



MAGAZINE

TOPHER PROFILE, OASIS SPA, RECIPES AND MORE THIS ISSUE

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COOK OF THE WEEK

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THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

Established 1881 — Oldest Business Institution in Neshoba County Philadelphia, Mississippi Wednesday, October 20, 2021 140th Year No. 42 **\$1.00

Aldermen still seeking audit answers

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The city of Philadelphia's debt increased nearly \$1 million in Fiscal 2017, according to the last annual audit made available as officials were to have discussed cost-cutting measures Tuesday evening in the wake of a recently exposed backlog of audits.

Cities are supposed to conduct yearly financial audits but one had not been presented in

half a decade it was revealed in September when a Democrat reporter asked for the latest audit.

In light of the backlog of audits, aldermen had questions about the city's finances they hoped to get answered during the board's Tuesday night meeting.

"The auditor will be there," said Ward I Alderman Justin Clearman anticipating the attendance of the Pearl accounting firm of Windham and Lacy that

the city hired earlier this month to catch the city up on audits. "The city clerk should be there."

In the last meeting, City Clerk Nikki Walton was absent because of a family illness and Clearman made a motion to freeze non-essential spending until all of the audits are caught up. No action was taken on the motion, and Clearman said he planned to make the motion again Tuesday night.

"Nothing has changed as far as I'm concerned," Clearman

said. "I still have my list of things I want to ask about. There should be a lot of things covered. I'm one vote. Right now, I don't think we need to do any building projects. Anything that is non-emergency related or non-staff related, that's non-essential. There may be other things but someone will have to convince me (before he votes for it)."

Aldermen have spent the past two weeks studying the city's monthly expenses. They

were to meet with department heads to prepare a list of what was non-essential to running the city.

Below are some of the findings from the audit ending Fiscal 2017 which is the most recent city audit just made available done by Rhea, Shaw, Griffin and Stuart, LLP.

The city's expenditures are divided into two divisions:

- Governmental activities such as public safety, streets and sanitation. This is primarily

funded by sources other than property taxes; and,

- Business activities, which are supported by user fees.

According to the audit, on Sept. 30, 2017, when the fiscal year ended, the city's combined governmental funds stood at \$6,139,012, which was \$12,128 less than the amount reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2016.

The General Fund was amended during Fiscal Year 2017. The amended General See **AUDIT**, page 2A

CHARGES FILED

Missing girl in protective custody now

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
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A 2-year-old girl who spent more than 10 hours lost in the woods near her home on Sept. 13 is now in foster care, Sheriff Eric Clark said.

"We had a hearing about the well-being of the child," Clark said. "She was placed in a foster family. Child Protective Services has presented its side. We testified from a law enforcement side of it."

The girl was found with her dog on the far side of a pond roughly half a mile into the woods behind her home on Road 236. This came after an extensive search that included multiple agencies and departments.

The child's parents have been charged with felony child abuse. The parents, Tamera Chunn, 30, and Jason Reed, 48, both of Road 236, Union, were arrested and charged after the girl was found, Clark said. Both are out on bond.

They are also entering a program through the Chancery Court, officials said.

"The mother and father have been placed under some sort of improvement plan through the Chancery Court," Clark said. "Judge Amy Taylor has been the one who has been hearing these proceedings. The courts have jurisdiction over that now. They are trying to protect the child from this point forward. If the parents improve and rehabilitate, the court will look at their efforts and coordinate a safety plan to try to get this child back with her family."

Regardless, the criminal charges are not going away.

"We have criminal charges on them. There is nothing they can do about that," Clark said.

The criminal case is expected to go before the next grand jury in December.



Philadelphia's new K-9 Met, a Belgian shepherd, visited with children at Stepping Stones Learning Center on Monday.

Police department visits with preschoolers

By JOHN LEE
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Taking the PD's new K-9 officer to a preschool this week reminded Police Chief Eric Lyons how excited he was about being a policeman at that age.

Lyons and other officers paid a visit to the Stepping Stones Learning Center on Monday to teach students about law enforcement and what they should do during emergencies.

Several officers went to Stepping Stones to interact with the kids who were around 3 to 5 years

old, Lyons after they reached out to the department and asked for the officers to set up some activities with the children.

"We told them about being police officers and things they could do to help themselves and their parents, such as seatbelt safety, calling 911 and asking for help," Lyons said. "We showed them our cars with the blue lights and sirens. Children are always fascinated by that."

Lyons said he and his fellow officers talked about their uniforms, telling the children all about the aspects of the uniforms.

"We also brought our new K-9 Officer, Met, a Belgian Malinois," Lyons said. "...The kids of course enjoyed him, and we are looking forward to doing more events like this in the future."

Lyons said his favorite part of the trip was interacting with the children, teaching them safety and seeing their faces when the lights and sirens came on in the patrol cars.

"It all reminded me of when I was a kid and how excited I was at that age," Lyons said. "It's what made me want to get into law enforcement myself. Hopefully, it's the same for these kids."

SPECIAL FRIENDS

Diamond Dreams baseball season begins at Northside

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
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Whether you are a baseball fan or not, it would be hard not to be a fan of the players in the Diamond Dreams Baseball League.

The Diamond Dreams baseball league started its season Tuesday night at their specially-designed field at Northside Park.

The league is for children with special needs and those with physical handicaps who live in Neshoba and the surrounding counties. Games will be held for the next five weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 6 p.m. The league started in 2010.

"We have designated coaches for each team," board member B.J. Morrow said. "And from there, we get different groups to come in. We have groups from around town, different sports teams and civic clubs, which come and watch the games and cheer the players on."

"It's a big outpouring of support. Some provide a meal for each game. Some get out on the field and help. Others stay in the stands or the dugouts and just cheer for them."

Ages are from 4-years-old until the player graduates from high school. The volunteers on the field will help the players in wheelchairs and with walk-

ers to make it around the bases. Others help players stay in their position. We have volunteers show up for practices, too. It's a lot of action and a lot of fun for everyone."

The league got its new ball field in 2019. Then they missed the 2020 season because of COVID-19. But they are back in action this year.

There will be four teams. Morrow said 42 players were signed up for Tuesday's game, but he expects more by next week.

When the league first started, games were played on grass fields. But the new field is made of a synthetic surface which makes it easy to roll

wheelchairs on. The bases are painted on to the surface so there is no chance of someone tripping.

"The base is a white square," Morrow said. "They just step on it. It's a smooth surface all around the field. There is no chance of tripping or falling. We are all about safety and having fun."

That's not to say there isn't a lot of hustle once the ball gets hit.

"They want to get that ball," Morrow said. "When it is hit, they know what it means and they want to go after it. It's the same, whether it is Diamond Dreams or any other league."



Ella Whitman, left, and Maddie Pinson are looking forward to the Diamond Dreams season.



SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

Engagements & Weddings

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

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

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

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

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

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

Obituary policy

The Democrat publishes a standard format obituary at no charge.

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

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

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

School and community news

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

Of Local Interest

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

Tips and breaking news

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

Sports

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

Letters to the editor

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

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Philadelphia High Homecoming Queen crowned

Photo by COLEMAN EAKES

T'Kenzey Moore was crowned Philadelphia High School's Homecoming Queen during halftime ceremonies last Friday night. Pictured are from left back row Danny Carter (father) escorting Homecoming Queen T'Kenzey Moore; Keaton Donald (father) escorting senior maid Hailey Donald. Front row from left are the queen's attendants Miss Jordan Wash escorting senior maid Layla Carter; Tawarski Kirkland (father)

escorting Homecoming Queen T'Kenzey Moore; Keaton Donald (father) escorting senior maid Hailey Donald. Front row from left are the queen's attendants Miss Jordan Wash and Master Christian Spurlock.

Man charged after shots fired in house

By DUNCAN DENT
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A man has been arrested in connection with shots fired that left a residence and multiple vehicles riddled with bullets last week.

Dar' Tavion Boyd, 18, of 201

Sherwood Drive, was arrested and charged with shooting into an occupied dwelling.

Boyd was arrested in connection with the incident that was reported on Thursday, Oct. 14, at approximately 10:30 p.m. when officials received a call about shots fired in the area of

State Avenue and Line Street, said Philadelphia Police Det. Bobby Pattillo.

Responding officers discovered multiple vehicles and a residence in the 500 block of State Avenue had been struck. No one has been reported injured.

The homeowner witnessed

the suspect and identified him as Boyd, who was taken into custody at approximately 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Pattillo said the case remains under investigation and investigators are still working to determine a motive.

2 new COVID deaths reported in last week

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Neshoba County has recorded 32 new COVID-19 cases and two new deaths, according to the Mississippi State Department of Health's Oct. 19 report.

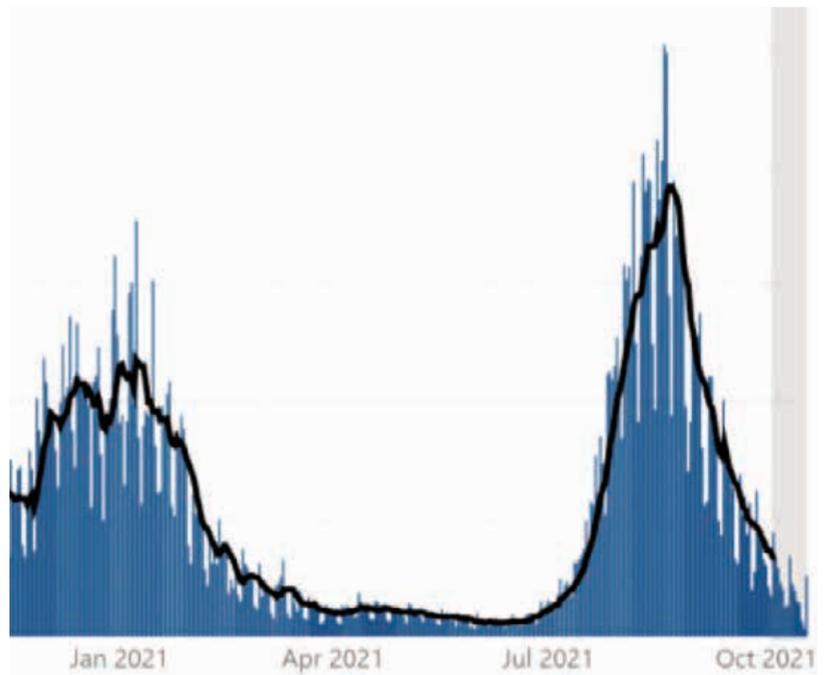
Neshoba County has now recorded a total of 6,624 cases of COVID-19 and 206 deaths since the pandemic began in March 2020.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians reported eight new positive cases of COVID-19 and no new deaths in the past week as of Oct. 18, with the total number of positive cases for the Tribe standing at 2,462 with 123 deaths. The Tribe reported four new hospitalizations in the past week.

As of Oct. 8, the latest date for which statistics are available, Neshoba County Schools reported between one and five cases of COVID-19 among students at Philadelphia Elementary and Philadelphia High School. A total of 12 students were quarantined during the week of Oct. 4-8.

As of Oct. 18, 28% of Neshoba County's population is fully vaccinated, and 31% of the population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, according to MSDH.

Vaccinations are being administered at Walmart at 1002



COVID-19 cases throughout the state continue to drop from peaks this summer that were attributed to the Delta variant.

W. Beacon St., Philadelphia and Walgreens at 1005 W. Beacon Street in Philadelphia, according to the MSDH.

Statewide, since the pan-

demic began in March 2020, 286,946 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded by the MSDH along with 212,892 probable cases, totaling 499,838

cases. There have been 6,667 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, along with 3,290 probable deaths, totaling 9,957 deaths.

Audit

Continued from page 1A

Fund budget was \$7,558,307 while expenditures totaled \$6,395,233.

The city's investment in capital assets for its governmental and business-type activities at

the end of FY 2017 totaled \$32,689,866 (net of depreciation.) This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, equipment, improvements, infrastructure and construction in progress. The total decrease in the city's investment in the FY 2017 year was \$1,829,265 which represents a \$1,252,224 decrease in governmental activ-

ities and \$577,041 in business-type activities.

During FY 2017, the city's total debt increased \$952,843. A total of \$944,035 was repaid on bonds and notes.

At the end of FY 2017, the city had a total bond debt, notes payable and compensated absences of \$6,565,732. Of that amount, \$1,600,000 represents

bonds paid by sewer and water revenues, \$2,525,000 for tax increment financing bonds, which will be repaid out of sales and property taxes, and \$2,310,820 of notes payable. The accrued compensated absences for governmental activities totaled \$129,912.

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Photo by COLEMAN EAKES

Rotary Club holds pancake fundraiser

Neshoba General CEO Lee McCall, Ron Dipalma and Neshoba Central Superintendent Lundy Brantley man the griddles Monday for the Rotary Club's annual Pancake Supper fundraiser. The drive-thru event was held at the Northside Park Senior Citizens Center with proceeds benefitting Rotary Club service projects.

Trick-or-treating Saturday, Oct. 30

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Trick-or-treating will be held on Saturday, Oct. 30 this year. "Neighborhoods will be having trick-or-treating on Saturday, but if people would like to

trick-or-treat on Sunday, they are allowed to," said Tim Moore, executive director of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. "However, most houses are handing out their candies on Saturday."

Moore said because Oct. 31,

the traditional date of trick-or-treating, falls on a Sunday this year the they chose to declare Saturday the night for trick-or-treating.

Moore said the no official events are scheduled for this year.



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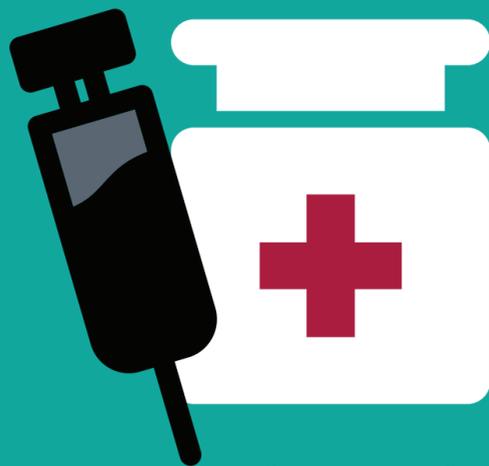


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NESHOPA GENERAL

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Opinion

FOUNDED 1881

THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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

EDITORIALS

The Biden purges

President Biden has a vision problem. Squinting at the world like a modern-day Mr. Magoo, he sees only universal COVID-19 inoculation as the solution for what ails the nation. His bullying vaccination mandates, though, threaten mass firings of essential workers and other valued employees. For many Americans, it is readily apparent that the coming purges signal the nation is on the wrong track.

The Biden vaccine imperative clashes with the right of citizens to make informed choices. Nevertheless, governing bodies and private companies alike, swayed by the desire to please the powers that be, have made the shot a condition for continued employment. For millions of bewildered workers unaccustomed to the whip, the choice is to comply, or else.

New York stands in a state of emergency, owing to the loss of 34,000 health care workers who refused the jab. Gov. Kathy Hochul's answer: replace her experienced healers with foreign workers and National Guardsmen. New Yorkers never took their motto, "the Empire State," literally, until now.

Chicago, already beleaguered by city legal practices that forgive crimes rather than prosecute them, stands to lose half of its cops to unvaccinated status termination. Mayor Lori Lightfoot has won a court order silencing the police union president, who had urged his members to resist.

In California, nearly 40 percent of state workers, and 48 percent of safety-critical California Highway Patrol employees, remain unvaxxed, despite a July order from Gov. Gavin Newsom to get inoculated or tested regularly.

Hundreds of thousands of vaccine-wary

U.S. military personnel face potential dishonorable discharge if they miss their service-branch jab deadline. This, as Mr. Biden's feckless retreat from Afghanistan, emboldens China to threaten endangered U.S. ally Taiwan, and his reckless open-borders policy floods the U.S. homeland with unvaccinated and untested illegal immigrants.

Nearly 45 million Americans have contracted the coronavirus, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease and Prevention, but mild cases that go undiagnosed could double or triple that figure. The journal *Nature* reckoned that the number of Americans infected had actually surpassed 103 million cases — in 2020 alone.

Dr. Robert Malone, a key player in the invention of the mRNA technology used to manufacture the vaccines, says individuals who receive the shot are largely protected from detectable symptoms. However, they still can carry the virus and unwittingly transmit it to others. "That means the vaccinated are going to be super-spreaders," he says. Ominously, Great Britain's Health Security Agency reports the vaccinated in the 40-49 age group show an infection rate double that of the unvaccinated. Oops.

Millions of Americans have chosen to receive the vaccine. With Mr. Biden making the mistake of forcing the shot upon the rest, it's unsurprising that 64 percent of respondents say the U.S. is on the wrong track, according to a recent Rasmussen poll, and only 30 percent believe the nation is heading in the right direction.

The president's purges won't heal America but weaken her.

— *The Washington Times*

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Are good times over for Joe?

"When sorrows come," said King Claudius, "they come not single spies but in battalions." As the king found out. So it seems with President Joe Biden, who must be asking himself the question Merle Haggard asked:

"Are the good times really over for good?"

Consider the critical issue with voters today: the state of the economy.

Inflation in September stood at 5.4% year on year.

With prices of food and fuel rising, the supply chains for goods entering the country and headed for stores, shelves and showrooms before Thanksgiving and Christmas are clogged. Container ships are backed up in ports, waiting to unload on both coasts. Many of the trucks to carry the goods to inland markets sit idle for lack of drivers.

The latest employment figures show 10.4 million U.S. jobs going begging in August as 4.3 million workers dropped out of the labor force.

How are Democrats responding to the return of inflation?

By trying to pile a \$3.5 trillion social spending package on top of a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package on top of the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief act Biden signed in March. Coupled with an easy-money Fed policy, this hand could play out for Biden the way it played out for former President Jimmy Carter.

A second issue that appears beyond the capacity of the Biden people to solve is the invasion from across our southern border. Nightly film of border crossers and their encounters with the Border Patrol have riveted the attention of the nation.

Lately, there has been a new feature. Sporadic small arms fire at U.S. Border Patrol agents by cartel coyotes who are enriching themselves by steering migrants from all over the world to crossing points on the Rio Grande. By year's end, some 2 million illegal immigrants will have crossed under the de facto open borders policy of the Biden administration.

Entering with them are

Police departments are being refunded, and cops are being defended and demanded.

scores of thousands of "got aways" who have avoided contact with U.S. authorities on the way into our country.

Another issue for Biden is the surge of both random and purposeful violence in liberal Democratic cities where knifings, shootings and killings are approaching new records.

With almost everyone carrying a phone camera, the daily photos of urban shootings have turned the country against the "defund the police!" crowd and the political party that is associated with them.

The George Floyd summer is over. Police departments are being refunded, and cops are being defended and demanded in neighborhoods that have suffered from their resignations, retirements and removal.

Then there is the new culture-war issue of race and education and whether America's children should be taught in their schools about the goodness and greatness of their country or about its sins and crimes.

Civic gatherings have erupted, with parents facing off against teachers and school boards in Northern Virginia communities near where historic battles of the Civil War were fought.

Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, seeking to regain his office, may have put his campaign in peril by telling parents they have no legitimate role in decisions about what their children should be taught, and not taught, in Virginia's public schools.

"I'm not going to let parents come into schools and actually take books out and make their own decisions," said McAuliffe. "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach."

Biden's political fortunes and his party's future are likely

to hinge upon the fate of his Build Back Better legislation, currently in the custody of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Capitulating to the demands of progressives, Biden and Pelosi agreed to delay passage of the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, which had easily passed in the Senate, until the \$3.5 trillion social safety net bill could catch up and travel in tandem to approval in both Houses.

Biden has wagered his presidency on passage of both the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill and as large a share of the \$3.5 trillion social safety net program as he can convince Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona to approve.

By caving to the both-or-nothing ultimatum the progressives issued to her, which caused Pelosi to hold up certain and swift passage of the infrastructure bill, she may have imperiled them both.

Meanwhile, other priority agenda items of both Democratic moderates and progressives appear headed for the boneyard.

The \$15 minimum wage is gone. A "path to citizenship" for millions of illegal immigrants seems dead. Police reform appears to have been abandoned. Federal legislation to give the Department of Justice veto power over state GOP voting reforms appears no longer viable.

With all his chips now in the middle of the table as this session of Congress winds down, Biden's hand looks weaker and weaker.

Wednesday, four polls found that half the nation — and in three of them, more than half — now disapprove of his presidency.

In the 10th month of his four-year term, are the good times really over for good — for Joe Biden? Starting to look that way.

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

FLASHBACKS

OCTOBER 24, 1941

Holding that oil and gas beneath 16th Section school lands belong to the state, the Supreme Court Monday denied holders of 99-year "surface or agricultural" leases the right to prevent the state from entering the property for exploration of the minerals.

The Farm Security Administration's new building, now being constructed by H. T. Key, will be completed and ready by the end of this week it was announced today. The two dist

OCTOBER 19, 1951

A wild cat test will be made by the Carter Oil company nineteen and one half miles southeast of the nearest production in the Pickens field, which will be located five miles northwest of Carthage in Leak County. The exact location is in center SW of SW of Section 31-tp11, range 7 East, and test to be made at about 10,500 feet.

The Philadelphia Home Arts Club journeyed to Allison Wells last Monday where the group enjoyed a delightful luncheon. Those attending were Mrs. Hubert Haaga, Mrs. Kenneth McKay, Mrs. W. F. Cole, Mrs. Woody Frantz, Mrs. Herbert Garrett, Mrs. Howard Cole, Mrs. Curtis Hays, Mrs. Glenn Perry, Mrs. Richard Allen, Mrs. Allen King, Mrs. Howard Duett, Mrs. J. C. Parker, Mrs. Hays McKay, and Mrs. Charles Mars.

OCTOBER 19, 1961

The box supper held Friday night was a big success. Rev. J. C. Savell brought the message at New Pearl Valley Sunday morning. Mrs. Dwight Fleming and Mrs. Rudolph Tucker and children spent the weekend in Hernando with their husbands.

Sorry to report Wade Watkins in the Neshoba County hospital. He will undergo surgery soon. Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Shepard visited Mr. and Mrs. Albert Shepard of the Coldwater community Sunday afternoon. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. James Johnson in the death of her father, Mr. C. W. Banks of Coldwater.

OCTOBER 21, 1971

The welfare of wild animals and birds of the forest is an important thing to consider in managing timberland for multiple benefits, says County Forester James E. Allen. Allen points out that county landowners can enhance wildlife habitat on their property through the establishment of various forage plants along woodland margins and the planting of specific kinds of trees which produce seeds eaten by forest inhabitants.

OCTOBER 22, 1981

The Philadelphia Police Department was continuing its investigations into the theft of an automobile from a local dealership and a rash of burglaries which occurred during the week of Oct. 7-14.

OCTOBER 16, 1991

A list of school bus turn-arounds approved by the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors are now a part of its official minutes. The board voted unanimously Thursday to include the new list of minutes.

OCTOBER 17, 2001

A \$10 million water park that would open next summer is the key feature of a 1,000-acre resort that will eventually include three hotels, retail space and could bring as many as seven million additional visitors annually to Neshoba County, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians announced Tuesday.

Habitat for Humanity organizers are confident they can rejuvenate the program locally, partly by demonstrating the aid is not a hand out, that those who benefit have equity in the houses they occupy.

OCTOBER 12, 2011

No disciplinary action will be taken against a student who brought a gun onto campus until after the teenager has had his due process in youth court, the county School Board said on Wednesday.

Neshoba County's unemployment rate fell to 8 percent in August, the lowest reported since December 2008 when the rate was 6 percent.

With the beginning of colder weather, activities have slowed for most home vegetable gardeners.

RICH LOWRY

The U.S. supply chain in peril

If there is one universally recognized principle in American political life, it's that the president of the United States should want Christmas to come off without a hitch.

Surely, this is one of the reasons Anthony Fauci rapidly backed off his comment in an interview the other day that it's too early to say whether people should gather for the holiday. No sooner had Fauci relented than the national focus shifted to an ongoing crisis of the global supply chain that is clearly going to crimp the Christmas shopping season, forcing the Biden administration to scurry to try to alleviate a long-running, highly complex mess.

We've gone from fruitless "infrastructure weeks" in the Trump administration to fruitless "trying to pass infrastructure and reconciliation" weeks in the Biden administration to, now, "an attempting to make our infrastructure work" week that might have to be constantly repeated.

As part of the push to get our logistics unstuck, the president is prodding the Port of Los Angeles, one of the most important in the country, to operate on a 24/7 basis. This is welcome news, although it might cause most people to stop and think, "Wait a minute — our ports don't already operate 24 hours a day?"

No, which speaks to the thick layer of irrationality encrusting our supply chain.

It is experiencing its worst disruption since the advent of the shipping container era in the late 1950s, driven, at bottom, by

No underestimating the challenge here.

the pandemic. A surge in e-commerce, coupled with a labor shortage, helped to a spiraling series of bottlenecks.

Ships are idling waiting to unload their cargo at ports, while containers are waiting at the ports to be shipped further inland, while cargo is waiting outside full warehouses on chassis that aren't available to use to pick up other containers, and so on.

There's no underestimating the challenge here. Yet the situation also highlights how, as Scott Lincicome of the Cato Institute persuasively argues, our logistics system is beset by idiotic policies and practices that make it hugely inefficient.

Consider our ports. U.S. facilities are nowhere near the top-performing facilities around the world. They are generally less automated and less efficient. Ports in Asia operate 24 hours a day, matching the 24-hour-a-day pace of factories, whereas, until now, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach were operating only 16 hours a day.

The main culprit for this massive inefficiency is the incredibly powerful International Longshore and Warehouse Union, which has a lock on the ports up and down the West Coast. It hates automation and has won extraordinary pay for its workers and strict work rules.

As Peter Tirschwell writes in

the *Journal of Commerce*, "Huge cost increases, limited ability to automate terminals, chronic avoidable disruption during contract negotiations, and far lower productivity and working hours compared with ports in Asia and elsewhere around the world are at the core of the issue."

Meanwhile, long-haul truckers around the country need about 20,000 more drivers and have also been hit by a shortage of chassis. In the midst of a major logistical nightmare, the U.S. International Trade Commission imposed roughly 200% duties (on top of Trump-era duties of 25%) on the world's biggest manufacturers of chassis, China Intermodal Marine Containers. The head of the Harbor Trucking Association, representing port truckers on the West Coast, complained, "Now we've created scarcity and increased the cost."

Then, as Lincicome points out, there are longstanding rules like the Jones Act, which makes it much more expensive to ship goods from port to port within the U.S., putting a premium on the overtaxed ground systems.

Eventually, U.S. logistics will reach a new equilibrium. Still, this crisis should prompt a rethinking of the needless inefficiencies we foist on ourselves. It will be too late to hold this coming Christmas harmless, but will serve us well going forward, whatever the season.

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

LETTERS

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Telephone: 601.656.4000

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

— Psalm 27:14 (ESV)

Marty Stuart to receive award at GRAMMY gala

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Marty Stuart will be the recipient of the GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi's Crossroads of American Music Award at their 2021 gala in December, it was announced.

"I am so proud of my Mississippi musical heritage. I've proclaimed that all over the world," Stuart said. "The Crossroads of American Music Award is a tangible reminder of where I come from and what I'm a part of. When you cross the state line the sign reads Birthplace of America's Music. That says it all. To be recognized by GRAMMY Museum Mississippi for doing something I love and to be mentioned alongside of past recipients Bobby Rush and Charley Pride is indeed an honor."

Stuart, a Neshoba County native, is a GRAMMY-winning singer, songwriter and musician. Since learning guitar and mandolin as a child, he has played alongside the masters, from Johnny Cash to Lester Flatt, who discovered him. He has been a worldwide ambassador for Nashville, Bakersfield and points in between and has safeguarded country music's most valuable traditions and physical artifacts, including the brogan of Carter Family patriarch A.P. Carter and an assortment of Cash's black boots among his vast collection of memorabilia.

Stuart is in the process of renovating downtown Philadelphia's Ellis Theatre to become the Marty Stuart Congress of Country Music.

Throughout his career, Stuart has moved between honky tonk (1994's Love and Luck), rockabilly (1986's self-titled album), country-rock (2003's Country Music), traditional country (1992's Let There Be Country), California-inspired western



Neshoba County's own Marty Stuart jams out with bluegrass musician Stuart art Congress of Country Music downtown. Duncan, right, last in 2020 during a topping off a ceremony for the Marty Stu-

music (2017's Way Out West), gospel (2005's Souls' Chapel), and bluegrass (1982's Busy Bee Cafe).

A five-time GRAMMY winner, Stuart won his first GRAMMY in 1992 for Best Country Vocal Collaboration for "The Whiskey Ain't Workin'."

Developed by the Cleveland Music Foundation — a nonprofit organization founded in 2011 — the 28,000-square-foot GRAMMY Museum Mississipp-

pi is housed near the campus of Delta State University, home of the Delta Music Institute's Entertainment Industry Studies program, which features the most unique audio recording facilities in the South.

Affiliated with the GRAMMY Museum Foundation™, GRAMMY Museum Mississippi is dedicated to exploring the past, present and future of music, and the cultural context from which it emerges while casting a

focused spotlight on the deep musical roots of Mississippi.

The Museum features a dynamic combination of public events, educational programming, engaging multimedia presentations, and interactive permanent and traveling exhibits, including a Mississippi-centric area that introduces visitors to the impact of Mississippi's songwriters, producers, and musicians on the traditional and modern music landscape.

Additional details about the first in-person Gala since 2019 that will feature a reception, cocktails, live music and a silent and live auction will be announced at a later time, organizers said. The 2021 Gala will have the theme of "Sparkle and Twang" and will feature a special appearance by Stuart, who will accept the award and perform live.

Tickets for the 2021 Gala that will be held at 6 p.m. Wednes-

day, Dec. 1, at the Grammy Museum, 800 W. Sunflower Road, Cleveland, went on sale Tuesday, Oct. 19, to museum members and will be on sale to non-members on Nov. 1. Prices are general admission \$150 and an education ticket package is available for \$500. Tickets are available at the Museum Box office that can be reached by calling 662-441-0100.

OBITUARIES

Barry D. Wright

Funeral services for Barry D. Wright were held Saturday, October 16, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. from Coye Assembly of God in Preston with Rev. Ryan Farmer and Rev. Scott Wright officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Barry Wright

Mr. Wright, 75, of Preston, died Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

He was a native and longtime resident of Kemper County. He was a Vietnam veteran of the U.S. Army. After working at Fairbanks Scales in Meridian for over 20 years he began his own business in 1999, Wright's Sawmill. He enjoyed woodworking and making furniture. He loved his church and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Mr. Wright was a member of Coye Assembly of God in Preston where he served as a board member for most of his adult life.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Ann Wright of Preston; daughter, Beth McKinnion (Derwin) of Meridian; son, Scott Wright (Andrea) of Meridian; grandchildren, Tabetha LaRosa (Garrett), Alexa McKinnion, Natalee Wright, Nylah Wright; great-grandson, Wyatt Kelley LaRosa; sisters, Jerry Nell DuBard of Philadelphia, Marsha Geoghagan (Tom) of Baldwin; brothers, Donnie Wright (Linda) of DeKalb, Mark Dean Wright of Carthage, Danny "Phil" Wright (Tina) of Preston; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Preceding Mr. Wright in death were his parents, Delmon and Nancy Wright; sister, Delva Jean Eastman; and brother, Ted Wright.

Pallbearers were Garrett LaRosa, LaShun Smith, Phillip Wright, Stan Copeland, Lee McDonald, and Stevie McDonald. Honorary pallbearers were Lonnie Long, Matthew Jackson, Charles Jackson, Dwight Jackson, Derwin McKinnion, and Marvin Robinson.

Family requests memorials be made to Speed The Light, or BGMC, c/o Missions, Coye Assembly of God, 51 Edwards Road, Preston, MS 39354.

Lou Ella Goldman Barron

Funeral service for Ms. Lou Ella Goldman Barron was held at 2 PM Monday, October 18, 2021 at John E. Stephens Chapel with Bro. Mac Alford and Bro. Wayne Hill officiating. Interment in New

Harmony Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge.

Ms. Barron, 95, passed away Friday, October 15, 2021 at Neshoba General Nursing Home. She lived in Eupora most of her life, moving to Philadelphia in her later years. She was a supervisor at Wells Lamont Corporation. Sewing was her favorite hobby. She was a member of Beacon Street Baptist Church.

Preceded in death: Parents, Thomas and Addie Goldman; Husband, Lloyd Barron; Daughter, Vivian Diane Anderson; Grandson, Joey Ramage; Sisters, Mary Rushing, Ola Ware, Pearl Rushing, Annie Killen; Brothers, Elton, Ernest, Jack, Melton, J.B., and Presley Goldman.

Ms. Barron is survived by her sister, Juanita Chamblee of Philadelphia.

Pallbearers: Glenn Sisson, Joey Evans, Gary Chamblee, Dwight Rushing, Kolby Sisson, Butch Varner, Dennis Davis, Bernard Killen and Brady Triplett.

Claudette Peebles McMichael

Funeral service for Mrs. Claudette Peebles McMichael was held 2 PM Sunday, October 17, 2021 at John E. Stephens Chapel with interment in New Harmony Cemetery. Rev. John E. Stephens officiated. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. McMichael, 72, passed away on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at Baptist Golden Triangle in Columbus, MS. She enjoyed flowers, cooking, sewing and needle point.

Mrs. McMichael is preceded in death by her parents, Claude Peebles, Jr. and Alice Inez Hamilton Peebles; sisters, Marilyn Teresa Peebles, Patti Peebles and Donna Denise Williams.

Survivors include husband, Bob McMichael; daughters, Tiffany McMichael Teta (Luigi), Aimee Jennifer McMichael Mason; (4) grandchildren, Brandon Farhood, Breanna Farhood, Mason Bass, Brody Cole Mason; (3) great-grandchildren, Saniya Myers, Caius Myers, Ayden Farhood.

Pallbearers will be Josh Hensley, Daniel Malone, Mason Bass, Brandon Farhood, Luigi Teta, Robert Chad Clark, Jack McMichael, John Wayne Peebles.

Edna Joyce Morse

Funeral service for Ms. Edna Joyce Morse was held 1 PM Saturday, October 16, 2021, at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. John E. Stephens officiating.

Interment is in Sandtown Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge.

Ms. Morse, 56, passed away Thursday, October 14, 2021 at Baptist Leake Memorial Hospital in Carthage MS. She was Baptist by Faith. Her hobbies were bingo and watching tv.

She was preceded in death by her parents Riley Coleman and Mary Bozeman; brother, Tommy Dertinger.

Survivors include daughter, Rhonda Comans (Tyler); son, Joseph Morse; sisters, Patsy Strawbridge, Wevette Cumberland, Sally Wilkins; brothers, Felson Dertinger, Freddie Dertinger, Meady Dertinger, Johnny Coleman, Bert Coleman; a host of nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers: Bobby Wilkins, Tyler Comans, Nathan Fortenberry, Bradley Thompson, John Ferguson, Brandon Coleman, Robert Wilkins, William Coleman.

Kelly Morrow Taylor

Kelly Morrow Taylor, 39, of Belews Creek, NC passed away at N. C. Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, NC, on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 4:21 p.m.

A native of Alamance County, she is survived by her daughters, Chloe Diane Tipton of the home and Eric Cumberland of Philadelphia, Mississippi; father W. Ellis Morrow of Belews Creek; mother, Diane Whitmore Morrow Cumberland of Philadelphia, Mississippi; a sister, Ashley Crapps of Mississippi; and long-time partner, David Tipton. A gathering and time for visiting with family was held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at Rich & Thompson Funeral Service in Graham. At other times, the family will be at the home of Kelly's

THE LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School (All Ages) 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Activities
Family Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Bible Study and Prayer Service 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)
Children's Program 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia

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533 Main Street ■ 601-656-4312
Pastor David Stormont
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

Aunt, 3335 Waterford Place, Burlington. Rich & Thompson Funeral Home and Crematory in Graham assisted the family. Memorial donations can be made to The Shriner's Children's Hospital in Kelly's honor. Condolences may be offered online at www.richandthompson.com

James Sampson

Funeral service for Mr. James Sampson will be held 10 AM Friday, October 22, 2021 at Tucker Gym with Rev. Glen Myers officiating. Interment will be in Tucker Community Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 5 PM Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at Tucker Gym. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Sampson, 55, passed away Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at his home. He enjoyed football, basketball, golf, hunting, traveling anywhere and dancing at Pow Wow's.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence McMillan.

Survivors include wife, Charish Lewis Sampson; sons, Cigala Sampson and Cadrian Gibson; mother, Joy Sampson McMillan; sister, Laura Sam; brothers, Donavon McMillan and Jeremy McMillan.

Pallbearers are Travis Stephens, Benjamin Farve, Brock Phillips, Kevin Grisham, Bill Farmer, Eric Nickey, Jeremy McMillan, Kaly Bell.

Joseph Lemoine

Graveside services for Joseph Lemoine were held Thursday,

Beck Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

MRS. ESSIE MAE BENNETT
-GRAVESIDE SERVICE-
11 A.M. THU., OCT. 21, 2021
MORROW CEMETERY

MR. DANIEL BYRD
2 P.M. SAT., OCT. 23, 2021
VICTORY CHRISTIAN CENTER
INTERMENT, 11 A.M.
MON., OCT. 25, 2021
MISSISSIPPI VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY, NEWTON

10460 Rd 561
Philadelphia
601-656-1191
www.beckfuneralhomeinc.com

October 14, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at the VA Memorial Cemetery in Newton, MS. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Lemoine, 91, died Saturday, October 9, 2021, at Brookdale Meridian Assisted Living.

Mr. Lemoine was a native of Moreauville, LA. He served in the U.S. Navy for over 30 years until he retired. During his service time he traveled around the world to various places. Joseph met his life partner Josephine Hughes while he was stationed in Morocco. After his retirement from the Navy he worked for the Lauderdale County Veterans Administration for several years.

Survivors include a sister, Anna Lee Burke of Moreauville, LA.

He was preceded in death by his life partner, Josephine Hughes; brothers, Maxwell Lemoine and Anthony Royce Lemoine.

Brian E. McNeely

Graveside services for Mr. Brian E. McNeely were held 2:30 pm, Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at Union City Cemetery. Bro. Rusty Walton officiated and the



Brian McNeely



MR. JOSEPH LEMOINE
GRAVESIDE SERVICE
OCTOBER 14
VA MEMORIAL CEMETERY

MR. BARRY D. WRIGHT
SERVICES OCTOBER 16
COYE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
INTERMENT COYE ASSEMBLY CEMETERY

MR. BOBBY SLATON
MEMORIAL SERVICE AT LATER DATE



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

eulogy was given by the Honorable Terry L. Jordan.

Mr. McNeely, 72, of Union died Monday, October 18, 2021 at his residence.

Survivors include: Wife of 47 years: Kathy Savell McNeely of Union; 2 Daughters: Erin McNeely Shows of Soso and Kristy McNeely Todd and husband Marcus of Ocean Springs; 4 Grandchildren: Trevor Todd, Abbe Todd, Tai Shows and Kreu Shows; 2 Sisters: Sandra Groover and Patricia McNeely; 1 Brother: Keith McNeely

He is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews.

Mr. McNeely was preceded in death by his father, Edward McNeely, Jr., mother, Teresa Passingham McNeely and one brother, Greg McNeely.

Pallbearers: Richard Rea, Sr, Chad Rea, Anthony Groover, Kabet McNeely, Timothy Groover and Marcus Todd

In lieu of flowers donations are to be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Milling Funeral Home of Union was in charge of the arrangements.



MS. EDNA JOYCE MORSE
1 PM SAT., OCT. 16, 2021
JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL
SANDTOWN CEMETERY

MR. JAMES SAMPSON
10 AM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021
TUCKER GYM
TUCKER COMMUNITY CEMETERY

MRS. CLAUDETTE MCMICHAEL
2 PM SUN., OCT. 17, 2021
JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL
NEW HARMONY CEMETERY

MS. LOU ELLA BARRON
2 PM MON., OCT. 18, 2021
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Our Family Serving Your Family

Choctaw's Bell graduates from firefighter class

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Choctaw firefighter Bracey Bell was one of 24 members Firefighter Class 193 of the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Jackson.

my that recently graduated from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Firefighter I-II course held at the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Jackson. Graduation was held outside on campus last Thursday.

This intense seven-week course includes online, classroom, and hands-on instruction in the areas of fire behavior, fire suppression, rescue, incident command, hazardous materials and other fire related topics. This course meets and exceeds the National Fire Protection Association for Firefighter Qualifications and the uniform minimum training standards.

The Mississippi State Fire Academy is a division of the Mississippi Insurance Department. State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney and Academy Executive Director Terry Wages believe these firefighters will be an asset to the fire departments they represent. "We are excited for them to go and serve their community," said Director Wages.

Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

What is the local church?

The apostle Paul, in the city of Lystra on his first mission trip, is stoned and dragged out of the city, assumed to be dead (verse 19). This happened after he had preached the gospel and the Lord had miraculously healed a crippled man at Paul's command. The crowds had responded by attempting to worship both Paul and Barnabas as gods. Paul had rebuked them, teaching them the vanity of false gods in comparison to the blessedness of the one true God who made all things.

But then Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and persuaded the crowds that Paul was worthy of death by stoning. They thought Paul dead and left him, but Paul rose up and went to the next city, Derbe, continuing to preaching the gospel. He then traveled back through all the cities he had visited to strengthen believers, and soon after he returned to Antioch and gave a full report (verse 27). Paul is an example for Christians of perseverance in the faith.

We see Paul's singlemindedness in service to Christ and the church. James says the testing of your faith produces steadfastness (James 1:3). Paul was certainly steadfast in trial. He had been threatened in city after city and finally stoned in Lystra. Yet he moved on to the next city and preached the gospel, knowing he would face similar dangers.

Paul also was tempted. The crowds in Lystra wanted to offer sacrifices to him. He could have been worshipped as a god. He could have received monetary riches, but he sought no gain; rather, he longed for Christ to be set up in the souls of the people. He was aghast at being exalted in the place of the Lord Jesus.

James says a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways (James 1:8). He means pretending one thing and meaning another or floating between two opinions. Fear of circumstances, interests in the world, and carnal hopes can make us unstable in the faith if they dominate us. "Help me Lord, but don't make me wholehearted," is the hidden desire of the double minded. Paul resisted this tendency.

The apostle Peter instructs Christians to always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in them (1st Peter 3). Chris-

tians are to know what they believe and be able to explain it in order to exalt Christ, help souls that are lost, and promote their own steadfastness in the faith. If we are half convinced, we will not be ready to explain our faith or be firm in it.

Psalm 112 speaks of the spirit of the godly like Paul: "The righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord." Worldly men's hearts rise and fall with the news, but the godly look to a sure rule: unflinching promises that the Lord has given to his people.

Paul also persevered in the faith because he expected tribulation. When he visited the churches to strengthen them in the faith, he warned them to expect trials: "Through many tribulations we enter the kingdom of God" (verse 22). He did not say that afflictions in this world would be lessened because you belong to Christ. He taught them to not be surprised by it, but to remember the Lord.

In Galatians 6, Paul said he bore the marks of Christ in his body, meaning the scars he had from beatings, imprisonments, and stoning. No doubt when Paul passed back through these cities on this first missionary trip, the marks of his stoning would have been prominent. Still, he encouraged them to continue in the faith, being thankful for how great a salvation they had been given in Christ.

Another vital help to Christian perseverance is the local church. Paul placed a great deal of importance on it, planting churches in all the cities and helping appoint elders in every church (verse 23). Teaching, leadership, fellowship, corporate worship, and prayer are all necessary for the Christian life.

In tribulation, mutual encouragement and prayer give strength to the life of the church. The preaching of the word in the church is ordained by God for the growth and stability of our faith and fellowship together as Christians. The local church is where you serve the body of Christ. The church is an enduring community by Christ's love to her. The Lord gave himself for the church and Paul was devoted to its service, and thus served the Lord by doing so.

The Rev. Chris Shelton is pastor of Union's First Presbyterian Church.

The Devotional Page is made possible by these businesses which encourage everyone to attend worship services on Sunday. If your church is not listed, please call 601-656-4000.

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"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."
— 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

Gibson argues for Mississippi abortion limits

By EMILY WAGSTER
PETTUS
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi Agriculture Commissioner Andy Gipson is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold abortion restrictions that he helped put into state law.

Gipson is a Republican and was a state representative and chairman of the House Judiciary B Committee in 2018 when he co-sponsored a bill to ban most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The Supreme Court's ruling in a court fight over that law could reshape abortion access across the United States.

The Mississippi law has never been enforced because the state's only abortion clinic quickly sued, and a federal judge ruled that the 15-week

limit was unconstitutional.

A conservative federal appeals court said in 2019 that the judge had ruled correctly, and the U.S. Supreme Court agreed this year to consider the case. Arguments are scheduled for Dec. 1.

The Mississippi case and a more recently developed fight over a Texas law that would ban most abortions at around six weeks are first big abortion-rights tests in a Supreme Court reshaped with three conservative justices nominated by former President Donald Trump.

Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch has filed written arguments asking the justices to use the Mississippi case to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the high court's 1973 ruling that legalized abortion rights nationwide.

Hundreds of people and

groups have filed briefs before the Supreme Court to argue for or against the Mississippi law. Gipson, who is also a Baptist minister, filed a brief July 29 arguing that Mississippi law does not impose an undue burden.

"For women who choose to continue their pregnancies, Mississippi offers a number of resources to support them through birth and throughout the child-rearing years," Gipson's attorneys wrote.

His attorneys wrote that Mississippi provides family planning services, prenatal healthcare, nutrition programs, daycare and education. They also wrote that the state facilitates foster care and adoption programs.

"In short, Mississippi strives to assist any woman who needs resources to care for a child, whether born or

unborn," Gipson's attorneys wrote.

In a news release Wednesday, the acting president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, Adrienne Kimmell, called on Congress to enact a federal law to protect abortion rights. She criticized Mississippi for asking the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

"With a supermajority on the Supreme Court openly hostile to reproductive freedom, we are at a moment of crisis — and the future of legal abortion hangs in the balance," Kimmell said. "No matter the spin the Court's anti-choice justices may use to avoid laying bare their extremist agenda, the reality is that upholding Mississippi's ban on abortion would overturn *Roe v. Wade*."

Mississippi's only abortion clinic, Jackson Women's

Health Organization, remains open and offers abortions up to 16 weeks of pregnancy. Clinic director Shannon Brewer has said about 10% of its abortions there are done after the 15th week.

More than 90% of abortions in the U.S. take place in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Fitch was elected Mississippi attorney general in 2019 and took office in 2020. In addition to challenging *Roe v. Wade*, her written arguments to the Supreme Court challenge the court's 1992 decision in a Pennsylvania abortion case. Both rulings said states may not put an undue burden on abortion before viability. The Mississippi attorney general's office argues that the rulings are

"egregiously wrong."

Viability occurs roughly at 24 weeks, the point at which babies are more likely to survive outside the womb. The Mississippi clinic has presented evidence that viability is impossible at 15 weeks.

The Mississippi attorney general argues that viability is an arbitrary standard that doesn't take sufficient account of the state's interest in regulating abortion.

The Mississippi law would allow exceptions to the 15-week ban in cases of medical emergency or severe fetal abnormality. Doctors found in violation of the ban would face mandatory suspension or revocation of their medical license.

Reeves: Work still happening on medical marijuana proposal

By EMILY WAGSTER
PETTUS
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said last week that he and legislative leaders are continuing to negotiate changes in a proposal to create a medical marijuana program, including putting tight limits on how much of the medicine one person could buy.

The Republican said he still intends to call a special legislative session on the topic, but he does not know when.

"I believe very strongly that if we're going to have a medical marijuana program, it's very important that we get it done right," Reeves said during a news conference. "I think getting it done right is more important than getting it done quick. But I also recog-

nize the will of the voters."

Reeves said that he's "very interested" in Mississippi limiting medical marijuana's content of THC, the compound that produces a high.

House and Senate leaders want to enact a medical marijuana program to replace an initiative voters approved in November. State Supreme Court justices overturned the initiative in May when they ruled that Mississippi's initia-

tive process is outdated and unworkable.

Legislators' next regular session begins in January. The governor has the power to decide what topics they may consider during a special session.

Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and House Speaker Philip Gunn, who are both Republican, said in late September that they want Reeves to set a special session soon

because negotiators from the two chambers agreed on a medical marijuana proposal, and they believe they've lined up enough votes to pass it.

But the leaders of the state health and agriculture departments have said the proposal lacks a clear funding plan, leaving questions about how their agencies would pay for the licensing and regulatory roles.

The proposal would allow

cities and counties to opt out of allowing the cultivation, processing or sale of medical marijuana, but it would also let local voters seek an election to reverse the decisions of those governing boards.

It also would set taxes, require that medical marijuana be grown only indoors and limit the amount of the drug that could be purchased each month by patients or their caregivers.

Auditor issues demands in MDHS welfare scandal

By EMILY WAGSTER
PETTUS
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The Mississippi auditor said last week that he is demanding repayment of \$77 million in mis-spent welfare money in one of the poorest states in the nation. This includes \$828,000 the auditor is seeking from retired NFL player Brett Favre and an employee of his business, Favre Enterprises.

The initial allegations of mis-

spending came to light in early 2020 when former Mississippi Department of Human Services executive director John Davis and five other people were indicted in one of the state's largest public corruption cases, which the auditor characterized then as "a sprawling conspiracy."

Favre is not facing any criminal charges, but Auditor Shad White said in May 2020 that the former Green Bay Packers quarterback, who lives in Mississippi, had repaid \$500,000 of the \$1.1 million in welfare money he

received for multiple speeches for which he did not show up. The demand Tuesday is for the \$600,000 balance, plus \$228,000 in interest.

White issued the demands about two weeks after a Maryland-based CPA firm issued an independent report about how the Mississippi Department of Human Services spent federal money from 2016 through 2019 through Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. The report found nearly \$41 million in "questioned costs" for items

including travel and programs to support college athletes.

The Mississippi auditor is demanding that interest be paid on the \$77 million, bringing the total sought to more than \$96 million. White is demanding that whole amount from Davis and most of it from two nonprofit organizations, Mississippi Community Education Center and the Family Resource Center.



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COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail
Docket from 10/11-10/18

• Edgar Poe Barfield, 54, of ½ PO Box 211, Shuqulak; possession of controlled substance

• Candance Lynn Barton, 32, of 10481 Rd 244, Union; no insurance, suspended drivers license, expired license tag, improper equipment

• Norman Bufkin, 53, of 100 Sistrunk St; indictment

• Asha Ann Chickaway, 36, of 11670 Rd 149; failure to appear

• Lawilliam Clemons, 19, of Hillcrest Apt 30; failure to appear

• James R Cumberland, 35, of 905 North Pearl St, Carthage; driving under the influence/refusal to take test

• Jacky Dove, 59, of 10650 Rd 129; hold for other agency

• William Scottey Dunn, 44, of 10011 Rd 313, Union; no charges listed

• Joe Arthur Elerby, 37, of 105 St Francis Drive Apt 1; possession of marijuana-vehicle, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, driving under the influence-3rd offense-felony, suspended drivers license-DUI, no insurance

• Julius Cedrick Farmer, 36, of 104 York Rd; driving under the influence-1st offense, careless driving, no drivers license, expired license tag, no insurance

• Jessica Ferguson, 38, of 12230 Rd 355; hold for investigations

• James David Foshee, 44, of 11800 Rd 539; contempt of court

• Jason Leon Goodin, 35, of 13341 Rd 614; possession of controlled substance, aggravated assault on police-fire-school official with weapon, failure to appear

• Shane K Isaac, 35, of 117 Mills Rd, Conehatta; driving under the influence-2nd offense

• Jarrett Jayroe, 19, of 304 Line Ave; possession of marijuana-vehicle

• Tyler Kelly, 31, of 200 Howard #2 Rd, Louisville; contempt of court, hold for investigations

• Jaquez Lewis, 20, of Union; possession of con-

trolled substance

• Alexander McMillan, 30, of 425 Lewis Rd Lot 2; driving under the influence-1st offense

• Mirisa M Mingo, 36, of 159 Thompson Rd; failure to appear

• Jaethan Moore, 23, of 15591 Hwy 15 N; burglary-dwelling house

• Chadwick Barron Roberts, 46, of 200 Howard #2 Rd, Louisville; contempt of court, hold for investigations

• April Shannon, 40, of 12310 Rd 325; possession of controlled substance

• Katie E Small, 32, of

8818 Lizela Rd, Meridian; contempt of court

• Tyler Smith, 26, of 10800 Hwy 16 W; hold for other agency

• Keaton Bryce Taylor, 24, of 232 Goat Ranch Rd; driving under the influence-2nd offense

• Jalissa Willis, 23, of 130 Chitto Grove, Walnut Grove; failure to appear, contempt of court, child restraint law

• Loren Anne Wynee, 59, of 3645 Flynn Dr, Pearl; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia

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DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECOVERY - A donation will be given to "The River," a faith-based drug & alcohol recovery center located in Philadelphia, MS.

CLOTHING ITEMS - Clothes will benefit impoverished families abroad and in Mississippi.

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Ward credits parents with love of cooking

By COLEMAN EAKES
news@neshobademocrat.com

Marsha Ward credits her love of cooking to her mother, Mary Fortenberry, and her late father, Herman Fortenberry.

Although her mother was not a fan of children in the kitchen, she did allow her children to watch her cook.

"Mama and daddy were old-school," Ward said. "They believed that no kids should be in the kitchen... It wasn't until I was junior high that mama started letting me make the cornbread."

Ward later discovered that she learned a lot about cooking from watching her parents in the kitchen all those years.

Ward said she does not always follow recipes and loves to just cook and see how it turns out.

One thing Ward said she loves to do for Easter every year is to decorate egg-shaped cookies with her grandchildren.

She also loves to make "Resurrection Rolls" with her grandchildren on Good Friday to teach them about the meaning of Easter, and it gives them the chance to help out in the kitchen.

Every year at Christmas the whole family has a gingerbread house decorating contest.

Ward said her philosophy of life is not to worry about other people's opinions and to live your life according to God's plan. She also encourages people to appreciate every moment with their children.

"One day they will be grown and have moved out and have kids of their own and all you are left with are beautiful memories and a silent house," she said.

Ward, a teacher at Neshoba Central High School, also works as a nurse at Urgent Care.

She and her husband Bo are active members of Salem Baptist Church in the Burnside community. They also love to travel and go antiquing and they have five children and two grandchildren.



Marsha Ward

COOK OF THE WEEK

EASY PUMPKIN CUPCAKES WITH CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

Ingredients:
1 Box Spice Cake Mix
1 Can of Libby's Pumpkin

Directions:
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix pumpkin and cake mix in a bowl. Spoon into cupcake liners. Bake for 17-20 minutes until done. This is a dense and moist cake. It can be made in a loaf or bundt pan. Once cooled, pipe store-bought cream cheese frosting on them and top with a candied pumpkin.

PASTA SALAD

Ingredients:
1 Box of Rotini Pasta
1 Container of Cherry Tomatoes - Halved
1 Large or 3 Small Cucumbers - Diced
1 Bell Pepper - Diced
1 Pack of Mozzarella Pearls (Deli Department)
24 Ounce Bottle of Zesty

Italian Salad Dressing

Directions:
Place the dressing in the freezer for a couple of hours to get slushy. Bring pasta up to a boil and lower to a simmer. While simmering, pour slushy dressing and veggies into a large bowl. Remove pasta from water before it is done (you want it to still be firm and chewy), pour into a bowl with dressing and vegetables. Add mozzarella pearls. Mix and place covered in the refrigerator overnight.

SQUASH DRESSING

Ingredients:
3 Cups of Cooked Squash

3 Cups of Crumbled Cornbread
1 Can of Cream of Chicken Soup
Chicken Broth to Moistening it

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients, pour into a buttered casserole dish. Bake until golden brown. Serve with cranberry sauce.

Directions:
I use leftover stewed squash and cornbread to make squash dressing. If you don't have any, then cook some squash (5-6 yellow squash - roughly chopped) down in a skillet with a chopped onion, some bacon

grease and a little water until tender. Salt and pepper to taste. Make a pan of cornbread (2 cups of cornmeal, 2

cups of buttermilk, 1 egg, and ¼ cup bacon grease or vegetable oil and a couple of tablespoons of flour, bake

until golden brown).

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

A precious baby boy arrived on October 12 much to the joy of his parents, Eddie and Kelly George Young, who had been eagerly awaiting his birth. Ezra James Young weighed 8 pounds and 3 ounces of absolute perfection. His entire family is so happy and cannot wait to meet him. Congratulations!

The Neshoba County School District recognized The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia for their sponsorship, which helped purchase the new video/scoreboard at Rocket Field. The scoreboard is a welcome addition to the Rockets activities program which enhances the academic curriculum for the students. The District appreciates this generous contribution and support, not only for the new video/scoreboard, but also for the support of our entire district.

Congratulations to Bracy Bell, a member of the Choctaw Tribe Fire/Rescue Team, on his completion of Firefighter 100-II

at the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Pearl, Mississippi. Members of the Choctaw Tribe Fire/Rescue Team were present to show their support and congratulate Bracy on October 14 at the Tribal Fire Station. Great job!

Hayley Holland received confirmation of her impending graduation from Mississippi State University during the fall graduation ceremonies in December. She will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering on the Starkville campus. The many long hours she spent earning this degree will soon be climaxed as she achieves her goal. Her proud parents are Tommy and Sharon Eldridge Holland.

During rites of the Catholic Church at St. Joseph's Seminary and College, Tristan Stovall was raised to the position of Acolyte.

This is a beautiful and sacred role in the Catholic Church, one that comes with much responsibility in assisting priests and deacons during the celebration of Mass. It is reserved for those

who are studying for the priesthood.

Tristan is a second-year seminarian from the Diocese of Jackson whose home church is Holy Cross in Philadelphia. His parents are Robbie and Ginger Stovall. Members of his family were present for the occasion. Congratulations!

Mark your calendars on Wednesday, October 27 for the First United Methodist Church's Family Fall Fest at the church. The Fest will be held from 5:30-7:30 PM.

This will be a fun celebration of the fall season for people of all ages and will include food, games, Trunk- or- Treat, and many other wonderful things! Come and bring yourself, your family, and your friends for a great evening.

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





ECCC Homecoming Court named

Members of the 2021 Homecoming Court at East Central Community College included (front row, from left) freshman maid Zoey Bell of Philadelphia and escort Dylan Farve of Richton, freshman maid Amelia Kirk of Louisville and escort Dylan Harrison of Union, sophomore maid Kenay'zha Germany of Union and escort Anthony Smith of Newton, sophomore maid Magdelyn Kirk of Louisville and escort Trey Nichols of Morton, queen Kiersten Selman of Madison and escort Austin Lee of Madison; sophomore maid Alex Weir of Hickory and escort Davis Pool of Steens, sophomore maid Taylor Gregory of Louisville and escort Reese Tillman of Forest; freshman maid Mabry Mayfield of Carthage and escort Ethan Warren of Forest; and freshman maid Brayleigh Gregory of Louisville and escort Stevie Ray of Philadelphia. The queen and her court were presented at Bailey Stadium during halftime of the ECCC vs. Copiah-Lincoln Community College football game Thursday, Oct. 14.



Why are there always two people in an ambulance? Because they're pair-a-medics.

Nothing is more terrifying than ignorance in action.

Fishing, to a man, is like shopping to a woman. They both get something out of it, even when they don't catch a thing.

The two hardest things to handle in life are failure and success.

If "love your enemies" is too much to ask, how about just treating your friends a little better?

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

Of Local Interest

SPOOKY SPECIES COSTUME CONTEST

Neshoba County 4-H will be hosting a Spooky Species Costume Contest at 5:30 p.m. on October 28, 2021 at the Neshoba County Coliseum at 12000 HWY 15 N, Philadelphia, MS 39350. All TAME animals can participate. Ages 18 and under can compete in the costume contest. Entry forms can be picked up at the Extension office or we can email you an entry form. Please see our Facebook page at "Neshoba County Extension Office" for more details. Feel free to call the office at 601-656-4011 or email us at abw456@msstate.edu

CHURCH FUNDRAISER

Amazing Grace Church 334 Front Ave., Philadelphia, MS 39350 is hosting a building fund fundraiser. Donations are welcome. Date: October 16-21, 2021. Plate choices: Ribs, Catfish, Pan Trout. Side choices: baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad. Dessert choices: caramel cake, sweet potato pie, banana pudding. Beverages: ice tea, lemonade. Pick up time: 10AM to 3PM. For more information call 601-575-7754.

NESHOBA COUNTY SWCD NOW TAKING TREE ORDERS

The Neshoba County Soil and Water Conservation Dis-

trict 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.

If you have any questions, call 601-656-8783 Ext3.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Mississippi will hold a meeting in Decatur on Oct. 30 at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at Newton County Post 89 Hut located off of Highway 51. Lunch will be provided. This will be a Leadership Workshop and we invite all American Legion Auxiliary current members and anyone interested in our Mission of service to our veterans, military children and community.

This meeting is for those members of District 5 living in Forest, Carthage, Newton, Meridian, Philadelphia, Louisville, Dekalb and surrounding areas, as well as those who have missed any of our other workshops.

Any questions should be referred to Phyllis Moran at 228-586-9560, or District 5 President Wendy Walters at 662-674-5708.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Fellowship Baptist Church for our Harvest Festival on October 30th at 5:00 pm. 19213 Highway 21 South Philadelphia

CHURCH REVIVAL

Revival for Mt. Carmel Baptist Church of Edinburg, will be November 7th thru November 10th. Revival Speaker will be Bro. David Ford of Globe for Christ Ministries. Sunday Services will be at 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Services for Monday thru Wednesday will be at 7:00 PM.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Come join us for Trunk or Treat at Salem Baptist Church on October 31st at 5PM. All are invited.

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THE NESHOBA DEMOCRAT



FELDER RUSHING

Flowers, not fungi, growing throughout Southern woods

By FELDER RUSHING
Special to the Democrat

Weird things are popping up in the woods this time of year, including one of the most amazing of all: a pale white, see-through parasitic plant that looks like a mushroom but is actually a close relative of blueberries.

I adore mushrooms in the garden, even cultivate a few in my garden's shaded "stumpery" which is a deliberate collection of upended gnarly stumps and decaying logs that coddle hostas, ferns, and other woodland plants. But this time of year I often go for long walks in the woods to see more. And because of good rains, this year there are plenty.

Not talking about lichens, those frilly Frankenstein-like mashups of algae and fungi. Because they appear thickly on trunks and branches of trees and shrubs that are in decline, they look like they are killing plants, but they grow on, not in plants, and can be found even on rocks and tombstones. They merely indicate a plant is struggling or very old and can use pruning or fertilizing. No need to spray or anything. Ignore, or better yet, admire and celebrate them.

By the way, reindeer eat lichens; never know when Santa's team will need a quick snack.



Ghost pipes are native to the south.

There are other unconventional native plants, from emerald green real mosses to

the Southern Goth tree-draping bromeliad we call Spanish moss. And how about wet-

land-native pitcher plants that get nutrients from dissolved insects trapped in their tubes?

Peculiar barely covers these vegetative oddities.

None seriously harm living plants, unlike true parasites that actually grow roots into and feed off other plants. Mistletoe is one that upsets people more than trees. Because its roots wrap around underneath its host plants' bark, it is very hard to control without killing the limbs, too. So, after watching decades-old mistletoe balls three feet in diameter growing peacefully on ancient oaks in England, I simply ignore them.

Dodder, another distinctive parasitic leafless plant, looks all the world like orange vermicelli draped over roadside shrubs and wildflowers and sometimes even on garden flowers. It twines around and inserts root-like structures into stems; the only good control, other than repeated pulling, is to remove infested plants.

But this fall I'm seeing a plethora of fungi pushing up "fruiting bodies" (their versions of flowers). Gilled mushrooms, toadstools, shelf fungi sticking out from tree trunks, round puffballs, jelly-like masses, and more come in an astounding array of beautiful shapes, sizes, and colors from oyster white to nearly black, brilliant yellows, reds, and some with spots and other markings. There's a really nasty looking, smelly one called "stink horn" popping up now in mulched beds.

Coming and going with the weather, most are harmless, just natural fungi taking care of nature's business. No need to spray, just enjoy, or kick them over.

Back to what I first mentioned, a truly bizarre plant that I finally found after searching for decades. Native "ghost pipes" grow in scattered little colonies in deep woodland shade, and look like spectral mushrooms. The plants lack chlorophyll so they are unable to make their own food; they get their nutrients as parasites on special wild fungi that in turn live on the roots of woodland trees and shrubs.

But they are not mushrooms, they are actually flowers of a rare leafless relative of blueberries, huckleberries, and heathers whose flowers, pollinated by bees and flies, are nodding bells on short stalks, all ghostly waxy white, sometimes with flecks of pink, and translucent petals you can see through.

It's a weird world for those who get out into the woods and look down. Just watch for ticks, snakes, and hunters.

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

Fresh look for state planetarium before 2023 reopening

JACKSON (AP) — A planetarium in Mississippi's capital city is undergoing renovations and is expected to reopen at the end of 2023 with a fresh look and more extensive exhibits.

This is the first renovation in decades at the Russell C. Davis Planetarium in downtown Jackson.

Mike Williams, the planetarium manager, said the city is creating a world-class center for science and technology.

"This is going to be something we can

present to the world that is in diametrically opposed to a lot of the negative ideas people may have about our state," Williams said.

Williams said visitors will see interactive exhibits, including some using augmented and virtual technology. Exhibits will showcase recent space missions and projects by NASA and space travel by private companies, he said.

He said he hopes new and updated exhibits will inspire students to explore

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics careers.

"It's a total investment in our kids and the people of our state," Williams said.

The planetarium closed in April 2018 because of a roof leak and interior damage. After the roof was repaired, the city announced in June 2020 that the planetarium would undergo renovations.

Renovations are expected to cost \$12 million to \$12.5 million, and plans include establishing a \$2 million opera-

tional endowment, said John David Lewis, deputy director of cultural services for the City of Jackson.

The project has received support from local and state government and continues to seek private donations, Lewis said. Since renovation plans were announced, Jackson has allocated about \$4.5 million to the planetarium, Lewis said.

The Jackson City Council voted recently to issue a \$5.5 million bond for renovations and to repair the heating,

ventilation and air conditioning system at the Arts Center of Mississippi, which is next door to the planetarium and eventually will be connected to the planetarium through an atrium, he said.

The project has received support from local and state government and continues to seek private donations, Lewis said.

The planetarium has received \$1 million from a 2020 bond bill passed by the Mississippi Legislature.

HONOR ROLL

Neshoba Central Middle School

Honor Roll

Chloe Rhianna Adams, Carter Dwain Adcock, Shayla Lynn Allen, Karla Marely Alvarez, Annagail Jayden Anderson, Anna Grace Bailey, Mckynli Raie Baldwin, Leigha Marie Bass, Cayden David Bassett, Alyssa Harley Baugh, Eden Cyrita Ben, Evan Brooks Boatner, D'Angelo Tyree Boler, Sadie Ne'veah Nicole Bonds, Allie Elizabeth Boone, Malachi Israel Borrell, Brooklyn Paige Boyd, Ashlan Noelle Brantley, Caden Scott Brown, Jackson Isaiah Brown, Seth Phillips Brown, Sadie Lynn Buckley,

Caleb Micah Burnside, Jayden Ledendrick Burnside, Laney Rose Burrage, Josie Marie Byars, Kalie Grace Carroll, Dristen Nicholas Carter, Camryn Lynn Chapman, Madison Bailey Charlie, Majure Lewis Clearman, Ahniya Dior Cleveland, Logan Bryce Collins, Be'onnah Harell Benae' Comby, T'ona Saphira Cook, Brody O'neil Copeland, Christian Tyler Cotton, Sakarcyn James Culberson, Garrett Lee Cumberland, Maggie Marie Cumberland, Raeleigh Layne Cumberland, Quinton Shane Dan, Koi James Denson, Taydem Ainsley Dunlap, Makayla Pearl Dunn, Allen Jay Edwards, Gabriel Scott Ellingburg, Bella

Leigh Eubanks, A'lanya Tomici Beth Evans, Ricky Lane Ferguson, Bethany Karel Shyan Fortenberry, Peyton Samuel Fortenberry, Ayden Brock Fortune, Trinity Shea Gambill, William Charles Garner, Aniston Breleigh Garrett, Gavin Michael Gentry, Gibson Riley Gentry, Marlee Kae Glass, Peyton Matthew Glass, Brayden James Glenn, Madelyn Grace Gordon, Aubrey Peyton Gray, Kaisen Tyler Greer, Laney Grace Griffis, Gracyn Dess Grisham, Daniel Evan Hinks Hallford, Leah Christine Hantzis, Ava Lee Harper, Lundy Grace Harper, Kynnedi Michelle Harrington, Aliyah Laraine Henry, Lilly Daniels Hicks, Leslie Reese Higginbotham, Harper Adams Holley, Camryn Riley Allison Hollingsworth, Joshua Reed Hudson, Peyton Lane Irby, Cordell Christopher Isaac, Espn Ja'qwon Jackson, Dylan Lee Jenkins, Ruthie Diane Johnson, Ava Joy Jones, Kaylin Renee Jones, Dylan Cole Kennedy, Jacob Bryce Kilcrease, Kayla Rae Ann Killen, Sam Walker Killens, John Leelin Kilpatrick, Alannah Markeysha Earlean Kirkland, Kaleb Gauge Kirkpatrick, Thomas Nikoai Learmonth, Brodie Alexander Lilly, Gideon Emerson Linkins, Sadie Kate Long, Hanna Grace Lyon, Peyton J McBeath, Roseanna Faith McCown, Addison Rae McDill, Harrison Lane McGowen, Kalib Hayden

McKee, Jazmyn Mikia Janaee McWilliams, Antonio Darnell Goodin Mendoza, Taelyn Honor Mingo, Destiny Grace Mixon, Jia Sun Moore, William Alan Moorehead, Madelyn Mae Myers, Trenton Devon Nash, Alex Johnney, John Garrett Norton, Zoey Lauren Palmer, Jayden Elois Peoples, Marleigh Rhea Pinson, Austin Wayne Poff, Mason James Pope, Nathan Jace Posey, Daniel Joseph Refre III, Makayla Ann Kathryn Rhodes, Gunner Jack Maddox Robinson, Lacey Lynn Rogers, Curtis Oryan Rollins, Trinity Elizabeth Rushing, Brayden Kyle Russum, Jacey Breann Ryals, Heagan Tyler Seward, Elijah Anthony Sharp, Kirkland Lee Sistrunk, Corbin Grant Smith, Hailee Brooke Smith, Halli Rhea Smith, Joshua Reshaun Smith, John Carlton Spears, Caden Lane Spence, Christopher Antonio Spencer, Erick Levon Spivey Jr, Callie Janelle Stafford, Carmelo D'anthony Stevens, Savannah Jolene Stokes, Mackenzie Kay Stovall, John Brady Stuart, Hannah Brooke Sullivan, Addison Reese Tadlock, Isla Fichik Renee Tangle, Marlee Kate Tank, Jada Maliyah Tanksley, Thomas Ariel Taylor, Isabelle Marie Tess, Jada Thames, Alyson Elise Thomas, Kyli Nicole Truss, Michael Wayne Vance, Trenton Andrew Vowell, Brock Haskell Walker, Ansley Coren Wallace, Bella Reese Warren, Jude Hendrix Watkins,

Ben Nelson Weir, Cutler Warren White, Areyale Lashay Williams, Melyssa Joyce Williams, Joshua Pierce Willis, Bree Anna Reese Winstead, Zylah Shaleece Woodward, Cooper Grant Wright

Special Honor Roll

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Klootwyk, An Hoai Le, Lilly Rose Linkins, Denver Phillip Lovem, Daniel Maddox Mars, Anna Katherine Martin, Sadie Lane Martin, Elizabeth Ann May, Isabella Hope May, Reagan Leeann McKinney, Triston Scott Miller, Brennan Rose Mills, Halle Mcneil Montgomery, Christopher Lebron Moore, Presley Daniel Moore, Charles Hicks Moran, Sadie Helen Nance, Hunter Grey Neese, Kyndall Breigh Nelson, Michael Ngin, Isabella Laine Nolan, Anna Michelle Norris, Oliver Kabe Patterson, Addy Walker Phillips, Sayda Grace Posey, Rylan Ellis Reid, Christopher Cole Richmond, Bailee Rhea Ridout, Shanna Olivia Ruffin, Brianna Danielle Rush, Thomas Hutt Rushing, Mallory Dawn Sanders, Matatalyn Keanna Sanders, Chloe Belle Savell, Ivie Jane Savell, Samantha Marie Singleton, Talbott Lamar Sistrunk, Sawyer Daniel Skinner, Noah Robert Skipper, Kooper Hayes Smith, Quinton Miles Stephens, Clifton Levi Stokes, Isaac Kale Storey, Haylen Couture Thomas, Lillie Rechelle Thompson, Mckenzi Lachea' Thompson, Taylor Olyn Wade, Brylee Shyann Weems, Karius Tae'Shon Welch, Madissyn Snaia Westerfield, La'mauria Gabrielle Whigham, Claydi Lane Willis, Cali Jaetzily Wilson, Jaliyah Kirsten Winters

CERTIFIED STAFF OPENINGS For School Year 2021-2022

CLOSING DATE: 11/1/21 or until filled

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER Instructor, Carpentry-Electrical Services

Qualifications: Applicant must have earned a two-year college degree (associate degree) or higher from an accredited institution of higher learning in the course being taught. Applicant must hold a teacher license issued by the Mississippi Department of Education with a 977/978 Endorsement Exception: Teacher with a current #344 Building Trades or #346 Carpentry Endorsements must satisfy addition requirements by State Department of Education.

PEARL RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Teacher

Qualifications: Possess a valid Mississippi Educator License issued by the Mississippi State Department of Education with appropriate endorsement and emphasis on grade level and/or subject area being taught.

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

CHOCTAW CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL Teacher, English 7th & 8th

Qualifications: Possess a valid Mississippi Educator License issued by the Mississippi State Department of Education with appropriate endorsement in Science.

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

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE REQUESTED OR SUBMITTED TO:

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

Sports



Photo by TABBY GOLDMAN

Philadelphia's Andrew Carter tries to pick up more yardage against Lake Friday night.

Call upsets Vols fans as Rebels roll

By DALE MCKEE
sports@neshobademocrat.com

Ole Miss captured their first win in Knoxville since 1983 as they held off Tennessee, 31-26.

The game was only part of the story as the contest was held up for 20 minutes during the final 58 seconds because of the actions of Volunteer fans who pelted the field with trash as they disagreed with a spot call on a fourth-down play. Rebel quarterback Matt Corral passed for 231 yards and two touchdowns, but he also ran the ball for 195 yards on 30 carries. This week, No. 12 Ole Miss will play host to LSU (4-3, 2-2) at 2:30 p.m. News out of Baton Rouge this week was former Ole Miss head coach Ed Orgeron and LSU have mutually agreed to part ways after the season.

Alabama rebounded from their upset loss to Texas A&M as they rolled over Mississippi State, 49-9, in Starkville. The Alabama defense, led by Will Anderson, sacked Will Rogers seven times and forced the Bulldogs into three turnovers to lead the Crimson Tide defense. State (3-3, 1-2) will travel to Vanderbilt (2-5, 0-3) this Saturday.

In other SEC action, No. 1 Georgia rolled over No. 15 Kentucky, 30-13, while No. 19 Auburn, LSU, South Carolina, and No. 17 Texas A&M were also winners. The SEC has an abbreviated schedule this week with only five games on the agenda. Besides State and Ole Miss playing, Tennessee will go to Alabama, South Carolina will play at A&M and Arkansas will host in-state foe Pine-Bluff.

UAB scored four times in the second quarter as USM fell to the Blazers, 34-0. The Golden Eagles (1-6, 0-3) gained only 107 yards of offense and was forced to punt nine times. For the third time this season, USM lost a quarterback to injury as Jake Lange went out with an ankle injury and was replaced by another true freshman quarterback in Tee Webb. The Golden Eagles also used running back Chandler Pittman at the position. USM has a much-needed open date this week before heading to Middle Tennessee on October 30.

SWAC

Western Division leader Alcorn (4-2, 3-0) downed Mississippi Valley, 24-12, to remain undefeated in conference play. Jackson State (5-1, 3-0) is leading the Eastern Division as the Tigers rolled over Alabama State, 28-7, in front of a happy Homecoming crowd of 53,000 in Jackson. The JSU defense led by Keonte Hampton limited Alabama State to only 157 yards and eight first downs. This week, Alcorn hits the road to Texas Southern while Valley (2-4, 1-2) hosts Florida A&M and JSU entertains Bethune-Cookman.

Small College

Mississippi College (3-3, 2-2) downed Shorter, 20-7, and Belhaven (4-2, 3-2) blasted Sul Ross State, 44-0, this past Saturday. Delta State (2-5, 0-4) fell for the fifth straight game, losing, 42-34, in a two-overtime battle with North Greenville while Millsaps (1-5, 1-2) lost to Trinity, 46-0. This weekend, MC visits Valdosta State, DSU heads to West Alabama, Belhaven is at Howard Payne and Millsaps hosts Centre College.

JUCO

The top-ranked junior college team in the country Jones (7-0, 4-0) won the 91st "Cat Fight" as they eased past Pearl River, 28-22. No. 5 East Mississippi (7-0, 5-0) walloped Coahoma, 52-6, to wrap up first place in the North Division. Other winners were Co-Lin, Delta, Hinds and Itawamba. The feature game this Thursday night will be Jones hosting Gulf Coast (5-2, 3-1).

Dale McKee is a Waynesboro resident who has been writing sports in Mississippi since 1973. Listen to Dale's Brouhaha Sports Show with Marshall Wood on Tuesday and Friday at 6 p.m. on WABO FM 105.5 in the Waynesboro area. To listen online go to wabo105.com and click listen live. This week's guest is former Southern Mississippi quarterback Lee Roberts.

Tornadoes in must-win situation

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Philadelphia Tornadoes have a big road game set for this Friday night when they visit the Kemper County Wildcats at the East Mississippi Community College football field in Scooba.

The Tornadoes come in at 4-4 overall and 1-1 in the Region 5-2A standings following their 43-37 loss to Lake last Friday night. The Wildcats stand at 5-3 overall and 2-0 in the region.

Kemper County holds a 32-21 win over Lake. If the Tornadoes were to win by 12 points or more, they would be the region champions provided they close the season with a win over Newton High School. Otherwise, they would finish third or fourth in the region and would be on the road in the first week of the playoffs.

"I don't know why but we came out flat during the first half of our game with Lake," Coach David Frey said. "Kemper is pretty good. They beat Lake. If we win by 12, we will have the tie-breaker."

"It depends on which Philadelphia

team shows up this week. If we play like we did the other night, it probably won't end good. If we play like we are supposed to, we will be OK. We have to keep going."

A blocked punt set up Philadelphia's second possession of the game on the Lake 5-yard line. On the first play, Chancellor Greer ran it in for a touchdown. Adrian Luke kicked the extra point and the Tornadoes led 7-0 with 8:42 left in the first quarter.

Lake returned the ensuing kickoff to the Philadelphia 3-yard line. Quarterback Brady McGee would score four plays later on a 1-yard run. The extra point try failed and the Tornadoes led 7-6 with 7:03 left in the first quarter.

Frank Pazos Jr. kicked a field goal to give Lake a 9-7 lead with 11:50 left in the second quarter.

The Tornadoes took the ensuing kickoff on their 48-yard line and put together a 10-play drive. Greer scored on a 3-yard run with 9:11 remaining in the first half. Greer ran in for the 2-point conversion and Philadelphia led 15-9.

Lake came up with a big play. On

first down, senior running back Cornelius Mayers ran 63 yards for a touchdown. Pazos kicked the extra point and Lake took a 16-15 lead with 8:55 left in the second quarter.

Lake held the Tornadoes to four downs. The snap was mishandled and the Hornets got the ball on the Philadelphia 49-yard line. A 19-yard pass completion put the Hornets on the Philadelphia 30-yard line. The Hornets drove down to the Philadelphia 3-yard line, and McGee carried it in for a touchdown. Pazos' kick was good and the Lake led 23-15 with 4:03 left in the half.

Philadelphia took the kickoff and set up a 10-play, 51-yard scoring drive. Greer scored on a 3-yard run. Quarterback Marcus Beamon ran in the 2-point conversion and the score was tied at 23-23 during the intermission.

Lake scored early in the third quarter to go up 30-23. The Hornets recovered a fumble and scored again as Mayers ran 63 yards for a touchdown. The extra-point kick was blocked and Lake held a 36-23 lead with 6:43 left in the third quarter.

The Tornadoes took the ensuing

kickoff and drove 50 yards in 11 plays for a touchdown. Beamon ran it in from two yards out. The kick was no good and the Tornadoes trailed 36-29 with 2:01 left in the third quarter.

Late in the final quarter, the Tornadoes ran out of downs and Lake took over on the Lake 43. The Hornets drove down to the Philadelphia 2-yard line in six plays with McGee carrying it in for the touchdown. The kick was good and Lake led 43-29 with 3:41 remaining.

The Tornadoes refused to give up. Starting on the Lake 45, Beamon ran 14 yards for a first down at the Lake 31. On the next down, Beamon connected with Andrew Carter on a 31-yard TD pass. Beamon then found Dee Burnside for the two-point conversion and the Tornadoes trailed 43-38 with 3:08 remaining.

Lake took the ball and held it until the final buzzer.

Beamon rushed 12 times for 88 yards. He completed 6-of-14 passes for 55 yards, giving him 143 total yards for the night. Greer rushed 24 times for 120 yards and three touchdowns.

Warriors even record with 3-3 win over NE Lauderdale

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Choctaw Central Warriors defeated Northeast Lauderdale 40-20 Friday night to even their record at 3-3 on the season.

It was the Warriors' first Region 4-4A victory. They now stand at 1-2 in the region. The Warriors have two more games on their schedule as they host West Lauderdale this Friday and visit Leake County Thursday, Oct. 28.

Quarterback Eli Joe passed to Elias Bell for a 43-yard touchdown pass. Kashton Grisham kicked the extra point and the Warriors led 7-0 with 8:08 left in the first quarter.

Two plays later, the Warriors scored again, this time when the defense tackled a Trojan player in the end zone for safety. Choctaw Central led 9-0 with

7:13 remaining.

The Warriors took the free-kick and set up an eight-play, 51-yard scoring drive. Joe scored his second touchdown of the night as he bulled his way up the middle into the endzone for a touchdown.

Grisham's kick was true and the Warriors led 16-0 with 4:18 left in the first quarter.

The Trojans got on the scoreboard early in the second quarter on an 11-yard TD pass play. The kick failed and Choctaw Central led 16-6 with 11:51 left in the second quarter.

That's how it stood until late in the second quarter. Joe passed to Taiton Stokes on an 18-yard TD pass play. Grisham kicked the extra point and the Warriors led 23-6 with 1:47 left in the half.

Northeast Lauderdale returned the



Photo by BRADLEY ISAAC

Warriors quarterback Eli Joe (30) pushes a Northeast Lauderdale defender away as he looks for a receiver.

ensuing kickoff for the touchdown.

The kick was good and at the half, Choctaw Central led 23-13.

Channing Jimmie scored the first points of the third quarter on a six-yard run. Grisham's kick was good and the Warriors led 30-13 with 5:36 left in the third quarter.

Northeast Lauderdale received a fumble which set up their final scoring drive of the game. An offside penalty moved the Trojans inside the five-yard line and they scored on the next play. The kick was good, making the score 30-20 with 2:11 left in the third quarter.

The Warriors scored their final points in the fourth quarter. Jimmie scored on a five-yard run on the first play of the fourth quarter. Grisham kicked the extra point and late kicked a 35-yard field goal to end the scoring.

Northeast Lauderdale falls to 1-7 overall and 0-3 in the region.

Rockets to battle Gators for Region 2-5A championship

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Region 2-5A championship will be on the line Friday night when the Neshoba Central Rockets play host to the Vicksburg Gators in prep football action.

The Rockets took a 49-13 region victory over Jim Hill Friday night in Jackson. They stand at 8-0 overall and 6-0 in the region. The Gators stand at 7-2 overall and 6-0 in the region. Vicksburg beat Ridgeland 36-14 last week. Their losses have come to Germantown and Warren Central. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

"It's coming to be a big one," Rockets coach Patrick Schoolar said. "It is going to determine first and second place in the division. They play a different style of football than we



Photo by STEPHANIE WARD PEEBLES

Neshoba Central's Ja'Naylon Duprees picks up yardage after catching a pass Friday night.

have seen all year. They are big and are run heavy. They play out of a dou-

ble wing option. We'll see if we can slow them down and outscore them."

The Rockets scored all of their points against Jim Hill in the first half.

The Rockets got an early start as Ja'Naylon returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown. Hunter Bavetta kicked the extra point and the Rockets led 7-0 with 11:39 left in the first quarter.

Neshoba Central scored again with Elijah Ruffin picked up a fumble and returned it one yard for a touchdown. Bavetta's kick was good and the Rockets led 14-0 with 5:21 left in the first quarter.

As the second quarter ran down, Anderson connected with Dupree on a 68-yard TD pass play. Bavetta kicked the extra point and the Rockets carried a 49-7 lead in at halftime.

The Rockets did not score in the second half. The game was played with a running clock. Coach Schoolar played his reserve players throughout the two quarters.

Jim Hill scored in the fourth quarter when they returned a fumble 15 yards for a touchdown. The extra point was no good.

The Rockets finished the night with nine first downs and 566 total yards. Anderson completed 15-of-19 passes for 366 yards. Ruffin had four catches for 68 yards. Dupree had six catches for 192 yards.

Ruffin had one tackle, one assist and a recovery for a touchdown. Jahron Griffin had four tackles, two assists and a quarterback hurry. Jashawn Mathis had four assists and a forced fumble. Mark Kirkland had three tackles and three assists.

Leake Academy rallies to beat Heritage

By **ROBBIE ROBERTSON**
sports@neshobademocrat.com

In a battle of the top two teams in Class 5A, the Leake Academy Rebels showed why they are the defending champions.

The Rebels overcame a fourth-quarter deficit and scored 14 unanswered points to take a 35-28 win over Heritage on Friday night.

With the win, the Rebels improve to 8-1 on the season and will travel to Meridian on Friday in the regular-season finale. Heritage suffered their first loss and fell to 8-1 on the season.

Leake Academy coach Brian Pickens said he was proud of how his team responded and come back from multiple deficits.

"I'm really proud of the kids," Pickens said. "We knew going into it that it was going to be a battle. I was proud of how our kids responded all night.

Our defense did a good job of forcing some punts and some turnovers. Our offensive line did a good job. We knew they were going to give us multiple fronts and a lot of different looks. Their defense is really good and gets overlooked because of their offense. Our kids went down twice but didn't panic. They have been down before and know how to win."

Heritage got the ball to start the game. Leake forced the Patriots to punt. The Rebels got the ball at the Heritage 38 and put together a 10-play drive, all on the ground. Rhett Atkinson capped off the drive with a 3-yard run on fourth down with 6:03 left in the first quarter. Cole Arthur kicked the PAT and Leake led 7-0 early.

Heritage answered right back as they hit a 63-yard touchdown pass and kicked the PAT to tie the game at 7-7.

The score stayed at 7-7 until the middle of the second quarter when the Patriots went 80 yards

in five plays. After big plays of 30 and 20 yards, the Patriots scored on a 15-yard pass with 7:18 left in the second. The PAT was blocked and Heritage led 13-7.

The Patriots got the ball back on an interception but the Leake defense held on fourth down. The Rebels then answered as Atkinson hit Levi Brown on a 56-yard touchdown pass with 45 seconds left in the half. Arthur kicked the PAT and Leake led 14-13 at the half.

"Rhett did a good job of throwing the football," Pickens said. "He had a couple of big throws and the one before the half was really big. That gave us the momentum going into the half. We then took that momentum and went up 21-13. I told the kids at halftime they were going to respond. It was like a heavyweight fight that just kept going back and forth."

The two teams swapped punts to begin the second half. On their second possession,

Leake went 75 yards in nine plays as Atkinson called his own number again and scored on a 22-yard run with 5:10 left in the third. Arthur's PAT was good and Leake led 21-13.

The Patriots answered right back with an eight-play, 80-yard drive. After a big 43-yard gain, Heritage scored on a 1-yard run with 2:11 left in the third. The Patriots then converted the two-point attempt to tie the game up at 21-21.

The Rebels gave the ball right back on a fumble. The Patriots needed just three plays to go 26 yards as they scored on a 12-yard touchdown pass. The Patriots kicked the PAT and led 28-21 with 1:12 left in the third quarter.

The Rebels answered with a nine-play, 59-yard drive, thanks to some hard running by Welch who had runs of 8, 11, 6 and 2 yards. Atkinson finished off the drive with a 1-yard run with 9:54 left in the fourth. Arthur's PAT failed and Heritage led 28-

27. The Rebels forced Heritage into a three-and-out on the next series. The Rebels got the ball at their own 32 and Atkinson hit Brown on a 60-yard pass, giving the Rebels the ball at the Heritage 8. Welch then ran it in from the 8 with 7:25 left in the fourth. Atkinson then hit Aiden Watkins on the two-point conversion and Leake retook the lead at 35-28.

Leake turned Heritage over on downs on the Patriots next possession. The Patriots got one last possession and were inside Leake territory when Bryce Watkins recovered a fumble to end the threat and give Leake the win.

Leake had 363 yards of total offense with 218 yards rushing. Atkinson led the rushing attack with 78 yards on 19 carries while Canon Parks had 77 yards on 22 carries. Welch had 63 yards on 12 carries.

Atkinson was 5-of-13 passing for 145 yards. Brown had a

big night with two catches for 116 yards while Gavin White had two catches for 19 yards. Camden Marble had one catch for 10 yards.

On defense, Kade Marble had five solo tackles and three assists to lead the defense while Nick Gomillion had four solo tackles and one assist. Bryce Watkins had two solo tackles and five assists while Riley Myers had two solo tackles and four assists. Dylan Jones had one solo tackle and four assists while Aiden Watkins and Joseph Scott each had two solo tackles and one assist.

The Rebels return to action this week as they travel to Meridian to take on Lamar with the District 2-5A championship on the line.

If the Rebels win, they will be the 2-5A champions and the No. 1 seed in the playoffs. They will have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Farmer, Lady Warriors open with Choctaw Classic

By **STEVE SWOGETINSKY**
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Kyla Farmer will be the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors' only returning starter when they open the 2021-2022 season on Oct. 30 against Quitman in the annual Choctaw Central Classic on Saturday, Oct. 30.

Farmer said she is ready to go.

"In June, we spend a lot of time together, playing together and getting used to playing together," Farmer said. "At the end of the month, we had started clicking and seeing who plays well together."

"The younger girls haven't experienced playing on the varsity team but they are starting to get the hang of it. We will probably struggle early but once we get the hang of it, we'll be OK."

Six games will be played this year at the Classic. Here is the lineup:

- 9 a.m. Union girls vs. Kemper County;
- 10:30 a.m. Southeast Lauderdale girls vs. Scott Central;
- Noon St. Martin girls vs. Northeast Lauderdale;
- 1:30 p.m. South Pontotoc girls vs. Northwest Rankin;
- 3 p.m. Choctaw Central girls vs. Quitman;

• 4:30 p.m. Choctaw Central boys vs. South Pontotoc.

The Lady Warriors are coming off a 25-4 season which saw them make it to the finals of the Class 4A state championship tournament where they lost a 55-52 decision to Pontotoc. Choctaw Central went cold in the third quarter and trailed by 10. They battled back and were a 3-point shot away from tying the game.

"There were a lot of emotions after that loss," Farmer said. "It was hard on the previous players who aren't coming back."

"The loss made me want it more this year," Farmer said. "We want to go back. Some of our players were on the bench and some were JV players who are moving up this year."

Farmer said she has been playing basketball all of her life.

"I really started focusing on basketball in the seventh grade," Farmer said. "I love this sport and I want to get better. It was a lot of pushing myself. You can't go out one day and say I did good and that's it. You have to work and steadily improve."

After the Classic, the Lady Warriors open the regular season at home on Nov. 2 against Neshoba Central.

Union Yellow Jackets swarm Forest Bearcats in 35-14 district win

By **BEN LAND**
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Fall was in the air, so it was time for football as the Forest Bearcats fell to Union Yellow Jackets 35-14 Friday night.

Much of the first quarter was a defensive struggle. With 51 seconds remaining in the first quarter, Union scored on a fumble recovery by Carlos Hickmon. He ran for 10 yards on the fumble recovery into the Prom-

ised Land. The PAT was good by Latayveon Wilson. At the end of the first quarter, Union led 7-0.

The second quarter began with a 56-yard run by Kenyon Clay. Ky'Yon Harris capped off the quick scoring drive with a 1-yard rushing touchdown. Wilson nailed another PAT and the score stood at 14-0 in favor of the Jackets.

The Bearcats answered quickly with a 42-yard pass that

resulted in a touchdown. The kick was blocked and Union led 14-6. With 49 seconds to go in the first half, the Bearcats pulled off a 4th down 23-yard touchdown run. Forest decided to go for a two-point conversion and they were successful. The score was tied at 14 going into halftime.

The starting drive for the Jackets in the third quarter began with a 66-yard run by Kenyon Clay. Two plays later,

Clay found pay-dirt. Wilson continued his series of successful PAT conversions. With 10:46 in the third quarter, the Jackets regained the lead at 21-14.

The Jackets kicked off to the Bearcats. Forest had a quick three and out. They punted to the Jackets. With 6:41 to go Clay made a 23-yard touchdown run. Wilson continued his excellent PAT kicks. The score stood with Union in the lead 28-

14. After a defensive stand, the Jackets received the punt by the Bearcats. With 3:00 to go in the third, Clay ran 56 yards to the house. Wilson successfully kicked yet another PAT and Union led 35-14.

The fourth quarter was scoreless for both teams. The Jackets' dominance both offensively and defensively was reflected in the statistics for the game.

Offensively, Clay was the

top Jacket performer. He rushed for 206 yards and three touchdowns.

Carlos Hickmon led the Jacket running backs with 114 yards. Ky'Yon Harris had a rushing touchdown.

The Jackets now stand at 2-1 in district play. Union will return home for a district match-up with the Clarkdale Bulldogs next Friday.

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