning said she has been studying the issue and viewed YouTube videos of three Public Health and Welfare Committee hearings held in June with testimony from public health experts on creating a medical marijuana program.

"I'm just watching to see what issues develop, and I'm going to keep an open mind going forward," Branning said, adding that during previous Senate discussions on the issue she never saw any legislation she could support. "I did look very closely at all the issues surrounding the legislation that was presented to us and my concern has been one of public safety, public health concern."

Branning said she felt like most of the measures she has seen were too open-ended.

"I believe the public is interested in a medical marijuana program certainly based on the results of the 65 vote,

so I believe we need to be open-minded about it," Branning said. "However, I also feel like I have a duty to my constituents to sure that if a program is put into place it is one that is tight enough in nature that it does not lead us down a path toward recreational use. That is my concern."

Branning said she would prefer that any medical marijuana program be handled like any other medically prescribed drug.

"Pill form would be the most medicinal form that could be offered," Branning said. "When you get into other forms as in edible or smokable

that's where I have a concern. I think that is a very slippery slope, and we need to be careful."

Branning said she also would prefer that any medical marijuana would only be available through a pharmacy with a prescription rather than through dispensaries.

"The program that Alabama has in place seems to be a true marijuana program that it is just medical in nature, just a true medical marijuana program where you know a prescription is needed from the physician in the product is attained from a pharmacy," Branning said. "It is just that simple."

Drugs

Continued from page 1A

Flowood Police established that the NCSO was looking for him.

He was charged with four felony counts of conspiracy to commit a crime.

More than 27 people were arrested on Friday, May 14. The arrests were led by the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the Neshoba County Sheriff's Office, the Philadelphia Police Department, the Mississippi Attorney Gener-

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

"The arrest culminating Operation High Life is a definitive example of the coallesced commitment among local, state and federal law enforcement to ensure public safety for all Mississippians," said Col. Steven A. Maxwell, director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. "Howev-

er, the seizure of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana is a clear indicator of how pervasive the drug culture is throughout our communities. These drugs were attributed to the loss of more than 500 Mississippians in 2020."

Clark said Operation High Life has taken more than \$5 million in illegal drugs off the streets of Neshoba County.

Prior to the May arrests, the ongoing investigation had resulted in 38 state and federal convictions and the seizure of 85 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of

\$3.5 million, 5 kilograms of cocaine worth about \$500,000, 270 pounds of marijuana worth \$1 million, 300 dosage units of fentanyl worth about \$6,000 and 16 firearms.

The arrests are the result of ongoing Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force efforts statewide.

The investigation included Homeland Security of Jackson, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Drug Enforcement Agency, Neshoba County District Attorney and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as well as others.



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Spikes end high-speed pursuit at city limits

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A high-speed pursuit from Kemper County ended in the arrest of a Philadelphia man at the city limits last week when deputies deployed spikes, a testament to “well-trained deputies that work hard to protect our communities,” Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark said.

Fonzy Lee Landrum, 35, 10303 Road 1327, Philadelphia, was arrested last Wednesday and charged with felony pursuit.

Landrum was out on a \$15,000 bond Friday, Neshoba County Detention Center records show.

He fled from Kemper County Sheriff’s deputies on Highway 16 westbound, Clark said. His office got involved

after Kemper County requested mutual aid just inside the Neshoba County line. Two Neshoba County deputies then pursued Landrum toward Philadelphia.

“Neshoba Deputies deployed spike strips at the city limits and terminated the pursuit prior to entering the city and endangering others,” Clark said. “A testament to well-trained deputies that work hard to protect our communities.”

Kemper County Sheriff James Moore said that Landrum faces misdemeanor charges in his jurisdiction that include failure to yield to blue lights, failure to obey a lawful order, driving under a suspended license and driving without liability insurance. He said that he has posted bond in Kemper County and has been

transferred into Clark’s custody.

No injuries have been reported related to the incident.

Clark said that the spike strips or “stop sticks” as they are also known proved to be a useful tool in bringing Landrum into custody. He said he is looking into grant money to cover the purchase of more strips.

“I have plans of using COPS grant money to purchase more stop sticks. We currently only have the one set that was used that night,” Clark said.

Clark has said that equipment has been a key concern of his as he has put together his requests for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget currently being considered by the County Board of Supervisors.



Water tower receives new paint job

Philadelphia Utilities recently finished repainting the water tank on Range Avenue just south of Philadelphia High School. Philadelphia Utilities General Manager Kirk Morgan said the project that began in July was finished on Wednesday, Sept 1. “We just completed repainting the water tank here in town,” Morgan said. “We are proud of how well it turned out and the word Philadelphia is in cursive.”

Wednesday storm knocks out power

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

City and county authorities said a storm last Wednesday evening that rolled through Neshoba County knocked down tree limbs and caused power outages.

Philadelphia Utilities General Manager Kirk Morgan said the power went out about 5 p.m. Wednesday on East and West Myrtle streets as well as on Cumberland Avenue and Indian Hospital Road.

At the most, 150 residential customers and between eight

and 10 businesses were out of power during peak outages, Morgan said.

Power was fully restored at 8 p.m., Morgan said.

Central Electric reported some outages as well, but officials could not be reached for a firm number.

Neshoba County Emergency Management Director Darrell Wilson said that the county had no emergency calls come in during the inclement weather, though some power outages were reported last Wednesday.

“Concerning the storm that

came through yesterday,” Wilson said last week. “We had no reports called into 911 or EMA of damage to structures. We did have several calls of trees down throughout the county. Some trees landed on power lines causing some power outages.”

Wilson said that he is not sure what the final total of outages was for Central Electric customers in the county but knows the highest number he saw on the outage map was over 1,700.

New parking lot slated for school

By SARAH KATHRYN WATKINS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Pearl River Elementary School is getting a new parking lot.

Construction started on the new \$315,000 parking lot in mid-August and has a completion date of mid-October.

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben said he approved the new parking lot because the school had outgrown the current parking lot.

Staff members were having to park in a field north of the school where the new parking lot is now being constructed, Ben said, adding a new parking lot will be more efficient and safer.

“They recently in the last two years added a new wing on to the elementary school which created more classroom areas, and the teachers didn’t have adequate parking,” said Eddie Sam, director of Construction Management for Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. “The teachers were having to start parking out on the field.”

Sam said the new parking lot also will help traffic move more smoothly and give teachers, students and parents more room to park as the new parking lot accommodates 61 cars.

“They are also adding two new sidewalks,” Sam said. “One will go to the existing school, and the other sidewalk will go over to the new school area.” After the new parking lot is complete, Sam said they will

begin work on phase 2 that includes resurfacing the exist-

ing parking lot and adding a secondary exit.

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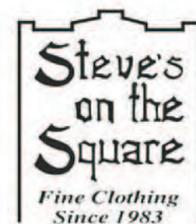
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Opinion

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THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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1932–2017

EDITORIALS

Biden economy worsening

Last week's job report was a huge disappointment, with the U.S. economy adding just 235,000 jobs in August, missing economists' expectations of 720,000 by nearly half a million. People are simply making more money sitting on their couches, collecting unemployment checks than they are in the workplace. Eight million Americans are unemployed, but there's a record 10 million job openings.

In June, about 1.8 million out-of-work Americans said they turned down job offers because of the generosity of unemployment benefits, according to a Morning Consult poll. According to NFIB's July Small Business Jobs Report, "labor quality" is the biggest concern to mom-and-pop shops, with 26% of survey respondents identifying it as their "single most important problem." Of those surveyed, 63% said they were currently hiring or trying to hire. Of this group, 89% said there were few or no "qualified job applicants."

To date, 26 states, mostly led by Republican governors, have opted to cut these emergency COVID-19 benefits early to help incentivize Americans to get back to work. As a result, it's red states that are leading the economic recovery. Through July, 16 of the top 20 states for recovering jobs from the pandemic were led by Republican governors. Out of the top 20 states with the lowest unemployment rates, 16 are led by Republican governors.

Mr. Biden's 'build back better' program would create the largest expansion of welfare benefits since the 1960s, further dissuading able-bodied Americans from reentering the workforce. It would hamstring small businesses with increased regulation. It would raise the business tax rate to 28%, higher than communist China, incentivizing more U.S. companies to take their jobs abroad.

It aims to push Green New Deal objectives, killing thousands of fossil-fuel jobs, at a time when American's are paying on

average over \$3 per gallon at the pump, Russian exports of oil to the U.S. are at an all-time high, and Mr. Biden is begging OPEC to pump more oil to lower prices.

Belarusian opposition figures Maria Kolesnikova, Maxim Znak jailed

Mr. Biden's 'build back better' plan will also, undoubtedly, cause further inflation. Higher prices have already exceeded wage growth in the first six months of Mr. Biden's presidency.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Biden used the disappointing August jobs report as proof his \$3.5 trillion spending bill and \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bills are needed to create "good-paying jobs" and "long-term prosperity."

He couldn't be more wrong.

Before the pandemic, the U.S. economy was humming as then-President Donald J. Trump pushed an agenda of low taxes, restrained regulation, and targeted federal government spending. More than 6 million Americans were lifted from poverty. The unemployment rate dropped to a historic 3.5%, including the highest employment rates for African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and blue-collar workers with no more than a high school diploma. After years of stagnant wages, real wages increased 10% for middle-class workers. Before the pandemic, the U.S. had become the world's largest oil producer and was less dependent on foreign producers such as Russia's Vladimir Putin.

The key to building back better is lowering taxes, reducing regulations, and rewarding hard work, innovation, and economic risk-taking. Mr. Trump's administration proved this.

Unfortunately, Mr. Biden is doing the exact opposite. He wants to "fundamentally transform" this country through a historic tax and spend policy, which will only threaten American prosperity and destroy the American dream. It's the opposite of what's needed right now.

— *The Washington Times*

FLASHBACKS

SEPTEMBER 12, 1941

Mrs. Cal Ingram of Edinburg has led a busy life. Still alert and active at 93 years of age, Mrs. Cal Ingram, now living at Edinburg former postmistress at Stallo for 21 years, has submitted a sketch of her life to the Democrat at the request of many friends.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1951

Sgt. Edwards L. Kirkland, who is stationed at Ft. Jackson, S.C., spent the weekend here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Kirkland of Route 2, and other relatives and friends. He has been in the army since January, going to Ft. Jackson with the National Guard Unit.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1961

The Pearl River exhibit at the All-Choctaw Indian Fair last week was judged first in that category. With the theme, "Good Management Is The Key To Success," the display showed farm produce, canned goods, bead work and basket weaving.

Shelby Nicholson, a freshman student, has been chosen by the student body of the Gilfoy School of Nursing as Student of the Month for August. Born in Philadelphia, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Nicholson.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1971

Members of the Neshoba County Jaycettes recently

raised \$60.40 for the Neshoba County Mental Health Association with a bridge benefit. The benefit was held at Garan's clubhouse where 44 bridge playing Philadelphians participated.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1981

The Neshoba Central Rockets received a first down, by inches, after a fourth down run last Friday night. The Rockets fell to a strong Starkville squad in the season opener.

Elwood Pinter, a commissioner with the Neshoba County Soil and Water Conservation District receives the published Soil Survey, of Neshoba from Billy Griffin, state conservationist, Soil Conservation Service.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1991

The Philadelphia leadership seminar on the topic of civic virtue which has been planned for October will be led by humanities scholar; Dr. Randall Patterson. Patterson is and assistant professor in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages at Jackson State University.

"Gold of El Dorado," a photographic display that highlights the beauty and allure of native goldwork in pre-conquest America, is on display in the Neshoba County Public Library. This exhibit was brought to Mississippi by the Columbus Quincentenary

Committee as part of the celebration commemorating Columbus' first journey to the Americas.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2001

Philadelphia Elementary School's Parent-Teacher Organization recently held its "back-to-school" meeting to kickoff the gift wrap and chocolates fund-raiser. Officers for the 2000-2001 school year include Amy Johnston, second vice-president; Stuart Lee, treasurer; and Dawn Lea Chalmers, president.

Neshoba Central Elementary School and Philadelphia Elementary team member receives a \$1,200 "mini-grant" check from Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation in recognition of the school's improvement efforts.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Tropical Storm Lee dropped up to 12 inches of rain in Neshoba County, resulting in the closure of several streets and roads due to flooding. The heaviest rainfall occurred Monday causing sections of Rea, St. Francis, Valley View and Gum to be closed briefly.

Hunter Beason, son of Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Beason, exhibited first place summer yearling Jersey heifer in the 2011 Neshoba County Fair.

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Democracy vs. autocracy

"He may be an SOB, but he's our SOB."

So said President Franklin D. Roosevelt of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza, and how very American. For, from its first days, America has coluded with autocrats when the national interest demanded it.

George Washington danced a jig in 1778 when he learned that our diplomats had effected an alliance with France's King Louis XVI. The alliance, he knew, would be indispensable to an American victory.

In April 1917, the U.S. went to war "to make the world safe for democracy" in collusion with four of the world's greatest empires: the British, French, Russian and Japanese. All four annexed new colonial lands and peoples from the victory for democracy we were decisive in winning.

In World War II, we gave massive military aid to Joseph Stalin's USSR, which used it to crush, conquer and communize half of Europe.

Antonio Salazar, dictator of Portugal, was a founding member of NATO. During the Cold War, we allied with autocrats Syngman Rhee of South Korea, Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, the Shah of Iran and Gen. Augusto Pinochet of Chile. The second largest army in NATO is under the autocratic rule of Turkish President Recep Erdogan.

Our major allies in the Arab world are Egypt's Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who overthrew a democratically elected president, Mohamed Morsi, and the various kings, princes, sultans and emirs along the Persian Gulf.

Yet, President Joe Biden has defined the global struggle as between democracy and autocracy and said, "Democracy will and must prevail."

"We agree with that strategic vision," echoed The Washington Post.

But is this an accurate depiction of great power rivalry today?

If the autocratic-democratic divide is the fault line, on which side do Erdogan, Sisi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman fall?

Are we really in an ideological war with Vladimir Putin's

Quarrel with China is not ideological, but political and strategic. Why, then, turn it into a war of systems?

Russia today, as we were during the Cold War with Stalin's USSR?

We have quarrels with Putin over Crimea and the Donbas, and he wants to keep Ukraine and Georgia from joining NATO. But where is the evidence that Putin seeks to change our democratic form of government into an autocracy?

Putin's objections to us are to our policies, not our democracy.

Back in the 1950s, Nikita Khrushchev had boasted that America's grandchildren would live under Communism. When has Putin proclaimed any such grand ideological Kremlin goal?

Is our quarrel with China ideological in character?

China is a great and growing economic and military power, with quarrels with most of its neighbors.

It has trade issues with Australia; a border dispute with India in the Himalayas; and differences with Vietnam, the Philippines and four other nations over who owns the islets in the South China Sea. China also claims Taiwan and the Senkaku Islands occupied by Japan.

But with the exceptions of Taiwan and Hong Kong, which it claims as sovereign Chinese territory, Beijing has not pressed any nation to adopt a political system similar to that of China's Communist Party.

It coexists with Communist Vietnam, autocratic Myanmar, theocratic Afghanistan, and democratic India, Australia and Japan.

Beijing's quarrel with us is not that America is "a democracy." China's objections are that we block its ambitions and back the nations of South Asia and Southeast Asia that thwart its strategic goals.

The quarrel is not ideological, but political and strategic.

Why, then, turn it into a war of systems? Where is the evi-

dence that Beijing is trying to communize her neighbors, or change their political systems to conform to her own?

However, there is considerable evidence to demonstrate that the United States actively seeks to subvert the rule of Putin in Russia.

Though Putin's Kremlin is accused of having hacked the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2016, even if true, how would that compare with U.S. interference today in the internal affairs of Russia?

Are Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe objective and neutral in their coverage in Russia? Do the many nongovernmental organizations and the National Endowment for Democracy take a hands-off approach to the internal politics of Russia?

What did the Kremlin do to advance the political ambitions of Donald Trump to compare with what our diplomatic and governmental institutions and quasi-government agencies appear to be doing to undermine Putin and advance the candidacy of Alexei Navalny?

If American democracy is in an ideological war with Russia, who is on the offensive here? Who wishes to change whose political system?

"The U.S. national interest and the promotion of democracy, or at least political stability, abroad are not so easily separated," writes The Washington Post.

But where did America acquire the right to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations to change them to conform to our own?

If our goal is to democratize Russia and China, i.e., change their political systems to conform more closely with our democratic one, is that not tantamount to a declaration of ideological war by us?

Is this not the essence of ideological warfare?

And who, then, is the aggressor in this new ideological war?

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

RICH LOWRY

Afghanistan isn't end of U.S power

A further downward slide, like the disastrous withdrawal from Kabul itself, will be a choice, not an inevitability.

It's hard to imagine more humiliating images than what we've seen in Afghanistan in recent weeks, from the hasty evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul to the chaotic scenes outside the airport.

Our surrender to a band of AK-47-bearing guerrillas after 20 years has, understandably, occasioned autumnal thoughts about American power.

Even the Soviet Union, on the cusp of full collapse, managed to get out of Afghanistan in good order and leave behind a government that endured for several years.

What does it say that we couldn't match that?

Writing in The New Yorker, Robin Wright says the pullout may serve as "a bookend for the era of U.S. global power." Allister Heath, editor of The Sunday Telegraph, argues that "the botched exit is merely the latest sign that the American era is ending." Francis Fukuyama says the images in Kabul "have evoked a major juncture in world history," although he thinks "the end of the American era had come much earlier."

There is no sugar-coating our defeat in Afghanistan and the abject position we put ourselves in during the final days. The withdrawal is a blow to our counterterrorism capabilities, our prestige and our geopolitical position.

For all of that, though, no one in the world has the formidable advantages of the United States, which still outstrips everyone else, including China, on every material metric that matters.

Great powers don't go away easily. The British could be forgiven for thinking that it'd be all

downhill after losing their American colonies in a long war joined by their traditional rivals France and Spain. Instead, British imperial power had not yet peaked.

Our exit from Saigon in 1975, to this point the touchstone for modern American defeats, was followed by Communist advances all over the map. Yet, within 20 years, we'd win the Cold War and ascend to unprecedented global power.

We are still blessed with an extraordinarily favorable geographical position, as a continental nation with friendly neighbors, access to two oceans, enormous reserves of oil and gas, and vast amounts of arable land.

We produce about a quarter of global GDP, a share that has held up over the years.

We are responsible for an astonishing 40% of all military spending in the world. It was ridiculous that Biden made a bragging point of the evacuation, but it's true that no one else would have been capable of such an operation.

We dominate the list of top universities in the world.

There is no country people would rather come to. A Taliban spokesperson interviewed on Iranian TV, when challenged why so many people want to flee Afghanistan, rightly point-

ed out that if American planes were taking people out of Iran, there'd be a rush for the exits there, too.

In his book, *Unrivaled*, Michael Beckley of Tufts University and the American Enterprise Institute rebuts the notion that China is overtaking us.

American workers are more productive than workers anywhere else. China's labor productivity has improved, Beckley writes, "but remains half that of Turkey, lower than Mexico's, and roughly on par with Brazil's."

We have demographic challenges, but other big powers, especially China, will be aging faster. Over the course of the century, Beckley notes, China will lose half of its workforce, or 470 million people.

Our alliance system is an enormous force-multiplier, a network that, according to Beckley, "encompasses 25% of the Earth's population and accounts for 75% of world GDP and defense spending." China's formal ally, in contrast, is North Korea.

None of this is to deny that the contemporary United States is racked by self-doubt, poisonous politics, and institutional failure.

It is only to say that if we are determined to squander our global position, it will take much more time and folly to do it. A further downward slide, like the disastrous withdrawal from Kabul itself, will be a choice, not an inevitability.

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

LETTERS

The Democrat welcomes letters, comments or suggestions: Editor and Publisher Jim Prince jprince@neshobademocrat.com

The Neshoba Democrat Publishing Co. Inc.
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neshobademocrat.com
Telephone: 601.656.4000

BIBLE SELECTION

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

— John 14:23 (ESV)

OBITUARIES

Helen R. Herrington

Memorial service for Ms. Helen R. Herrington will be held at a later date.

Ms. Helen R. Herrington passed away Thursday, September 2, 2021 at her home. She was born in New Jersey, and served in the Army's military police where she met her late husband Johnny Earl Herrington. She lived in Michigan for several years before moving to Philadelphia, MS in 1994. She was a faithful member of First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. She was a member of Clay Buff Art Association, Friends of The Library and Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild. Her hobbies were artwork and crafts.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Johnny Earl Herrington who passed in 2001; parents Charles Riehle and Emma Marie Riehle; an infant son.

Survivors include sons, John Wayne Herrington (Patricia) of Ohio and Kip Cooper Herrington (Laurie) of Philadelphia, MS; (3) grandchildren, Shelby, Olivia, and Samuel. They are all nurses and cared for her at her home in her last days.



Helen Herrington

Janis Gore, Tawanna Smith (Don); son, Robert Smith (Polly); daughter-in-law, Judy Smith; sisters, Maralyn Jolly, Leila Jowers; (19) grandchildren; (26) great-grandchildren; (9) great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Frank W. Vaughn

Funeral service for Mr. Frank W. Vaughn was held 2 PM Thursday, September 2, 2021 at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. John E. Stephens and Rev. Steve White officiating. Burial was in Vernon Baptist Church Cemetery in Noxubee Co. John E. Stephens Chapel was in charge.

Mr. Vaughn, 76, passed away Thursday, August 26, 2021 at his home in Madison, MS. He lived in Neshoba Co. most of his life. He was a member of Ocobla Baptist Church. His hobbies were hunting, fishing, riding bicycles, playing dominos and walking.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Joe Vaughn and Ruby Poole Vaughn; sisters, Margaret Inez Sells, Mary Ellen Vaughn, Pearl Dunn, Sue Bell Holmstrom, Alice V. Knowles; brothers, Joe C., Billy and Virgil Vaughn.

Survivors include, sister, Mae Carby; brothers, James O. Vaughn and Norman E. Vaughn; a host of nieces and nephews.

Peggy Ann Cooke

Funeral service for Mrs. Peggy Ann Cooke was held 10 AM Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. John E. Stephens and Rev. Scott Boatner officiating. Burial was in Sandtown Cemetery.

Mrs. Cooke, 85, passed away Thursday, August 26, 2021 at Simpson General Hospital in Mendenhall, MS. Her hobbies were word search puzzles, making homemade banana bread and giving it to family and friends.

Preceded in death parents, Arvie Preston and Mary Lou Gray; sisters, Mary Daniels, Betty Morgan; brothers, Talmadge, Ray, Ross, Terry, Robert Gray, Gerry Gray; granddaughter Brandy Scarbrough (Matthew).

Survivors, husband, Charles Wesley Cooke; daughters, Chyrel Wallace (Wayne), Lasandra Stewart (Ricky "Worm"), Contina Horn (John); step-daughters, Lisa Dobecki (Bob), Beth Bettorf (Will); sister, Martha Whittle; brothers, Dwight Gray, Perry Gray; (6) grandchildren, Jacob Robertson (Saysha), Layne Lepard, Jason Smith, Jonathan Horn, Jessica Bailey, Andrew Lindsey; (8) great-grandchildren; a host of nieces and nephews.

Garron Von Johnson

Funeral service for Mr. Garron Von Johnson will be held at 10 AM Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at Macedonia Baptist Church with interment in Conehatta Community Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 2 PM Monday, September 6, 2021 at Macedonia Baptist Church. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Johnson, 40, passed away Monday, August 23, 2021 in Choctaw, MS.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Garrison Johnson.

Survivors include his parents, Gary and Patricia Johnson; daughters, Kaylynn Johnson and Dearian Johnson; son, Sarron Johnson; sister, Larisha Morris; brother, Jamison Johnson.

Sherrell Moore

Funeral services for Sherrell Moore were held Saturday, September 4, 2021 at 11 a.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Bro. Mark Gill and Bro. Luke Wooten officiating. Burial followed in Ebenezer Cemetery. Visitation was held Friday, September 3, 2021 from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. at McClain-Hays Funeral Home. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Moore, 70, of Edinburg, died Thursday, September 2, 2021.

Sherrell was a native and lifelong resident of Edinburg in Leake County. He was a graduate of Edinburg High School in

1970. He worked and retired as a live haul manager from Peco Foods in Sebastopol. He married the love of his life Clara in 1973 and he loved his family and friends. He was an avid hunter, especially fox hunting and a fisherman. Mr. Moore was a member of Free Trade Church of God in Carthage.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Clara Moore of Edinburg; daughters, Cathy Jo Clark of Enterprise, Cristal James (Bobby) of Edinburg, Cindy Wooten (Luke) of Carthage; son, Chris Clark (Crystal) of Edinburg; grandchildren, Trevor and Travis Clark, Garrett and Avery Scott, Carsen and Colten James, Alyssa and Lawson Wooten; great-grandchild, Ryder Clark; brother, Keith Moore (Linda) and their son, Cody of Edinburg; a host of other nieces and nephews.

Mr. Moore was preceded in death by his parents, Buddy and Winnie Pearl Moore.

Mable Ruth Hamilton

Graveside services for Mable Ruth Hamilton was held Friday, September 3, 2021 at 2 p.m. from Plattsburg Cemetery with Rev. Ed King officiating. Visitation was held Friday, September 3, 2021 from 12:30 p.m. until departure at McClain-Hays Funeral Home. McClain-Hays was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Hamilton, 80, of Union, died Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

She was a native of the Nanih Waiya Community of Winston County and was a longtime resident of Louisiana before moving to Union in 1993. She worked as a farmer of beef and poultry with her husband. Mrs. Hamilton was Baptist by faith.

Survivors include her daughter, Pattie (Ronnie) VanDevender; sons, Pete (Karen) Richardson and Jene Richardson all of Louisville; grandchildren, Coty and Zack VanDevender; great-grandchildren, Avey Clayton and Veda VanDevender; stepchildren, Betty Ann Lee (Dewayne) of Louisville, Wanda Burks (John) of Louisville, Dr. Lisa Thomas (Chris) of Starkville, Gary Hamilton (Teresa) of Noxapater, John Glenn Hamilton of Dixon and Jimmy Hamilton (Janice) of Louisville and their families; sisters, Kathy Boney of Richland and Evelyn Vickery of Morton; brother, James Otis Crocker of Louisville; numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

Mrs. Hamilton was preceded in death by her husband, Alton (R.A.) Hamilton; parents, Earnest and Minnie Laura Crocker; sisters, Lillie Mae Crocker, Jewel Hatcher and Dean Regions; brothers, J.W. Crocker and Melvis Crocker.

Michael Paul Ethredge

Funeral services for Michael Paul Ethredge was held Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 11 a.m. from Neshoba Baptist Church with Rev. Byron Howell officiating. Burial followed in Neshoba Cemetery. Visitation was held Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 10 a.m. at the church until service time. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Ethredge, 52, of Meridian, died Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

He was a native and longtime resident of Neshoba Community and attended Neshoba Baptist Church. He lived with his second family in Meridian at Brandy's Hope. He loved horses and music.

Survivors include his uncle, Charles Rhodes (Lisa) of Union; first cousin, Victor Rhodes; numerous cousins and friends.

Mr. Ethredge was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Betty Ethredge.

An'naleyah Faith Gibson

Funeral service for Infant An'naleyah Faith Gibson will be held at 10 AM Monday, September 6, 2021 at Pearl River Facility Building with Rev. Thomas Ben officiating. Interment will be in the New Canaan Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10 AM Saturday, September 4, 2021 at Pearl

River Facility Building. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services is in charge.

Infant Gibson, 11 months, passed away on Monday, August 23, 2021 at Blair Batson Hospital in Jackson, MS. She is preceded in death by her brother, Tyler Cotton.

Survivors include her parents, Shaukota and Nittak Gibson; sisters, A'miley Gibson, Aahliya Jones, Natalia Flores, Mauhree Jones, Jayla Clemmons; brothers, Rudell Cotton, La'Ryden Cotton, Pepper Jones.

Diane Ben

Funeral service for Ms. Diane Ben will be held at 2 PM Monday, September 13, 2021 at Bogue Homa Gym with Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiating. Interment will be in the Bogue Homa Community Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10 AM Saturday, September 11, 2021 at the Bogue Homa Gym. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Ben, 66, passed away Wednesday, August 29, 2021 at her home. Her hobbies included going to the casino, softball games, going to garage sales.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Howard Ben; parents, Newman Thomas and Corrine Billy; sisters, Patricia Rhonell Henderson and Arizona Thomas; brothers Carmen Thomas, Clarence Thomas and John Cotton, Jr.

Survivors include her daughters, Brandi Alex, Eyvee Jefferson, Victoria Jefferson, Jessica Arauz; sons, Nemiah Sockey, Matthew Thomas; sisters, Margaret Jefferson, Ailene Thomas, Mary Jim, Ramona Pitts, Reberta Smith, Brenda Vaughn; brother, Christopher Thomas.

Pallbearers are Ronnie Vaughn, Denny Smith, Leslye Arauz, Tito Lopez, Antonio Reed, Cecil Thompson, Cameron Henderson, Luys Atencio.

Dewey Dewayne Billy

Funeral service for Mr. Dewey Dewayne Billy will be held at 10 AM Saturday, September 4, 2021 at Redwater Gym with Rev. Margaret Johnson officiating. Interment will be in Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 5 PM Thursday, September 2, 2021 at Redwater Gym. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Billy, 58, passed away Monday, August 23, 2021 at his home. His hobbies included hunting, listening to music, collecting cards, and loving his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ruth Ann Billie and Kirby Willis; sister, Diane Hickman; brother, Kimball Willis.

Survivors include his daughters, Mandy Billy and Abby Billy; son, KC Billy; sisters, Dava Meely, Danita D. Willis, Dorcas Willis; 3 grandchildren.

Pallbearers are Brian Billie, Glen Billie, Alvin Nickey, Eric Dixon, Aldreca Lewis, Shaun Jimmie, Dy'ni Morris, James Steve.

Amanda Gayle Jefferson

Funeral service for Mrs. Amanda Gayle Jefferson will be held at 2 PM Friday, September 3, 2021 at Hope Indian Baptist Church with interment in Pine Bluff Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10 AM Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at Hope Indian Baptist Church. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Jefferson, 50, passed away on Friday, August 20, 2021 at University Medical Center in Jackson, MS. Her hobbies included traveling, spending time with family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Walter Willis and Vera Briscoe; step-dad, John Isaac.

Survivors include husband, Alvin Jefferson; daughters, Melanie Willis, Devayna Jefferson; son, Brandon Shumake; sister, Rachel Willis; brothers, Christopher Willis, Eric Willis; 4 grandchildren; host of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers are Jamion Shumake, Adrian Frazier, Cameron Shumake, Gerald Isom, Sr., Brandon Shumake, Eric Willis, Grant Ben, Jaiontae Conrad, Kent Wesley, Brannon Jim, Markus Willis, Lyndon Thomas, Yunnel Willis, Devon Sam.

Debra Elaine Thames

Graveside service for Ms. Debra Elaine Thames will be held at 2 PM Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at Donald Rest Cemetery with Rev. Doby Henry officiating. Visitation will be from 12:30-1:30 PM Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at John E. Stephens Chapel. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Thames, 44, passed away on Monday, August 23, 2021 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian, MS. Her hobbies included being outside with family and friends, watching sports, playing with granddaughter, talking with friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Bruce Thames; father, Willie Cotton; sister, Laura Hickman.

Survivors include mother, Gloria Dean Cotton; daughters, Ashley Thames, Hope Thames, Haiden Anderson; son, Tatum Anderson; sisters, Melissa Bell, Lois Hickman, Teresa Anderson; brothers, Willis Hickman, Jr., Carl Hickman, Eric Hickman, David Hickman; 1 granddaughter, Haizlynn Thames.

Precious Chalisa Dixon

Funeral service for Ms. Precious Chalisa Dixon will be held at 2 PM Thursday, September 2, 2021 at Bogue Chitto Gym with interment in Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. Rev. Daniel



MR. MICHAEL PAUL ETHREDGE SERVICES SEPTEMBER 2 NESHOPA BAPTIST CHURCH INTERMENT NESHOPA CEMETERY

MRS. MABLE RUTH HAMILTON GRAVESIDE SERVICE SEPTEMBER 3 PLATTSBURG CEMETERY

MR. SHERRELL MOORE SERVICES SEPTEMBER 4 MCCLAIN-HAYS CHAPEL INTERMENT EBENEZER CEMETERY

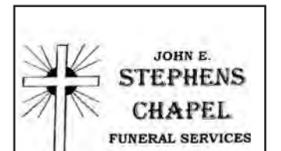
Member THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN RULE

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

Tubby will be officiating. Visitation will begin at 5 PM Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at Bogue Chitto Gym. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Dixon, 22, passed away Thursday, August 19, 2021 in Mexico City, Mexico. Her hobbies included traveling, Mexican soap operas, nature walks, being with family and friends and playing soccer.

Survivors include her parents, See OBITS, page 7A



MRS. PEGGY COOKE (WIFE OF WESLEY COOKE) 10 AM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL SANDTOWN METHODIST CEMETERY

MS. DEBRA THAMES 2 PM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 GRAVESIDE DONALD REST CEMETERY

MR. WILLIE COTTON 10 AM THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 CRYSTAL RIDGE GYM MINGO CEMETERY

MS. PRECIOUS DIXON 2 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 CHITTO GYM BOGUE CHITTO COMMUNITY CEMETERY

MR. FRANK VAUGHN 2 PM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL VERNON BAPTIST CEMETERY-NOXABEE COUNTY

MS. GLENDA BILLIE 10 AM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 PEARL RIVER FACILITY BUILDING BOGUE CHITTO COMMUNITY CEMETERY

MS. HELEN K. SMITH 10 AM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL TUCKER CEMETERY (KEMPER CO.)

MS. AMANDA JEFFERSON 2 PM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 HOPE INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH PINE BLUFF CEMETERY

MR. DEWEY DUANE BILLY 10 AM SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021 REDWATER GYM OLD MT. ZION CEMETERY

MR. RONNIE DALE MCMILLAN 2 PM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH CHURCH CEMETERY

INFANT AN'NALEYAH FAITH GIBSON 10 AM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2021 PEARL RIVER FACILITY BUILDING NEW CANAAN CEMETERY

MR. GARRON JOHNSON 10 AM TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH CONNEHATTA COMMUNITY CEMETERY

MS. DIANE BEN 2 PM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 BOGUE HOMA GYM BOGUE HOMA COMMUNITY CEMETERY

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COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail Docket from 8/29-9/7

• Johnny Abel, 61, of 14951 Hwy 19 S; indictment
 • Severiano Alvarez, 48, of 1203 Stewer St; indictment
 • Lee Earl Amos, 47, of 120 Eagle Hills Rd; driving under the influence-1st offense, careless driving, child restraint law, no insurance
 • James Baugh, 50, of 11640 Rd 177; indictment
 • Chad A Brackin, 44, of 10301 Rd 1327; failure to appear
 • Lakendria Denise Clemmons, 32, of 116 Bogue Circle; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia
 • Kevin Lee Crapps, 39, of 10201 Rd 357, Union; contempt of court
 • Christopher Dean, 33, of 13321 Hwy 485; indictment
 • Robert Martin Donald, 50, of 11571 Hwy 6 East; no charges listed
 • Rodney Donald, 49, of 11571 Hwy 6 East; indictment, failure to appear X2
 • Blake Andrew Dooley, 33, of 1493 E Hwy 487, Sebastopol; indictment
 • Luther Duckworth, 26, of 601 Burch St, Forest; contempt of court
 • Monica D Ealy, 40, of 106 Ball Park Cove; contempt of court
 • Ashton Gray Edwards, 20, of 10360 Rd 565; disturbance family 1st-domestic violence
 • Chad McCoy Frazier, 31, of 188 Cobblestone Rd, Walnut Grove; contempt of court
 • Gustavo Galvan, 48, of Philadelphia; rape, sexual battery
 • James Robert Hamilton, 58, of 500 Wilcher Rd; failure to appear
 • Jakima Harrison, 24, of 7172 Hwy 35 N; possession of controlled substance
 • Laura Jo Henson, 40, of

14180 Hwy 15 S, Union; failure to appear
 • James Ryan Hill, 26, of 10050 Rd 2804; indictment
 • Joseph Hodges, 29, of 1066 Frog Level Lane Apt; indictment
 • Andrew C Holley, 38, of 11582 Rd 12610; possession of controlled substance
 • Arthur H Holley, 39, of 17501 Hwy 486; indictment
 • April Lorida Holmes, 46, of 713 McDonald Rd, Preston; indictment
 • Casey Horton, 35, of 10010 Rd 1311; indictment
 • Jarrett Jayroe, 19, of 304 Line St; driving under the influence/refusal to take test, possession of marijuana-vehicle
 • John Jones, 42, of 416 Austin St; indictment
 • Lawrence Felix Keller III, 47, of 3101 St Roch Ave 2; driving under the influence other substance, possession of marijuana-vehicle, suspended drivers license-DUI
 • Fonzey Lee Landrum, 35, of 10303 Rd 1327; hold for investigations, felony pursuit
 • Albert Bob Lewis, 35, of 11891 Hwy 16 W; bad check-1st or 2nd offense less than \$100.00, no proof of insurance
 • Michael Lewis, 48, of 10222 Rd 1321, Union; driving under influence-3rd offense-felony
 • Ryan D.J. Lewis, 32, of 518 Hwy 487 E, Carthage; contempt of court
 • Timothy Lewis, 38, of 11120 Rd 743 Lot 11A; failure to appear
 • Tommy Lewis, 38, of 12941 Hwy 21 N; contempt of court
 • Anterrio Kevontae Madison, 19, of 1700 Pendelton Square; indictment
 • James Massey, 57, of Rd 315; indictment X2
 • Olivia Massey, 33, of 12620 Hwy 15; indictment

• Jaboris Matthew, 16, of 564 State Ave; indictment
 • Christopher Deaunta McGowan, 29, of 260 A Ave; failure to appear
 • Billy Wayne McMillan, 35, of 144 Rolling Hills Rd; driving under the influence-1st offense, no drivers license, speeding—1-20 miles over limit
 • Maurice McMillan Jr, 37, of 144 Rolling Hills Cr; hold for investigations
 • Crystal McWilliams, 30, of 10051 Rd 383; indictment
 • Ireland Moore, 20, of 11180 Rd 632; indictment
 • Miguel Moore, 33, of 409 Montgomery Ave; failure to appear, sale of controlled substance
 • Tywanda Norton, 44, of 119 Chestnut, Union; indictment, failure to appear
 • David Nowell, 37, of 11791 Rd 539; failure to appear
 • Kwanza Alexe Overstreet, 26, of 487 Constantine St; failure to appear
 • Roventay Peden, 38, of 399 Clyde Ave; sale of controlled substance
 • Chelesa M Ray, 27, of 10150 Rd 2608; disturbance family 1st-domestic violence
 • Michael Sanders, 40, of 10010 Rd 812, Carthage; contempt of court
 • William Shannon Sciple, 46, of 3775 Stratton Rd, Union; sale of controlled substance
 • Kenny Shell, 49, of 545 Rd 1054; indictment X2
 • Cortez Oneal Smith, 21, of 1603 Smith Rd, Walnut; driving under the influence-1st offense, possession of marijuana-vehicle, no insurance
 • Sharrisa Nicole Smith, 27, of 4093 Mills Rd, Conehatta; driving under the influence-1st offense
 • Timothy Kaleb Smith, 20, of 324 North St Apt H51, Union; hold for investigations,

conspiracy to commit a crime-felony X2
 • William Snow, 35, of 342 North St, Union; indictment
 • Roger D Stokes, 38, of 1604 Smith Rd, Walnut Grove; failure to appear, contempt of court
 • Bobby Sullivan, 54, of 1418 Hwy 487, Walnut Grove; malicious mischief over \$1000.00, possession of paraphernalia
 • Luther A Ward, 49, of 2130 Burt Rd, Little Rock; public drunk
 • Jeffery Craig Weaver Jr, 22, of 1560 Providence Rd, Chunky; serving sentence
 • Lauren White, 20, of 10900 Rd 616; failure to appear
 • Larry Mitchell Williamson, 59, of 10950 City Rd 315; driving under the influence other substance, possession of paraphernalia, possession of controlled substance
 • Santana Preslee Williamson, 24, of 11301 Hwy 16 E; possession of controlled substance
 • Treundes Amaru Willis, 19, of 232 Batesville; failure to appear
 • Chanon W Wilson, 24, of 931 Black Jack Rd; serving sentence
 • Alexis Yearwood, 25, of 260 A Ave; child neglect

Winston County Jail Docket for Philadelphia Police arrests from 8/30-9/6
 • Hinton R Anderson, 38, of 791 New Housing Rd, Carthage; controlled substance-simple possession of marijuana-less than 30 grams
 • Bradley N Anthony, 46, of 1107 Tank St; contempt of court-municipal court, hold-detainer for MDOC probation parole
 • Michael M Bradley Jr, 25, of 4712 Hooper St, Meridian; possession of controlled substance

• Shannen Chapala, 29, of 185 Cobblestone Rd, Walnut Grove; false identifying information, contempt of court-municipal court
 • Cortez D Cole, 26, of 1125 West Ave; controlled substance-possession of paraphernalia, false identifying information, contempt of court-municipal court
 • Richard C Cumberland, 32, of 10121 Rd 2826; contempt of court-municipal court
 • Daniel C Dutton, 46, of 111 Alexander Ave; contempt of court-municipal court
 • Chad Frazier, 31, of 116 Big Spring Creek Rd; hold-detainer for Neshoba County SO, DUI-1st offense, MV-no insurance
 • James C Ganey, 31, of 2140 Hinze Church Rd, McCool; contempt of court-municipal court
 • Deterius M Griffin, 24, of 911 Kayla Ave; contempt of court-municipal court
 • Cassie N Hamilton, 42, of 10261 Rd 357, Union; contempt of court-municipal court
 • Lyndon Hardy, 32, of 512 S Church Ave; domestic violence-simple assault-1st or 2nd offense
 • Jzmarkeyus T Hobbs, 21, of 274 W Athens St; disorderly conduct-failure to comply with request or command of law enforcement officers, MV-no insurance, MV-seat-belt violation, speeding 10 over, resisting arrest
 • Shaquetta Holmes, 29, of 107 71st Place Apt 831, Meridian; controlled substance-simple possession of marijuana-less than 30 grams, contempt of court-municipal court

• Brenda McCarthy, 29, of 1850 Hwy 16; domestic violence-simple assault-1st or 2nd offense
 • Charles McCool, 32, of 181 Sonny Jones Rd; contempt of court-municipal court
 • Jardavion McDougle, 19, of 421 Austin St; controlled substance-possession of marijuana less than 30 grams or synthetic cannabinoids 10 grams or less in motor vehicle
 • Jessica McWilliams, 51, of 408 Barham St; contempt of court-municipal court
 • Dustin T Morris, 38, of 13580 Hwy 491 N; contempt of court-municipal court
 • Julius Morris, 28, of 13580 Hwy 491; contempt of court-municipal court
 • James Overstreet, 63, of 285 Shuqulak Rd, Preston; DUI-1st offense
 • Santrell Ramsey, 26, of 5056 37th St, Meridian; controlled substance-possession of marijuana less than 30 grams or synthetic cannabinoids 10 grams or less in motor vehicle, contempt of court-municipal court
 • Laderry Reed, 35, of 680 Blue Bond Ln, Carthage; DUI-1st offense
 • Alvin Rodgers, 40, of 2620 N Fm 113, Weatherford, TX; possession of controlled substance X2
 • Jaylyn Tubby, 22, of 11 Indian Hill Dr; MV-driver's license-none, MV-no insurance, speeding 10 over, contempt of court-municipal court
 • Brian K Vowell, 42, of 10250 Rd 282; home repair fraud-1st conviction when amount of fraud is less than \$5000

Obits

Continued from page 5A

Alisia Nene and Orlando Dixon; brothers, Hayden Ben and Cruz Ben.

Pallbearers are Jordan Bell, Dy'ni Morris, Tristen Henry, Peyton Bell, Talon Bell, Ethan King, Craig Runnels, Nicolas Pichardo Nene.

Willie Cotton

Funeral service for Mr. Willie Cotton will be held at 10 AM Thursday, September 2, 2021 at Crystal Ridge Gym with interment in Mingo Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10 AM Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at Crystal Ridge Gym. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Cotton, 73, passed away Sunday, August 22, 2021 at Merit Health River Oaks Hospital in Flowood, MS. His hobbies included watching football, baseball, cutting grass, playing outside with his grandkids and his roosters, Odell and Big Red.

He is preceded in death by his parents, John Cotton and Hattie Chapman; daughter, Debra Thames; sisters, Sarah Cotton, Ora Mae Galvan, Rosie Sam; brothers, Junior Cotton, James Cotton, Cillo Cotton, Jimmy Cotton.

Survivors include common law wife, Gloria Cotton; daughters, Melissa Bell, Teresa Anderson, Lois Hickman; son, David Hickman; sister, Elaine Isaac; 21 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Ronnie Dale McMillan

Funeral service for Mr. Ronnie Dale McMillan will be held at 2 PM Sunday, September 5, 2021 at Hopewell Baptist Church with Rev. Robert Patrick officiating. Interment will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will begin at 5 PM Friday, September 3, 2021 at Hopewell Baptist Church. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. McMillan, 57, passed away Saturday, August 28, 2021 at his home. His hobbies included playing softball, baseball and washers.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Iven Bell and Susie McMillan.

Survivors include his wife, Marsha McMillan; step-son, Quentin Comby; sisters, Betty Bell and Melinda Lewis; brother, Bjoin McMillan.

Pallbearers are Jaric Anderson, Sr., Timothy Thomas, James Johnson, Carl Hickman, Robert Tubby, Elias Johnson, McKinley Steve, Samuel Comby.

Glenda Billie

Funeral service for Ms. Glenda Billie will be held at 10 AM Friday, September 3, 2021 at Pearl River Facility Building with interment in Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. Rev. Doby Henry will be officiating. Visitation will begin at 1 PM Wednesday, September 2, 2021 at the Pearl River Facility Building. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Billie, 53, passed away Saturday, August 28, 2021 at North MS Medical Center in Tupelo, MS. Her hobbies included being with grandkids, beadwork, listening to oldies, and cooking.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Wilson Michael Billie, Sr. and Maggie Sue Frazier; brothers, Lero Billie and Jimmy Billie; granddaughter, Mya Marie Nosika Frazier.

Survivors include daughters, Maggie Marie Billie, Terri Ann Billie; son, Scotty Ray Billie; sisters, Patsy Martin, Manzie Billie; brother, Wilson Billie, Jr.; half-brother, Harold Amos; 8 grandchildren.

Pallbearers are Alejandro Martin, Jamian Shoemaker, Ryan Willis, Eric Dan, Herman Young, Billy Lewis, Jimmy Williams, Shaun Jefferson, Marty Briscoe, Grant Ben.

Gretchen Mars Howerton

Gretchen Mars Howerton (1932-2021) At 89 Gretchen- aka Nana, aka Super G, embarked upon her next great adventure on August 31, 2021. Growing up in Philadelphia, Mississippi she developed her business acumen and fashion sense working at Mars Brothers - her parents' clothing store. Always an adventurer, upon completion of her undergraduate studies at Millsaps College and Stephens College she moved to New York. There she earned a graduate degree in Physical Therapy from Columbia University. Gretchen met her soon to be husband - Jim Howerton (deceased 2013) while working as a physical therapist at Baptist Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. The young couple settled initially in Columbia, North Carolina and started a family. They shared a love for spending time with friends, family and dining out.

Throughout our teenage years in Newport News, Virginia we knew we had the coolest parents in the neighborhood. Mom was



Gretchen Howerton

always a trendsetter, both in fashion and in her approach to life. As a friend remarked, she was never without a smile, always with perfect makeup and dressed to the nines - whatever the occasion.

As her daughter, I am deeply grateful for the example she set as a working woman running a solo medical practice. Before the Women's Movement brought attention to issues of equality at work and at home, Gretchen made her way through the world by expecting and if necessary, demanding she be treated as an equal. Consequently, it never occurred to me that I should accept anything less.

As her son, I am deeply grateful for the example she set as a mother and a wife. She taught me what to look for in a life partner, which I was blessed to find. Equally importantly she taught me what to be as a life partner, perhaps explaining why my beautiful wife Pam has kept me these past 25 years.

She helped give us both the confidence to aspire to many goals and the support to achieve them.

Upon retirement in 2010 she relocated to Advance, North Carolina with her husband to be near her son and daughter-in-law Russell and Pamela Howerton, her grandchildren Zoe Howerton, Gwyneth Howerton, Amanda Herring, Jennifer Coppola, grandsons-in-law Marcus Herring, Roman Coppola, and her great-grandchildren Keats Herring, Pascale Coppola, Marcello Coppola, and Alessandro Coppola. During these years Nana enjoyed immersion into a large extended family.

Late in life she got to indulge her wandering spirit with globe-trotting adventures with her daughter and son-in-law Todd and Tim; whale watching in Alaska, exploring the Sea of Cortez, stepping back in time in the Galapagos Islands, rounding Cape Horn on an epic adventure from the Chilean Fjords to Staten Island, Argentina and getting up close and personal with elephants and rhinos during a once in a lifetime journey through South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana. Super G embraced these cultures and experiences with zeal. The 'sundowners' at the end of the day's adventure were always some of her favorite moments. We celebrate her life with one last toast - as her friends from Botswana would say "Pula" (cheers) "Tsamaya sentle" (good-bye and go well). She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

A private family graveside service will be held at Four Oaks Farm on September 11, 2021. Hayworth-Miller Funeral Homes in Advance, North Carolina are handling funeral arrangements.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Davie Community Foundation, 107 N. Salisbury St. Mocksville, NC 27028.

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

The City of Philadelphia will hold a public hearing on its proposed ad valorem tax revenue increase for fiscal year 2021/2022 on September 15, 2021 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.

The City of Philadelphia is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$11,633,200 (11 percent) or \$1,280,000 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$10,960,350 or that amount, (13 percent) of \$1,530,000 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For the next fiscal year, the City of Philadelphia plans to increase your ad valorem tax millage rate by 1 mills from 19 mills to 20 mills. This increase means that you will pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment and rental real property.

The Philadelphia Public School District will decrease your ad valorem millage rate by .55 mills from 60.00 mills to 59.45 mills to satisfy their debt service request.

Any citizen of the City of Philadelphia is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for fiscal year 2021/2022 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

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RIB PLATES

Potato Salad, Baked Beans & Roll

\$9.99

TUESDAY

BEEF TIPS & RICE

English Peas (or) Turnip Greens & Roll

\$6.99

WEDNESDAY

SPAGHETTI

with Side Salad & Garlic Toast

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THURSDAY

HAMBURGER PLATE

Potato salad, Baked beans & Roll

\$6.99

FRIDAY

CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS

W/ Turnip Greens, Cream Corn, Cornbread or Roll

\$6.99

HAMBURGER STEAK PLATES

W/ Onions, Bell Pepper, Mashed Potatoes, w/ Gravy, Corn on the Cob (or Green Beans) & Roll

\$8.99

SATURDAY

RIB PLATES

w/ Potato Salad, Baked Beans & Roll

\$9.99

HAMBURGER STEAK PLATES

W/ Onions, Bell Pepper, Mashed Potatoes, w/ Gravy, Corn on the Cob (or Green Beans) & Roll

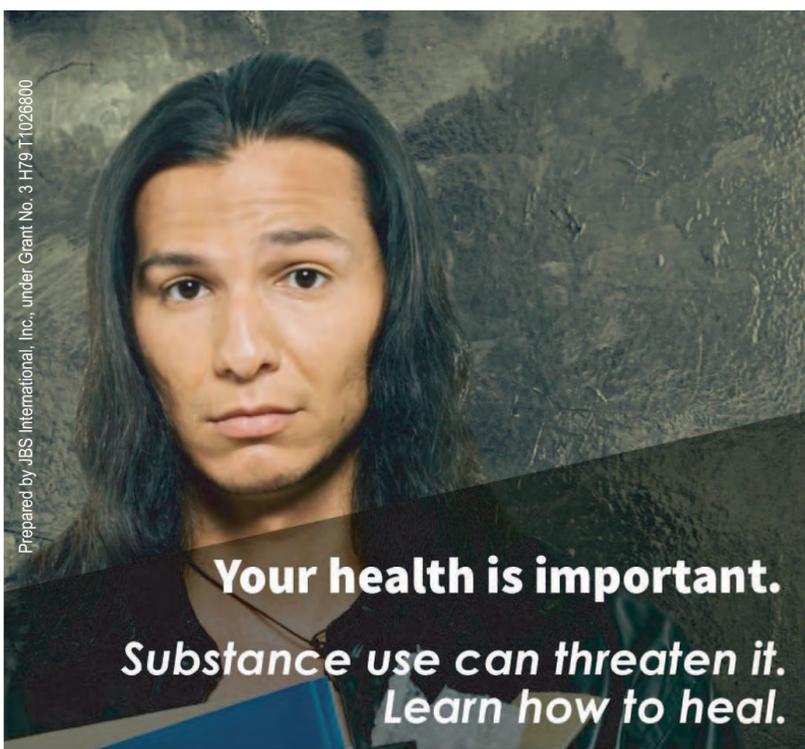
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Gates' vegetable garden creates yearly tradition

By SARAH KATHRYN WATKINS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Vetty Gates of Philadelphia enjoys gardening with her grandchildren.

"We went and got some stuff at Lowe's and came back and planted it, and that was about two years ago," said Gates, of the beginning of her gardening experience with her grandchildren.

Since then, the yearly vegetable garden has become a tradition for Gates and her grandchildren.

Gates is the mother of three children, a grandmother to six and a great-grandmother to one.

While Gates' children were still young, she attended Carthage Beauty School College, and on the weekends, she would work at the Casino.

Gates said she always had a passion for fixing hair and she recently celebrated 25 years with her own cosmetology business named Hair Style Unlimited.

Gates grew up in a big family splitting chores with family members. One of those chores was cooking. Gates' mother, Louella Davis, taught her how to make Southern food, but she also followed recipes in cookbooks to learn more about cooking.

Gates remembers watching her mother cook and learning to cook as part of one of her weekly chores.

Now Gates is used to cooking for large crowds. On Sundays Gates prepares a big meal for the family to eat after church at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, where she is the financial secretary.

Gates' granddaughter, Cayleigh Gates, loves her grandmother's potato casserole.

Gates takes the time on weekends to relax. A couple of ways she relaxes is by baking and shopping. On Saturday morning, Gates goes shopping, and when she is done, she likes to get together with her friends and play spades and eat snacks.



Vetty Gates

COOK OF THE WEEK

PEACH COBBLER IN A SKILLET

- 1 large can of sliced peaches
- 1 stick of butter
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 cup of milk
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla flavor
- Nutmeg and cinnamon

I use my cast iron black skillet when I'm making this family dessert. Pour the

peaches in the skillet. Slice the butter over the peaches. Sprinkle it with nutmeg and cinnamon. Mix the remaining ingredients together in a bowl and beat well. Pour mixture of the peaches. Place in a 350 degrees oven, bake for 40 minutes or until the crust is brown.

VETT'S HOMEMADE POUND CAKE

- 1 teaspoon of butter and

- pure vanilla flavor
- 3 cups of cake flour
- 2 tablespoons of self-rising flour
- 3 eggs
- 2 sticks of pure butter
- 1 stick of margarine butter
- 2 ½ cups of sugar
- ½ cup 7 Up Soda (You can replace the 7 Up soda with a Sprite or Mountain Dew). All are delicious! Using your mixture, cream butter and sugar together for 8 minutes.

(EXACTLY). Add eggs one at a time. Add flavors and cake flours and add the soda of your choice. Beat well. Pour batter in a loaf or a Bundt cake pan that has been sprayed or floured. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes at 334 degrees or until a toothpick comes out clean when stuck in the middle of the cake. Let it cool and enjoy. Remember to set all ingredients out at room temperature.

CAYLEIGH'S POTATO CASSEROLE

- 5 lbs. bag of potatoes
- 1 large onion
- 1 ½ lbs. of ground beef
- 1 bag sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 large container of Sour Cream
- Peel and wash potatoes, cut in chink and boil for ten minutes or until soft. Brown ground beef and onion together.

er. Drain the ground beef and place in a casserole dish. Season with salt, pepper, garlic powder and seasonal salt. Just season it to your choice, I don't measure my seasonings. Add sour cream and mix well. Fold drained potatoes in the mixture and spread evenly in the casserole dish. Sprinkle it with a bag of cheese. Bake for ten minutes or until the cheese melts. Enjoy!

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

Congratulations to Bill and Regina Dungan who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on September 2. They are former longtime residents of Philadelphia who now reside in St. Catherine's Village in Madison.

Regina is a Philadelphia girl who was a former Miss Neshoba County. Bill grew up in Port Gibson, Mississippi. He was a new graduate of MSU when he met Regina in Jackson where she was working. One of his former college roommates introduced them. They were married at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in the Tucker community in 1956.

Bill's job with Standard Oil of New York took them to Tallahassee where he did research on the floor of the Gulf of Mexico and helped design safe oil platforms in the Gulf. Bill was promoted to the headquarters in New York City which led to a big decision. They decided to move back to Philadelphia because they did not want to raise their three children in the City. Bill put his MBA to work as the manager of two major factories in Philadelphia. He eventually established his own oil business which he enjoyed until his retirement.

They are enjoying their new home. Bill likes to play bridge and played with a group before the pandemic.

A precious princess made her grand entrance into the world on August 31, 2021. Her parents are Blake and Dees Posey Rome of Flowood. She weighed 7 pounds and 10

ounces of pure sweetness. She has been named Kinsey Grace Rome. Dees and Blake are totally smitten with her! Her sister Emmie has been practicing her big sister skills with family members so she is ready to meet Kinsey, Philadelphia grandparents are Dr. Rudy and Lisa Posey. Congratulations!

Emily Berry has completed her Navy Basic Training, passed her 12 hour final exam and is now a Sailor! Her parents, Brian and Lydia Whitaker Berry, are beyond proud of her. She graduated on Friday, September 3, 2021 from the Naval Station, Great Lakes, Illinois, which is the home of the only United States Navy Bootcamp.

It is a tradition for Navy families attending graduation ceremonies to hang an anchor on their hotel room door before going to graduation. Lydia and Brian Berry had a very special anchor which was made by Kim Mills Kilpatrick. It was a large blue anchor with the words, USS ENTERPRISE on a bar across the top, and her name, Berry, in red, white, and blue letters with stars on the blue B & E and white stripes across the red R's and Y in the center. PIR93.21 was printed in white down the body of the anchor with SHIP 10 on one prong and DIV386 on the other.

Brian and Lydia Berry were present for graduation and all of the accompanying activities in which Emily took part. Congratulations!

Neshoba County School District selected Pam Gilmer Dillard as Middle School Teacher of the Month for

August. She received a certificate and a gift card from Main Street Junction. Mrs. Dillard is a member of the 6th grade ELA Team. Congratulations!

Comeback Coolers is a community philanthropy based in Ocean Springs which provides support and aid to those in need at a very difficult time of recovery and rebuilding following a devastating storm event. The mission for September is Hurricane IDA.

The First Baptist Church little preschool babies decorated coolers and filled them with sports drinks, sparkling ice, baby wipes and other listed items. Food is not included on the list. The children decorated their coolers and wrote letters to put inside each one. They prayed over the coolers after they closed them. They are learning from experience how to think of those in need and spread God's love.

The program also fills pails for the lineman with drinks and salty individually packaged snacks. The gifts bring joy and hope to those who are exhausted and have been through such unbelievable hardship and sadness. There are hundreds of people who have packing parties to fill coolers. What an amazing project for these little children. Thank you to each one and their teachers.

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



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Philadelphia schools announce new leadership team

By SCHOOL REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

The Philadelphia Public School District has announced several changes in its administrative leadership team, according to superintendent Dr. Lisa Hull.

"Our new team members bring leadership styles that will complement the central office staff as well as our administrative team," Hull said. "Our new team brings experience that will help move our district forward as we prepare students for college and careers."

Melishia Hancock is taking over as the new principal for Philadelphia Elementary School.

Hancock has been a part of the district for more than 20 years. Hancock is National Board certified in Early Adolescent Math, obtained her bachel-

or's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. She has a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Mississippi State University. She has three children, two daughters ages 18 and 15 and one son, age 6.

Dr. Gregory Stephens is the Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs for the Philadelphia Public School District.

Stephens has been an educator and administrator for well over two decades. Stephens has a bachelor degree in Psychology with a minor in Child Development. He has a Master of Science Degree in Sports Administration and Kinesiology, Educational Specialist, and Doctor of Philosophy in Education Administration and Supervision with a minor in Curriculum and Instruction all of which came from Mississippi State

University. Stephens is currently working on his Master of Science Degree in Counseling. He has completed over 30 graduate hours in elementary education from the University of West Alabama.

Stephens comes from a family of educators. He is married with two sons ages 19 and 14.

Mina Mooney will be joining Philadelphia Public School District as the director of Child Nutrition/Public Relations. Mooney is a graduate of Delta State University and earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts, in Media/Design. Mooney has an extensive background working in the Advertising, Marketing, and Hospitality Industry and has worked as a journalist for several newspapers, media outlets and websites.

Justin Richardson will be joining Philadelphia Public School District as the business



New members of the Philadelphia School District leadership team are, from left, Justin Richardson, Stacy Shields, Mina Mooney and Dr. Gregory Stephens.

manager. Richardson graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Banking and Finance and a minor in Economics. He has worked in various departments in the Construction Industry including Accounting, Human Relations, Safety, Payroll and Logistics. Justin is married to Amanda Richardson, and they have a

daughter named Sellers Richardson.

Stacy Shields will be joining Philadelphia Public School as the director of Special Services/Testing Coordinator. Shields has spent the last five years in the Meridian Public School District where she served as Case Manager for the Office of Exceptional Education. Shields received her B.S. from Mississippi State University, an M.S.

in Educational Leadership, and an Ed.S. in Special Education Administration from Arkansas State University. She most recently received an additional M.S. Degree in Psychometry from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. Shields is married to Jeremy Shields and has four daughters: Kamryn, Lexie, Brookle and Katie.



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- Power Hour (Tutoring)
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- Money Matters/Field Trips/Activities
- After-School Program (City & County Schools):
150+ children attend each day
- All-Day Summer Enrichment Program
200+ children attend each day

Your donation is so appreciated and should be made payable to:

"Boys & Girls Club of Neshoba County"
P.O. Box 313
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For more info on how you can invest in our children, call 601-656-4343.
For program info/enroll a child, call Jermaine Harris, County Unit Director, 601-880-6322.



Second opinions are very popular these days. People think a second and then give their opinion.

The easiest way to stay awake during an after-dinner speech? Leave right after dinner.

Some folks remember when the only tanning parlor in town was the woodshed.

Facts of life: people who snore always fall asleep first.

The election is not very far off when a candidate can recognize you from across the street.

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Of Local Interest

CHURCH REVIVAL
Fellowship Baptist Church is proud to present: Nashville Sound Recording Artist Tim Firth & Gospel Echoes September 12, 2021 at 11 am at Fellowship Baptist Church at 19213 Highway 21 South, Philadelphia, MS, 39350.

Easiest way to get to the church is get on 21 from 15 like you are going to the Neshoba County Fair, and we are the first church on the right.

Come out and enjoy a day of singing and fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Terry Anderson (601) 650-6093

4H MEET AND GREET
Neshoba County 4-H will be hosting a 4-H Meet and Greet at the Neshoba County Coliseum for on September 17th between 5 and 7 p.m. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our active 4-H'ers as well as our new 4-H'ers. We hope that you will join us in welcoming our two new County Agents, Chase Domingue and Anna Windham. If you are interested in attending, please call the office at 601-656-4011 or email abw456@msstate.edu to RSVP by September 10th. We look forward to meeting you all!

FAMILY REUNION CANCELLED
The Rhodes family reunion that is usually held the second Sunday in September at the Community Center at Walton Park in Neshoba has been cancelled for this year.

FREE VETERAN WORKSHOP
The Ivy Street Church of Christ will be hosting a free

Veteran Workshop Saturday September 18, 2021 at 601 Ivy Street, Philadelphia, MS at 10:00 AM. It is for those Veterans trying to obtain or increase their VA disability, spouse of a Veteran, child of a Veteran, those taking care of their father or mother who is a Veteran or taking care of your father or mother who was married to a Veteran. For more information call 1-601-416-4550. MASK is required.

NESHOBA COUNTY SWCD NOW TAKING TREE ORDERS
The Neshoba County Soil and Water Conservation District will be taking tree orders through November 30th, 2021.

Order forms are available from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday outside the office or you can call 601-656-8783 Ext. 3 and we will e-mail or mail you an order form to you. The office is located at 511 East Lawn Drive in the USDA Building. We are asking that you pay for the trees when placing your order. You may drop off your payment and order form in a drop box outside of the front door.

The trees are bare root trees and will arrive in February 2022. By ordering bulk wholesale we can pass the savings on to you. Proceeds from tree sales will help support educational programs throughout the year.

If you have any questions, call 601-656-8783 Ext.3.

CHURCH REVIVAL
Mt. Olive Baptist Church in the Stephentown Community will hold a revival on September 26-29, 2021. The following pastors will be bringing the messages: Bro Joel Embrey will bring the

message Sunday night at 6:00PM; Bro J.R. Eaton will bring the message Monday night at 7:00PM; Bro David Addy will bring the message Tuesday night at 7:00PM; Bro Joseph Knight will bring the message Wednesday night at 7:00PM. Everyone is invited to come and hear God's Word.

CHURCH CONCERT
Union Pentecostal Church will host Russell Garcia in concert on Saturday 9/11/2021 at 7 PM. A love offering will be received. Brother Russell Garcia will also minister in the 10 AM service on Sunday 9/12/2021.

The church is located at 10123 Rd 321, Union, MS. For further information Contact Pastor Cliff Crosby at 601-504-4144.

FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
The Neshoba County Forestry Association will hold its Annual Fall Meeting on Tuesday, September 28th at 6 p.m. at the Neshoba County Coliseum. Tedrick Ratcliff, Executive Vice-President of MFA, will be our guest speaker where he will discuss "Forestry, Today, Tomorrow, and the Next Decade". People from all aspects of forestry will benefit from this presentation and are encouraged to attend. Penn's Restaurant will be providing Catfish and Shrimp for this event! Membership dues for the association are \$20 per year and will be accepted at the meeting. Please call the Neshoba County Extension office at (601)-656-4011 to pre-register for the meeting by Monday, September 27th, so we will know how much food to prepare.



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FELDER RUSHING

Fall is the time of year to plant your winter garlic

By FELDER RUSHING
rushingfelder@yahoo.com

Though the summer garden is still going full tilt, I felt a cool waft of Autumn the other morning, just enough to let me know that its busy ant time again. This lazy grasshopper needs to get up and do some weeding, soil reworking, and gathering stuff to start planting for late fall, winter and spring.

I'm a Stoic at heart, trying to maintain a practical indifference to both good and bad events; recognizing that my glass is both half empty and half full, I appreciate what I have without pining for what I don't, which helps me get the most out of the situation at hand.

Case in point: in spite of the damage caused to my garden by recent hurricane winds and rain - limbs down, zinnias toppled, part of a shed knocked awry - I found a silver lining in how my usual end-of-summer hard-baked soil has been softened and its moisture topped up in time to plant my fall veggies and flowers.

So, after pulling a few weeds and roughing out tree and vine seedlings that popped up over the summer, I dug into some nearly bare patches in flower beds, hand-tilling in my fading spring mulch and a little compost and topped it with freshly fallen leaves and a layer of bark mulch. Now I have garden spots ready to go just as soon as my local garden center gets stocked with little trans-



plants of broccoli, cabbage, swiss chard, kale, and some violas and pansies. Now the hard part's done, and I have all month to get stuff planted.

It's almost time to set out garlic, one of the easiest winter crops. I grow both mild and

fiery-hot kinds for cooking, plus appreciate the winter foliage and late spring fist-size flowers. I have a few leftover cloves from last spring, plus last weekend I found some at a garden center and bought a couple of fat, locally grown,

clove-packed bulbs from a local farmers' market grower. And I begged three heirloom elephant garlic "toes" from a garden friend.

Sometime late this month or early October I will plant the individual cloves about four

inches apart and a couple inches or so deep in some well-drained flowerbed soil and a few in big pots along with winter flowers to brighten my porch and decks. Because they have such shallow roots and fertilizers tend to wash away, I

make a point to fertilize very lightly when I plant, and again when the foliage is a few inches high, and then just let them go.

Some I grow just for the flowers, but for most I simply pop off the pointy buds as they appear in late winter (they are edible), to keep energy going down to the bulbs. When the tall leafy tops turn yellow next spring I will dig them, cut off all but a few inches of stem, and hang them out of the weather to cure so they will store better.

There'll be more stuff to plant, from both traditional and unusual spring flowering bulbs to cold-hardy flowers like snapdragons, colorful kales, and sweet Williams and other dianthus. And I always strew seeds onto bare dirt of mixed colorful lettuces, carrots, beets (all which have beautiful foliage) and overwintering annuals that need fall sowing like larkspur, coreopsis (our official state wildflower), and blackeyed susan.

And the beds and bare spots that I won't plant this winter get a good sprinkling of clover seeds to both look good all winter and provide rich "green manure" to dig in next spring.

Sooo... planning is done. planting time is nigh.

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

Wicker advances sport fisheries legislation

By JAMES L. CUMMINS
Special to the Democrat

Mississippi is very fortunate to have U.S. Senator Roger Wicker representing our great state and nation.

He has championed the conservation and sportsmen's agenda since he was elected to Congress in 1994. He grew up in Mississippi's outdoors and values the important lessons and experiences people gain from it. He has consistently represented the interests of hunters, anglers, and gun owners by supporting policies that protect our Second

Amendment rights, promote conservation, minimize burdensome or unnecessary regulations, and expand access to public lands and waters.

Like me, he values the importance of Mississippi's waters—whether to boat, fish for recreation, catch a mess for a fish fry, or just get away from everyone else during the pandemic.

Earlier this year, Senator Wicker introduced the Sport Fish Restoration and Recreational Boating Safety Act of 2021 – a critical bill that will sustain the most significant

funding for state-based fisheries conservation – in the U. S. Senate. It passed the Senate Commerce Committee on June 16. While moving it through Senate Commerce Committee, Senator Wicker worked to safeguard the fund by ensuring that funding intended to increase access for recreational fishing and boating is not required to go through a burdensome approval process.

On August 10, the Senate passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a long talked about infusion of funding to rebuild our nation's infrastruc-

ture. It will not make the headlines, but this conservation bill was included within this large infrastructure legislation. Now the House of Representatives will need to act before it comes to the President's desk to be signed into law.

The Trust Fund is currently funded entirely by federal excise taxes paid on fishing equipment including tackle, motorboat and small engine fuel, electric motors, and other equipment purchased by anglers and boaters. The bill will reauthorize the Trust Fund and ensure more than \$650 mil-

lion is provided annually to fund state-based programs for sport fish conservation and habitat restoration, infrastructure for boating access and on-the-ground, state-driven fisheries conservation programs.

Additionally, it will provide for well-managed fisheries for the American public and secure a bright future for the \$23.6 billion fishing and boating industry while ultimately improving the efficiency of the Sport Fish Restoration Program. In 2020, nearly \$743 million was generated by the Trust Fund from fishing and boating-related

excise taxes.

Thanks to Senator Wicker's efforts this summer, Mississippi's hunters and anglers can feel confident that the state's outdoors and wildlife will have the backing it needs to thrive for years to come.

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

Public Notices

INVITATION FOR BIDS
OPEN TO ALL BIDDERS

DATE ISSUED:
September 1, 2021

BY:
Choctaw Housing Authority
P. O. Box 6088
Choctaw, MS 39350

PROJECT: Rehab
House #557
Pearl River Community

LOCATION: 140
Willis Road
Philadelphia, MS 39350
Neshoba County

CONTRACTING OFFICER: Eric T. Willis, Executive Director

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES:
The contractor shall provide project administration, job supervision, skilled and common labor, equipment, adheres to the Davis-Bacon Labor Law, provide Indian preference, provide insurance as required by Choctaw Housing Authority, perform and complete all requirements as specified in the Scope of Work. **The Contractor will be given four (4) weeks to complete the job .**

Bid forms and specifications may be picked up at the Choctaw Housing Authority Procurement Office. **Bids must be accompanied by a 5% Bid Guaranty to be considered responsible and responsive.** For more information call Peggy Thompson, Procurement Officer at (601) 656-6617.

Sealed bids are due no later than : **10:00 a.m., ON September 22, 2021 . BID OPENING.** at the Procurement Office, Attn: Peggy Thompson. No late bids will be accepted.

Choctaw Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities. Indian Preference will be given to all qualified Indian-Owned companies.

THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TRUETT ROBERTSON CAUSE NO. 20-179-KK

MIKE ROBERTSON AND KATHY ROBERTSON, PETITIONERS

SUMMONS

Public Notices

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: **The Unknown Heirs of Truett Robertson**

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

THE COMPLAINT OR PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 9:00 o'clock, a.m., on the 13 th day of October, 2021, in the courtroom of the Neshoba County Courthouse at Philadelphia, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 1 st day of September, 2021.

/s/ Guy Nowell by G. Tate D.C.
GUY NOWELL, Chancery Court Clerk
Neshoba County, Mississippi

THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MELBA ROBERTSON CAUSE NO. 20-178-KK

MIKE ROBERTSON AND KATHY ROBERTSON, PETITIONERS

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: **The Unknown Heirs of Melba Robertson**

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

THE COMPLAINT OR PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 9:00 o'clock, a.m., on the 13 th day of October, 2021, in the courtroom of the Neshoba County Courthouse at Philadelphia, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

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Public Notices

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/s/ Guy Nowell by G. Tate D.C.
GUY NOWELL, Chancery Court Clerk
Neshoba County, Mississippi

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received at the Procurement Office, 101 Industrial Road Choctaw, Mississippi 39350, until 2:00 P.M., on Thursday, September 16, 2021 for the purchase of:

Passenger Accessible Bus
32/36 A-ADA Passenger Bus
Specification Number 971- Bus-32/36-ADA:

Bid documents may be obtained from:

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Procurement Office
P.O Box 6277
101 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 39350

Attn: Jaric Anderson
(601) 650-1616 (Office)
(601) 504-9269 (Cell)
jaric.anderson@choctaw.org

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Procurement Office reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids.

By: Jaric Anderson
Property Manager

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The NESHOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS will receive competitive Reverse Auction Bids to be submitted electronically via the Neshoba County website at www.neshobacounty.net with said Reverse Auction occurring from 8:00 AM until 12:00 noon, local time, on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, from qualified vendors in response to this solicitation for acquiring the following equipment: One (1) or more, new, 75-Yard, 30 Ton, End Dump Trailer

Detailed specifications for the above described equipment and bid forms may be obtained from the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors office at the Neshoba County Courthouse, 401 Beacon Street, Suite 201, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350, by calling

Public Notices

601-656-6281 or by Neshoba County's website at www.neshobacounty.net . Neshoba County, Mississippi will determine if compliance with the specifications exist before accepting any bid.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS: All responses to this solicitation for said trailer shall be returned, with detailed proposals included therewith, including the fixed price amount to be bid, in PDF document format, and submitted electronically via the reverse auction at www.neshobacounty.net /t/bids under the correct bid solicitation by 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, September 29 th, 2021.

It shall be incumbent upon each bidder to understand the specifications as listed herein and to obtain clarification when necessary. It is not the intent of these specifications to limit the bidding to any particular make or manufacturer of equipment or provider of services, but rather to select such equipment and services to provide for specific needs and specific tasks for public works as solicited under this request. Any reference to name-brand materials or equipment is intended to establish the minimum necessary standards only and bids submitted on materials and equipment equal thereto, at the sole discretion and determination of Neshoba County, shall be considered.

The Neshoba County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to accept or reject any / or all bids and waive informalities and irregularities. No bid, upon submission, may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days. Published by Order of the Board of Supervisors of Neshoba County, Mississippi on the 2 nd day of August 2021.

/s/ GUY NOWELL
GUY NOWELL, CLERK
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL YOUTH COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN RE: GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR, A.J.D. DOB 2-14-2013

CASSANDRA MICHELLE TWISS, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS NEXT FRIEND PLAINTIFF VS. CAUSE NO.: 2021-346

HAYLEY MATRICE WILLIS AND GARIAN SELBY DIXON DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

Public Notices

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

TO: **Garian Selby Dixon, a resident/ non resident of the state of Mississippi, (whose post office and street address are unknown after diligent search and inquiry)**

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Cassandra Twiss Individually and as Next Friends, Plaintiffs, seeking to open a guardianship of the minor child named in the Petition. Defendants other than you in this action are Hayley Matrice Willis.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 2:00 o'clock p.m. on the 14 th day of September, 2021 in the courtroom of the Choctaw Tribal Court in the Smith John Justice Complex located on the Pearl River Reservation, Choctaw, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgement will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 11th day of August, 2021.

/s/ Jennileen Young
TRIBAL COURT CLERK

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL YOUTH COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN RE: GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR, L.S.D. DOB 11-11-2011

CASSANDRA MICHELLE TWISS, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS NEXT FRIEND PLAINTIFF VS. CAUSE NO.: 2021-346

HAYLEY MATRICE WILLIS AND GARIAN SELBY DIXON DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

TO: **Garian Selby Dixon, a resident/ non resident of the state of Mississippi, (whose post office and street address are unknown after diligent search and inquiry)**

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Public Notices

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You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 11th day of August, 2021.

/s/ Jennileen Young
TRIBAL COURT CLERK

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF RUBY CLARK DAVIS CAUSE NO.: 2021-207 PETITIONER DEBBIE DAVIS FILES **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Letters Testamentary having been granted to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi, on the Estate of Ruby Clark Davis, Deceased, on the 17th day of August 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 17th day of August, 2021.
/s/Debbie Davis Files
DEBBIE DAVIS FILES
EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF RUBY CLARK DAVIS

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

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Warriors football team falls in season opener to EMCC

By **SCHOOL REPORTS**
Special to the Democrat

The Warriors of East Central Community College were finally back on the gridiron on Thursday night after the season was cut short a year ago.

ECCC made the trip to Scooba to take on the East Mississippi Lions, but ultimately fell 32-7 as offensive woes plagued the Warriors. The loss drops the Warriors to 0-1 on the year but does not affect the divisional record. ECCC has another cross-divisional contest next week as the team travels to Moorhead to take on the Mississippi Delta Trojans on Thursday.

Both squads struggled in the opening drives as the teams worked on finding good offensive rhythms. Neither team broke through these troubles until late in the first when EMCC's quarterback, Damon Stewart, scrambled for a 16-yard score on a broken play. The extra point was no good and put the Lions on top, 6-0.

East Miss added another in the second as Zias Perryman punched it in from two yards out, before knocking in a field goal a couple of minutes later growing the lead to 16-0, a score that would hold until half-time.

Despite the score, the Warriors' defense was playing very well as many players made exceptional open-field tackles, and forced the Lions to fight for every yard they gained. Offensively, ECCC continued to search for balance between the



East Central running back Larry Wilson looks for room against East Mississippi Thursday night.

pushing and passing games.

The third quarter proved similar to the first half as both teams punted back-and-forth after strong defensive stands. Late in the period, EMCC's Peyton Rodgers knocked in a 34-yard field goal, his second of the night, to grow the lead to

19-0. That advantage would increase to 25-0 early in the fourth as the Lion offense put up another touchdown, but failed on the extra point.

A bright spot for the ECCC offense came midway through the fourth as the Warriors took advantage of an EMCC fumble

in their own territory. Quarterback Gabriel Larry (Manvel, La.) capitalized on the short field and rolled out to his left, and picked up a big first down on a 15-yard run early in the drive. He followed that play with a pass to the back of the endzone to Keyser

Booth (Bassfield). Booth made a stellar catch as he fell backward and tipped the ball back to himself for the score. Jaren Van Winkle (Pinson, Ala.) tackled on the extra point to cut the Lion lead to 25-7.

That would be ECCC's only score on the night as the Lions

picked another touchdown in the final minute of the contest pushing the score to the final, 32-7.

The Warriors finished the night with 94 total yards on 51 plays, while the Lions posted 383 yards on 92 snaps. Third downs were the biggest difference-maker in the contest as the Warriors were for 0-of-16 on the evening forcing the team to punt 13 times.

ECCC's offense was led by Larry Wilson (Hazlehurst) who posted 47 yards on 15 carries from the running back position. Larry and Caleb Parten (Flowood) split time at quarterback throughout the night with both players completing three passes.

Booth's 26-yard touchdown catch put him on top of ECCC's wide receiver corps, while John Hilbert (Brookhaven) followed with two catches for 17 yards. Ross James (Flowood) and Van Winkle split duties in the punting game and averaged 39 and 36 yards per punt, respectively.

The Warrior defense was led by Ke'Sean Johnson (Quitman) and Josten James (Wiggins) who both posted nine tackles. Johnson also led the team in sacks with two. Other notable performances came from Anthony Thomas (String), Tori Mulkey (Ozark, Ala.), and Ryan Whitfield (Noxapater). Thomas wrapped up 2.5 tackles for loss and a sack, while Whitfield posted 1.5 sacks. Mulkey joined James with two pass breakups each.

No. 6 Lady Warriors soccer team remains undefeated this year

By **SCHOOL REPORTS**
Special to the Democrat

The East Central Community College Lady Warriors have knocked off another nationally ranked program as the No. 6 Lady Warriors defeated the No. 19 Mississippi Gulf Coast Lady Bulldogs, 1-0, Saturday afternoon.

The win moves ECCC to 4-0 on the year and drops the Lady Bulldogs to 1-2. The win sets the Lady Warriors up nicely heading into MACCC division competition.

"It was a solid performance today and I thought we were particularly good in the second half," said head coach Ryan Joiner.

"The girls are finally finding their identity after five preseason games/exhibitions, and that's great to see, especially as we begin conference play next Friday versus Northwest."

It was a defensive clinic in the opening 45 minutes as the nationally ranked squads showcased strong play on their back lines.

The tie was finally broken in early in the second when Madison Carroll (Florence) found the back of the net on a deep shot. Carroll ripped the shot with her right foot from about 30 yards out for the score, with just under 39 minutes remaining in the match on a great touch from Juliana Wells (Poplarville).

The score proved enough as

neither team was able to find a goal in the final 30 minutes of the match despite a lot of effort from both teams down the stretch.

The Lady Warriors finished the day with nine shots total, with a team-high two of them coming from Sasha Clare (Belfast, United Kingdom). Five shots ended up on-goal with one

apiece coming from Carroll, Clare, Gabby Falla (Hattiesburg), Lily Butcher (Wigan, United Kingdom), and Morgan Massey (Decatur).

Gulf Coast posted four shots on goal, but Olivia Clark (Decatur) stopped them all, including a couple of great saves.

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CLASSIFIEDS Monday 5 p.m.
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Applications can be found at www.choctawrc.com or picked up at the facility Monday-Friday 9 am - 4 pm.
135 Residential Center Road • Choctaw, MS 39350 • 601.656.2582

Sports



Photo by Leroy Clemons

Elijah Ruffin eludes a West Lauderdale tackler.

Rockets improve to 2-0 with win over West Lauderdale on Friday

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Neshoba Central Rockets improved to 2-0 with a 21-14 victory over West Lauderdale Friday night in prep football action.

The Rockets finished the night with 308 total yards and 13 first downs. West Lauderdale ran the ball 47 times for 164 yards. The Knights finished with 241 total yards on offense and 12 first downs.

West Lauderdale was remembering a former student who died on Thursday.

"We took care of business," Coach Patrick Schoolar said. "West Lauderdale was playing with a lot of emotion. They are a good team. They are always in the playoffs and are well-coached. They played well. Our kids

matched it and found a way to win."

The Rockets got on the scoreboard with 6:07 in the first quarter when quarterback Eli Anderson ran three yards for a touchdown. This capped a 71-yard drive. Hunter Bavetta kicked the extra point and the Rockets led 7-0.

Anderson came back in the second quarter to connect with Dez McWilliams on a 14-yard TD pass. This capped a 68-yard scoring drive. Bavetta kicked the extra point and the Rockets led 14-0 with 5:35 left in the half.

West Lauderdale got on the scoreboard with 34 seconds left in the half as quarterback Jackson Parker scored on a one-yard rush. The extra point was good and the Rockets led 14-7 at the half.

Anderson found McWilliams again in the third quarter on a 25-yard TD

pass play, capping a 70-yard drive. Bavetta kicked the extra point and the Rockets led 21-7 with 4:12 left in the third quarter.

West Lauderdale pulled to within one touchdown in the fourth quarter when Parker connected with Brett Busbea on a 22-yard TD pass play. The extra point was good and the Knights trailed 21-14 with 9:31 left. That would be the final score of the game as the Rockets held on for the win.

Anderson completed 16-of-20 pass attempts for 178 yards. He also rushed seven times for 61 yards. Ja'Naylor Dupree caught six passes for 61 yards. Bryceton Spencer caught four passes for 51 yards while McWilliams had three catches for 60 yards. Zander Kirkland was the leading rusher with 66 yards on 15 carries.

Defensively, Beau Holley had

seven assists, a tackle for a loss and two quarterback hurries. Kelbee Holmes had eight assists, a tackle, a quarterback hurry and a sack. Jaharon Griffin had three tackles, 10 assists and two sacks. Maxton Woodard had had two tackles, five assists and a quarterback hurry. Braydon Gibson had four tackles, four assists and a sack. Anthony Hobson had five assists and one tackle for a loss.

Neshoba Central will be back in action Friday night when the Rockets visit Forest Hill. This is the first time the two schools have played. This is a Region 2-5A contest.

"They are big and athletic," Coach Schoolar said. "We are looking at films on them now."

Tornadoes adjust to take 35-34 win over Raymond

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Chancellor Greer scored three touchdowns to lead the Philadelphia Tornadoes past Raymond High School 35-34 Friday night in prep football action.

The Tornadoes improved to 1-1 and will be at home Friday night against Leake Central.

The Rangers had a size advantage over the Tornadoes and contained their offense in the first half. Coach David Frey made some adjustments at the half.

"They were way bigger than us and we had a tough time," Frey said. "We weren't blocking our normal runs right so went to the pass/run options. We ran zone and I told my quarterback that we were going to run routes. If it was there, throw the pass. We were kind of out of our game plan but it worked."

Raymond scored on its first possession. The Rangers took the ball on the Philadelphia 46-yard line and put

together an eight-play drive. K'swaya Moffett ran it in from five yards out. The extra-point try was no good and the Rangers led 6-0 with eight minutes left in the first quarter.

That's how it stood until the second quarter. The Tornadoes forced Raymond to punt and took over on their own two-yard line. On first down, quarterback Marcus Beamon connected with Trey Posey on a 98-yard TD pass play. Adrian Luke kicked the extra point and the Tornadoes led 7-6.

The Rangers took the ensuing kickoff and drove the ball in for a touchdown. Raymond quarterback Trent Singleton scored on a 16-yard run, capping a nine-play, 60-yard drive. Singleton scored the two-point conversion and the Rangers led 14-7. That's how it stood at the half.

Raymond took the second-half kickoff and drove down to the Philadelphia 20-yard line before running out of downs.

The Tornadoes took the ball and drove 80 yards in seven plays for a

touchdown. Chancellor Greer scored on a 12-yard run. Luke's kick was good and the game was tied at 14-14 with 5:55 left in the third quarter.

The Tornadoes kicked off. After the first down, Ranger quarterback Singleton had to leave the game with an injury. On the next play, Raymond fumbled the ball away. Andrew Carter picked it up and ran 49 yards for a Philadelphia touchdown. Luke kicked two extra points that were called back. He missed the third try and Philadelphia led 20-14.

Raymond took the kickoff and drove it in for a score. Singleton threw a 15-yard TD pass. The extra point failed and the game was tied at 20-20 with 21 seconds left in the third quarter.

The Tornadoes quickly answered. Greer scored his second touchdown of the night on a 37-yard run. Beamon passed to Posey for the two-point conversion and the Tornadoes led 28-20 with 10:42 left to play.

Raymond answered when Moffett ran 50 yards for a touchdown. The Rangers scored the two-point conversion and the game was tied at 28-28 with 8:44 remaining.

Raymond then took the lead when Singleton scored on a 10-yard run. The extra point try failed and Raymond held a 34-28 lead with 3:07 remaining.

Four plays later, Greer broke for a 40-yard TD run to tie the score at 34-34. Luke's kick was good and the Tornadoes took the lead for good.

In the waning minutes, Carter had a big quarterback sack for an 11-yard loss on fourth down that sealed the deal as the Tornadoes went on to win.

Beamon completed 9-of-13 passes for 209 yards. He was intercepted once.

Posey had three catches for 117 yards while Dee Burnside had three catches for 66 yards. Chancellor had 20 rushes for 127 yards.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Beamon shines as senior year quarterback for Philadelphia

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

As Marcus Beamon continues to develop as the quarterback of the Philadelphia Tornadoes, Coach David Frey said he has become almost like a player-coach on the field.

Beamon became the No. 1 quarterback last year.

"He was young and inexperienced," Frey said. "He had a lot of pressure on him, following Asher Morgan. "But he worked hard all summer. He watches film every Saturday. He has the whole team over on Saturday, watching film. That's what they do on Saturday. When we (the coaches) were here Labor Day to watch film, he was here."

"Marcus knows what everyone is supposed to do; the line, receivers, running backs. If they forget, he tells

them," Frey added. "He is really like a coach on the field. He makes mistakes but that's things we have to work out before district. He has been doing really good."

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Beamon has always attended the Philadelphia schools. He started playing football in the youth leagues and has always played quarterback.

"Football has always been my favorite sport," Beamon said. "I work day-in and day-out. We conditioned a lot this past summer. We watch a lot of film. I get the starters together to watch films so we can learn from our mistakes. You can't go into the next game without knowing what is going on."

This past Friday night, the Tornadoes took a 35-34 victory over Raymond. The Tornadoes rallied in the second half after a tough first half.

Beamon is taking all dual credit



Marcus Beamon

courses during his senior year as he prepares to go to college. He said he has his eye on Vanderbilt University.

"I have a lot of academic scholar-

ships coming my way," Beamon said. "It is going to depend on the recruiting process later this year. I have a 4.1-grade point average right now."

He lists as his favorites:

- Meal – steak and potato;
- Movie – "Grown Ups 2";
- Favorite subject: Math;
- Video game – Madden Football.

"My favorite subject is math but I want to major in journalism," Beamon said. "I want to be a sports analyst. I want to stay as close to sports as possible."

The Tornadoes are playing a tough non-region schedule to get ready for when the games start counting in the standings. They have already played Meridian and Raymond, and they still have Leake Central, West Lauderdale and Winona as well as Mize coming up.

Bulldogs, Rebs off to good start

By DALE MCKEE
sports@neshobademocrat.com

Mississippi State (1-0) staged the largest comeback in school history as the Bulldogs scored three touchdowns in the final period to overcome Louisiana Tech, 35-34.

MSU will host North Carolina State (1-0) this Saturday night. Ole Miss head coach Lane Kiffin was back in Oxford as his Rebels defeated Louisville, 43-24, Monday night in Atlanta. Kiffin tested positive for COVID-19 even though he has been fully vaccinated. The Rebels defense showed vast improvement over last year while the offense looks like it is still very explosive. This Saturday night Ole Miss (1-0) will host Austin Peay (1-0).

In SEC play, No. 1 Alabama rolled over Miami; Georgia's defensive gem led the No. 5 Bulldogs past No. 3 Clemson; and Arkansas, Auburn, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas A&M and South Carolina all won by large margins. LSU fell to UCLA in a game played at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena while Vanderbilt fell to East Tennessee. This week the only conference game will pit Missouri at Kentucky. SEC member Arkansas will host future SEC member Texas this Saturday night. The Razorbacks and the Longhorns used to be the two top dogs in the now non-existence Southwest Conference.

The Battle of the Bay in Mobile saw the South Alabama Jaguars led by former Southern Mississippi football player Kane Womack ruined Will Hall's debut as head coach of Southern Mississippi, 31-7. Former South Carolina quarterback Jake Bentley passed for two scores and ran for another in leading the Jaguars. Southern Miss (0-1) turned the ball over four times as their offense never got going. USM hopes to rebound as they host Grambling (1-0) of the SWAC this Saturday night.

The Mississippi JUCO kicked off last week as No. 2 Northwest, No. 6 Gulf Coast, No. 7 East Mississippi and No. 12 Jones all were impressive in their wins. Southwest and Delta both registered wins and maybe the surprise of the week was unranked Coahoma's win over No. 14 Hinds. All eyes will be on Ellisville this Thursday as Jones hosts Northwest.

The small colleges kicked off last week as Belhaven claimed the Riverside Rumble, 56-28, over neighboring Millsap. Delta State rolled over Bethel, 42-14, while Mississippi College fell to Albany State, 24-0. DSU will host McKendree of Illinois while Belhaven will host Southwestern University this Saturday. MC and Millsaps have open dates this week.

In SWAC play, Mississippi Valley was blanked by Murray State, 35-0, while Jackson State ekeed by Florida A&M, 7-6, in a conference game played at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. Alcorn had the week off.

This week, two NFL Hall of Famers will face each other as Deion Sanders' Jackson State (1-0) plays the Eddie George coached Tennessee State Tigers (0-1) in their annual Southern Heritage Classic at the Liberty Bowl in Memphis, while Alcorn (0-1) hosts Northwestern State (0-1). Mississippi Valley (0-1) has an open date.

The New Orleans Saints have moved their home opener against Green Bay on Sept. 12 to Jacksonville, Florida. The move was necessitated because of Hurricane Ida and the damage the storm did to the city of New Orleans. The Saints' first home game will now be on Oct. 3 when they host the New York Giants.

Odds & Ends

Week one of the high school football season saw a rarity in football scoring with Tupelo defeating Lafayette, 5-3. In week two, Booneville edged Baldwin, 2-0, for another unusual score.

Dale McKee, a Waynesboro resident, has been writing sports in Mississippi since 1973.

Rebels bounce back with Starkville win

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Leake Academy Rebels got back on track Friday night with a 48-17 victory over Starkville Academy in prep football action.

The Rebels had their 14-game winning streak snapped last week. They used a big-play offense and stingy defense to take the win over homesteading Starkville Academy.

The Rebels improve to 2-1 on the season and will host Union on Friday night in a public versus private school matchup.

"Our kids did a great job," Leake Academy coach Brian Pickens said. "They did a great job of getting focused on Starkville and had a good week of preparation. It's a big rivalry game and they played with a lot of effort."

The Volunteers got on the scoreboard first on a 41-yard touchdown pass with 8:44 left in the first quarter. The PAT was good and Starkville led 7-0.

The Rebels responded with a scoring drive of their own. After a 34-yard completion to Aiden

Watkins on fourth down, Whitt Welch scored on a 3-yard run with 7:11 left in the first. Cole Arthur booted the PAT to tie the score at 7-7.

The Volunteers took the lead back as they hit a 42-yard field goal with 4:00 left in the first. But that was the last lead the Volunteers would hold.

After a 38-yard kickoff return by Levi Brown, Atkinson scrambled for a 49-yard run and Canon Parks scored on a 3-yard run with 3:00 left in the first. Arthur hit the PAT and Leake took its first lead at 14-10.

After turning the Volunteers over on downs, Leake hit another big play. Quarterback Rhett Atkinson hit Gavin White on a 53-yard touchdown pass with 8:55 left in the second. Arthur hit the PAT and Leake led 21-10.

The Rebels got the ball right back on a tipped pass by senior linebacker Nick Gomillion that senior cornerback Jackson Freeny returned 28 yards to the Starkville 4.

Two plays later, Atkinson fumbled at the goal line and Parks recovered for a touchdown with 7:21 left in the half.



Photo by Kalie Parks

Leake Academy's Aiden Watkins goes up to make a big catch against Starkville Academy on Friday.

Arthur hit the PAT and Leake led 28-10. The Rebels got a

short field on the next possession as Starkville snapped the ball over the punter's head and were tackled at their own 10. Two plays later, Welch scored on a nine-yard run with 4:37 left in the half. Arthur booted the PAT and Leake led 35-10 at the half.

The Leake defense got in on the action again as Freeny intercepted his second pass of the night and returned it 57 yards for a touchdown with 9:41 left in the third. The PAT failed and Leake led 41-10.

The Rebels then got the clock running after forcing a Starkville punt. The Rebels then went 88 yards on 12 plays as Parks scored on a three-yard run with 4:09 left in the contest. Arthur hit the PAT and Leake led 48-10.

Starkville scored the last points of the game on a 36-yard touchdown pass for the final margin.

Leake Academy had 315 yards of total offense with 228 yards rushing and 87 passing.

Atkinson was 2-of-4 passing for all 87 yards and the junior quarterback rushed for 59 yards on five carries. Parks had 84

yards rushing on 14 carries and two TDs while Welch had 34 yards on eight carries.

On defense, Freeny led the defense with six tackles and two interceptions. Jake Brown also had five solo tackles and two assists. Nick Gomillion had three solo tackles and five assists while Gunter Scott had three solo tackles and three assists with 3 1/2 tackles for a loss. Kade Marble and Bryce Watkins each had three solo tackles while Grant Barnes had two tackles and one assist.

The Rebels will host Union Friday night in their first-ever meeting with an MHSAA public school in football.

After watching film of Union, Pickens was impressed with the Yellowjackets.

"They are very talented," Pickens said. "The quarterback is a super athlete. He can run and throw and is a threat all by himself. On defense, they really get after the football. They look very physical on both lines. The quarterback has some guys to throw to and you can tell they are a complete all-around football team. It will be another test but we are excited about it."

Scott Central pulls past Yellow Jackets to win bout 34-15

By BEN LAND
sports@neshobademocrat.com

When the game buzzer sounded the Scott Central Rebels had defeated the Union Yellow Jackets by a score of 34-15.

The first half of the game was very competitive and exciting to watch. The first quarter was a great defensive battle between the two squads. The most promising offensive effort by the Yellowjackets ended in a

fumble with 54 seconds left in the first quarter.

The second quarter began scoreless. Scott Central marched down the field and scored the first touchdown of the game. Jordan Strong of Scott Central threw a 39-yard touchdown pass with 9:27 left on the clock in the second quarter. The next scoring drive for the Rebels was a 41-yard pass from Strong to Murrell with 7:42 left in the first half.

As the game clock ticked to 2:05, Union quarterback Keny-

on Clay scored for the Yellowjackets on a five-yard run. The scoring drought was finally over for the Jackets. At the half, Scott Central led 14-7.

Scott Central received the kickoff to begin the second half. They marched down the field and the drive ended with a three-yard touchdown run by quarterback Jordan Strong. The PAT was blocked by Union defenders. With 8:22 left in the third quarter, the Rebels led 20-7. The Rebels' second score in the third

quarter was a two-yard run by Navonteque Strong. The attempted two-point conversion by the Rebels was no good. As the third quarter expired, Clay ran for a 45-yard touchdown and the two-point conversion was successful. Scott Central led 26-15.

Union went scoreless for the time remaining. The Rebels scored another rushing touchdown and a two-point conversion.

The Scott Central Rebels

were led by quarterback Jordan Strong who threw for two touchdowns and rushed for another. Kenyon Clay led the Jackets with 21 carries 128 yards and two touchdowns. Kaleb Casey had three receptions for 20 yards.

Defensively, Clay had two sacks during the game. William Hughlett had eight solo tackles, Nate Killen had six solo tackles and three tackles for loss. Tristan Wallace had six solo tackles and two tackles for loss. Tank Harri-

son had three solo tackles and Ky'yon Harris had two solo tackles. Carlos Hickmon, Xavier Boler, Davarian McDonald, Jaylon Rogers, Matthew Lott and Cameron Hickman all had a solo tackle.

The Jackets will travel to play their next opponent, the Leake Academy Rebels, while the Scott Central Rebels will play the Mendenhall Tigers at home.

Neshoba Central volleyball team preps to take on New Hope

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Neshoba Central volleyball team enters its region sched-

ule with three key games coming up.

The Lady Rockets entered the week with a 16-0 record. They were to play region foe

New Hope Tuesday and non-region foe Enterprise on Thursday.

Next week, the Lady Rockets visits New Hope on Tuesday

and hosts Columbus on Thursday. The Columbus game will count as a region game.

The Lady Rockets won two matches last week. They defeat-

ed Starkville 18-25, 25-9, 25-16, 25-19. They then defeated Enterprise 24-25, 25-19, 25-15, 25-17.

"We will see what we are

made of this week," Coach Zach Sanders said. "New Hope has played for the North half two years in a row and they will be tough."

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