

SPORTS

LADY ROCKETS CONTINUE TO DOMINATE ON THE COURT

Basketball roundup — Page 10A

COOK OF THE WEEK DRAUGHON COOKS WITH CREATIVITY

Caitlin Draughon — Page 9A



THE NESHOBA DEMOCRAT

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Philadelphia, Mississippi

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

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WEATHER

Propane truck in ditch after ice storm

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@neshobademocrat.com

Freezing temperatures last week led to ice on the roads and school closures but there were no reports of serious injuries or damage.

Neshoba County Emergency Management Director Darrell Wilson said this week that there are no lingering issues from the winter weather that caused temperatures to plummet Monday and continue through Wednesday morn-

"It seems everything is back to normal," Wilson said.

The National Weather Service in Jackson reported a high temperature of 29 degrees Fahrenheit in Meridian on Jan 16, with a low of 16

degrees. Just four days earlier, the high was 71 degrees in Meridian.

The NWS reported that 11 degrees on Wednesday morning was the lowest temperature recorded during the peri-

Wilson said icy roads were the only issue he is aware of in Neshoba County.

Philadelphia, Neshoba County, and Tribal schools were closed on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Wilson said roads were

clear of ice by Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

Sheriff Eric Clark said his office had reports of minor incidents due to the ice "scattered across the county" but

See ICE, page 3A



The hit trio Chapel Hart is performing a sold-out show Saturday at the Ellis.

CONGRESS OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Chapel Hart to headline Saturday show at the Ellis

By JACE HENDERSON jace@neshobademocrat.com

Despite the icy chill that January brought to the South last week, the Ellis Theater is set to ignite a burning love of warmth and excitement with its next series of shows.

Chapel Hart, featuring special guest Daniel Sharp, will take the spotlight to a sold-out show this Saturday, Jan. 27, at

Consisting of sisters Danica and Devynn Hart along with cousin Trea Swindle, Chapel Hart has found a way to gift wrap their Mississippi roots with Louisiana spice, creating a musical experience that transcends boundaries.

From their early childhood days harmonizing in Harts Chapel near Poplarville, this dynamic trio has

evolved into a world-class group, delivering a live band experience that captivates audiences nationwide. They performed at last year's Neshoba County

Their ability to evoke emotions with tender ballads and then transition into energetic, hard-hitting music has garnered them thousands of fans globally and hundreds of thousands of online viewing their performances.

Valentine's Day at the Ellis is set to be extraordinary, with a special sweetheart screening of "Viva Las Vegas" on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Immerse yourself in a romantic

evening with Elvis, promoters say, as Angie Marchese, vice president of Archives & Exhibits at Graceland, is planning a trip to Philadelphia to host a showing of this 1964 film.

For an enchanting educational experience, don't miss Bill Blagg's Magic in Motion shows on Friday, Feb. 16 at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

This visually captivating, interactive show blends magic with the wonders of physical science, providing students with an unforgettable exploration of how science creates magic right before their eyes, according to promoters.

Closing out February on a high note, The Mavericks will grace the stage on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 8 p.m., and The PNC Arts Council is set to present "Tarzan the Musical" with shows from Thursday, Feb. 29 through Sunday, March 3.

With limited seats available for The Mavericks show, reach out to Natalie or Loretta at (601) 653-5358 or visit Ticketmaster to secure tickets.

Looking ahead, The Kentucky Headhunters with special guest The Georgia Thunderbolts, are set for an electrifying performance on Saturday, Mar. 9, at 8 p.m., and comedian Henry Cho will bring laughter to the crowd with a comedy show on Saturday, Mar.

In early April, Del McCoury will take the stage on Friday, Apr. 5, and Connie Smith will pay tribute to Merle Haggard by singing alongside husband Marty Stuart on Saturday, Apr. 6.

The Ellis Theater team promises to make 2024 an unforgettable year, offering a diverse lineup of performances that cater to every taste while leaving lasting memories.

■ For more information, visit congressofcountrymusic.org.

CITIZENS Bank sells, leases back 3 properties

By STAFF REPORTS news@neshobademocrat.com

The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia has announced it has executed an agreement for the sale-leaseback of three of its properties in Ocean Springs, Hattiesburg, and Starkville.

The properties will be sold for an aggregate cash purchase price of about \$11 million, the bank said in a press release this

The publicly-traded Citizens (CIZN), founded here in 1908, expects to realize a pre-tax gain of about \$4.5 million (after transaction-related expenses), officials said, noting the transaction closed on Jan. 19.

"The properties identified in this transaction fit within the Company's long-term strategic plan," said Phillip Branch, chief financial officer. "We sold the branches and immediately leased them back. Operations in those locations will not change one bit. Business as usual.

"The current market conditions, combined with the terms of the leaseback agreement, make this a very positive move for the Company both in the near and long term. This sale only strengthens our balance sheet and allows us to continue to pursue organic growth and future transactions that bolster the Company's existing value. We do not expect any interruption to our current operations and plan to carry out existing growth plans within our leased space at the facility.

"Furthermore, this transaction provides flexibility and allows us to realize value within

See BANK, page 2A

FACEBOOK HOAX

Rural internet signup said to be fake news

By JACE HENDERSON jace@neshobademocrat.com

Social media posts about Neshoba County residents being able to sign up for broadband internet services through East Mississippi Electric Power Association (EMEPA) are false, offi-

cials have said. A false Facebook post says, "If you live in Neshoba County and are serviced by Central Electric, please go to this link that is with East Mississippi Connect and sign up saying you have interest in this internet. It will be the only chance rural Neshoba County has to have broadband internet. This only takes 2 minutes. SignUp - East

Mississippi Connect. According to East MS Connect, the information is not accurate and did not originate from East MS Connect or EMEPA.

"Although we understand the See INTERNET, page 2A

OPINION

Charles Hurt

PAGE 4A

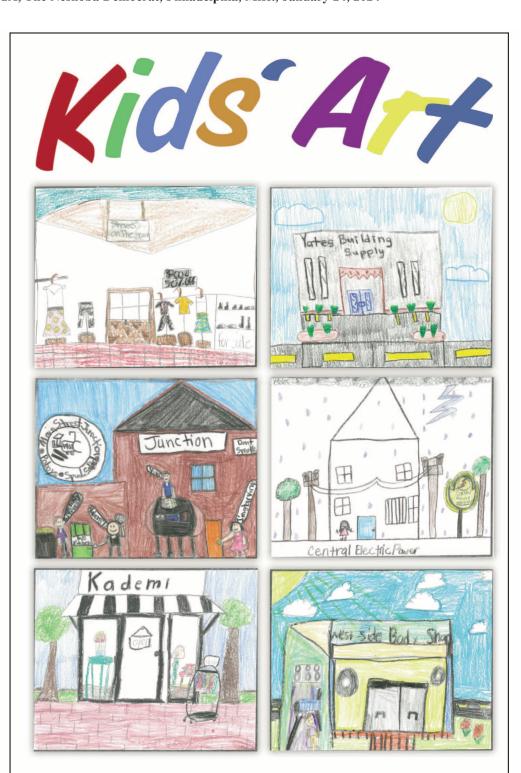
JUST AMONG FRIENDS Marianne Enochs

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OPINION Cal Thomas

PAGE 4A





DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 4

For More Information Contact

Samantha McMullan - 601.656.4000

samantha@neshobademocrat.com





Chestnut Street west of Lewis Avenue is closed through the summer due to ongoing construction on county property near the county jail.

Chestnut Street closed due to construction near the jail

By JACE HENDERSON jace@neshobademocrat.com

Chestnut Street west of Lewis Avenue is closed due to construction work at the Neshoba County Emergency Management facility.

Damage caused by heavy truck traffic hauling dirt has contributed to the problem, officials have said.

Construction work began in September to make room to house equipment, supplies, and storage of county records. Work is anticipated to be completed this summer, but Chestnut Street is closed to thru traffic until then, officials said.

Despite efforts by the Philadelphia Street Department to patch the road, it remains in disrepair, mainly because it was not designed for heavy truck traffic.

According to officials, the road will not be fully repaired until the entire project is finished.

Barricades and road closure signs have been strategically

placed allowing limited access for drivers needing to reach the jail and Emergency Management facility.

"I would not recommend going that way unless you absolutely have to," said Patrick Gray, superintendent of the Philadelphia Street Department. "Right now, the road is closed off to the general public due to safety concerns that cannot be addressed until after construction is complete."

Aldermen reject local web designer

BY JACE HENDERSON jace@neshobademocrat.com

A proposal by a local media company to redesign the city's website was rejected by aldermen in a 3-2 vote last week.

Over the past few months, discussions have centered around a proposal by Thrash Media to redesign and manage the city of Philadelphia's website philadelphiathecity.com.

Hunter Thrash, the owner of Thrash Media, presented a proposal in November outlining the redesign and content migration for \$920. An additional yearly fee of \$215 was proposed for a new domain name and website builder platform.

Thrash Media would also receive a flat monthly rate of \$200 for ongoing website management, ensuring the site stays current with graphics, and information.

The city currently has a \$480 annual contract with U.S. Next for website management, prompting a discussion on whether to opt for local management or continue with the existing Jackson-based U.S. Next, which bills itself as the largest web development firm in Mississippi, with more than 800 clients in 24 states.

Ward 1 Alderman Justin Clearman and Ward 3 Alderman Jim Fulton voted in favor of hiring Thrash Media, emphasizing the potential for a more updated and visually appealing website.

"From his proposal, the website is going to be more updated.

look better, flow better, and there is potential to handle some social media down the road," Clearman said.

Clearman then motioned for approval, but Alderman-at-Large James Waltman, Ward 4 Alderman Shaun Seales, and Ward 3 Alderman James Tatum expressed reservations and ultimately voted against the motion to hire Thrash.

Waltman questioned the need for change, citing the comprehensive information already available on the current website, and compared the current hosting cost of \$40 per month to Thrash Media's \$200 per month proposal.

"T've looked at our website and I can't figure anything that would need to be on the website that the city has not already posted on there," Waltman said. "Anything pertaining to this city and this county you can hit a button and get it off our website right now."

Clearman's motion was seconded by Fulton who said, "Thrash is local to our community, and I think he would be an asset. I feel like he would do a good job promoting this city."

Despite Clearman and Fulton advocating for Thrash, the final vote was 3-2 against hiring Thrash, with Waltman, Seales, and Tatum voting against the motion.

In other matters, aldermen voted to:

• Approve a motion to allow Allen Engineering to apply for a grant for a fuel truck of up to \$100,000 attributed to the city. The motion was approved unanimously;

• Approve a motion to pay Allen Engineering invoice totaling \$1,437.50 on the Runway Seal Coat Airport project. The motion was approved unanimously;

 Approve a motion to pay Allen & Hoshall invoice totaling \$420 for a CDBG project. The motion was approved unanimously;

• Approve a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with MDOT regarding work on the Lakeside Drive and Weyerhaeuser Street bridges. The motion was approved unanimously;

• Approve a motion to give Willie Evans with the Street Department a \$1 per hour probationary raise. The motion was approved unanimously;

• Approve a motion to repair a CAT 420 backhoe used by the Street Department. The motion was approved unanimously;

• Approve a motion to allow the placement of a pick-up box on Byrd Ave for business usage. The motion was approved unanimously;

• Approve a motion to give Wayne Rogers with the Sanitation Department a \$1 per hour probationary raise. The motion was approved unanimously;

• Approve a motion to accept \$2,000 from the Neshoba Branch of the National Deer Association for the Police Department. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bank

Continued from page 1A

the balance sheet and enhance earning assets over time."

Branch added, "We 100% focused on the continued support of the surrounding communities for many years

to come."

Citizens Holding Company is a one-bank holding company and the parent com-

pany of the bank, both head-

quartered in Philadelphia.
"We sold the branches and immediately leased them back," Branch said. "Operations in those locations will not change one bit. Business

(USPS 377-160)

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Internet

Continued from page 1A

frustration of residents in areas that do not have access to broadband services, as a notfor-profit electric cooperative, EMEPA must maintain our focus on serving our members," EMEPA officials said.

East MS Connect primarily provides services to Winston, Kemper, Lauderdale, and Clarke counties and small portions of surrounding counties along the edge of the service area that EMEPA serves.

Neshoba County is served by the Central Electric Power Association.

"EMEPA has received no funding to build a fiber network outside of our service area and is not financially able to take on such a project currently," officials said. "We believe cooperatives should work to serve the best interests of their communities as we have done for EMEPA members, and we encourage residents of Neshoba County to work with their local community leaders to find the best solution to meet their community's needs."

MERIDIAN REGIONAL AIRPORT

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A Herring propane truck slid off Highway 19 North last week due to icy conditions.

Ice

Continued from page 1A

noted none resulted in serious damage or injury.

He said the most serious

NEW YEAR

Coming Soon JOHN M. MILLER,

CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT 601.650.199

Dr. Miller will see patients at **Neshoba Urgent Care - Family Medicine Clinic** Clinic Hours + Monday - Thursday 8am - 5pm Friday 8am - Noon

was a Herring propane truck that ran off Highway 19 North near the intersection with Marty Stuart Drive last Tuesday night.

"Probably took about an hour to get him going again," Clark said.

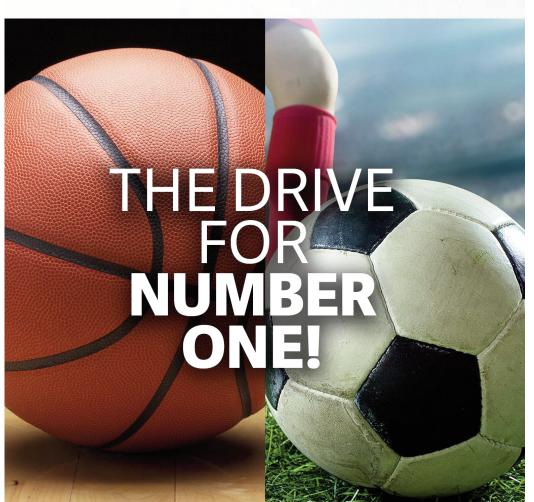
Clark said MDOT crews were spreading salt near where the truck was stuck.

Philadelphia Police Chief Eric Lyons said there were no serious weather calls or reports of injuries due to the ice in town.





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THE NESHOBA DEMOCRAT

AD



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9AM - 6PM

9AM - 5PM

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Opinion

FOUNDED 1881

THE NESHOBA DEMOCRAT

Truth, justice and progress, without fear or favor

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STEVE SWOGETINSKY, Sports Editor

ARTHUR STANLEY DEARMAN, Editor and Publisher 1966-2000 1932-2017

EDITORIALS

More expensive travel

The next destination for Spirit Airlines may be bankruptcy. The scrappy low-fare carrier denies it, but experts see this as the likely way out from billions in debt. You can thank the Biden administration and a federal judge in Massachusetts for this unfortunate state of affairs.

Last week, U.S. District Judge William G. Young sided with the Justice and Transportation departments in deciding to shoot down the proposed merger between Jet-Blue Airways and Spirit. These low-cost aviation underdogs intended to unite their strengths to become a more disruptive force in the marketplace, better able to force the likes of American, Delta and United to up their game — and lower their fares — to compete.

Those big players stopped worrying after Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced his intention to invoke antitrust laws to block the deal. "We can use this authority to combat anticompetitive practices that fall outside of antitrust laws," he said in a speech, "and do so at their incipiency, before the negative impact ripples across the market.'

It's a bit unclear how allowing the nation's sixth-largest airline to combine with the seventh-largest could possibly create a monopoly worthy of invoking trust-busting power. There are a lot of ways to measure an airline's strength, but a good place to start is the size of its jet fleet.

JetBlue operates 280 aircraft, and Spirit has 202, for a total of 482 combined. American, Delta and United have an average of 960 jets each. A merged JetBlue-Spirit would still be half the size of any of the three big players.

That's why American, Delta and United are relieved. They realize they won't have

to improve service to stay competitive. From their own history, they know relative newcomers grow into major players through mergers. Famous names from the past such as Continental, Northwest, TWA and US Airways faded from memory as they were folded one by one into the American, Delta and United we know today.

When airlines join forces, they gain access to three critical and difficult-toacquire resources: pilots, airplanes and landing slots at key airports. By integrating those resources, Spirit and JetBlue would have more national reach. The deal made even more sense as both companies made the same decision to keep costs down by flying one type of long-haul jet from Airbus. This means pilots and mechanics wouldn't need to go through the expensive process of learning to deal with multiple systems.

Of course, the biggest winner in a blocked merger isn't the incumbent airlines, it's the Transportation Workers Union, which a year ago wrote to inform Mr. Buttigieg and Attorney General Merrick Garland of "the possibility that hardfought collective bargaining agreements — which also enhances customer experience — may be at risk" from the JetBlue-Spirit deal.

Labor bosses would rather see a company go down under the weight of bloated union contracts than see their influence diminish in a reformed company with the strength required for survival. And when unions call, the administration answers – even if that sends "negative impact ripples" across the market or increases costs for consumers.

— The Washington Times

CAL THOMAS

Democrats and abortion

With the economy, the border and foreign policy not working for them in this election cycle, Democrats are counting on the abortion issue to save their hides in Novem-

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) has announced a "Winning Pro-Life Strategy" to counter their game plan. In a memo reported by The Washington Times, Rubio says Republicans "need to develop and fight for a compassionate, profamily agenda that counters caricatures of our beliefs and makes life easier for mothers and their children. Second, we need to put Democrats on the defensive about their extreme support for abortion. Third, we need to tell the truth about what abortion is – the taking of innocent life - and advocate for limits to the practice."

A fourth way could be approaching the issue from an angle rarely heard in the ongoing abortion debate. Melissa Ohden is doing that. Her new book, "Abortion Survivors Break Their Silence," tells the stories of several women and men who survived abortions, along with the backstories of who and what persuaded their mothers to terminate their pregnancies.

Ohden says she survived a saline abortion and was put aside to die but was saved by a nurse who took her to a neonatal intensive care unit. Now in her 40s, married with two daughters, she writes: "The truth has been swept so far under the rug that abortion survivors are silenced, or just plain ignored. The same is true about almost anyone whose experience doesn't support the popular narrative

Democrats are counting on the abortion issue to save their hides in November:

that abortion is synonymous with women's empowerment."

The book is not a political screed, but personal accounts of healing and reconciliation between the women who at first wanted to get rid of "The Dreaded Complication," as some abortion doctors call those who survive, and their sons and daughters.

Ohden writes about her mother being pressured by her mother, an ob-gyn nurse, into having an abortion in 1977. Her grandmother, she says, was able to bypass normal procedures at a local hospital to fast track her abortion. Many years later after meeting her birth mother, she writes about their reconciliation.

When Ohden discovered she was not alone in her experience, she founded the Abortion Survivors Network.

Ohden quotes a 1981 story in the Philadelphia Inquirer: "(Abortion live births) are little known because organized medicine, from fear of public clamor and legal action, treats them more as an embarrassment to be hushed up than a problem to be solved."

The number of abortion survivors in the U.S. is unknown, but Canada and Australia are among countries that keep records. While their numbers are relatively small, Ohden notes every life is precious and none of those whose stories she tells regrets being given a chance at life.

One of the few abortion survival stories that made national news, because it was too grisly to ignore, was about Philadelphia abortion doctor Dr. Kenneth Gosnell, who was convicted of murdering babies that survived abortions in his rogue clinic by "snipping" their spinal cords. He was sentenced in 2013 to three life terms in prison.

Instead of cowering in fear or arguing about the number of gestational weeks after which abortions should be limited or outlawed, Republicans and pro-lifers should attach the left's favorite word "extreme" to pro-choice Democrats. Why don't they do more to support adoption? Why won't congressional Democrats vote for "The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act," which passed the Republican majority House a year ago, but has languished in the Democrat majority Senate?

During campaigns, Republicans – from their presidential nominee to House and Senate races - should feature abortion survivors. Polls show a large majority of Americans want some restrictions on abortion after viability. They would likely support protections for survivors of abortion if they were aware of them.

Republicans should follow Melissa Ohden's example and help her tell their stories.

Email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com. Look for Cal Thomas' latest book Watchman in the Night: What I've Seen Over 50 Years Reporting onAmerica" (HumanixBooks).

RICH LOWRY

Jack Smith is an arsonist

Jack Smith is a threat to American democracy.

He is blatantly seeking, as a prosecutor, to influence the outcome of the 2024 election. This is not his role and, in fact, is against Justice Department guidelines. If Smith succeeds. the consequences will be longlasting — the special counsel will have delivered a devastating blow to the legitimacy of our electoral system, in the name of defending it.

Donald Trump and his allies were able to fashion a narrative of a rigged election in 2020 with much less material than Jack Smith is now going to give them in 2024.

He clearly is not playing it straight, and is not proceeding at anything like a normal pace. Fairly routine Jan. 6 cases have taken longer to get from indictment to trial. There is no reason that the question of criminal immunity — a big, consequential question never taken up directly by the Supreme Court — needs to be decided with lightning-quick

rapidity. Of course, Smith has to worry that Trump will get elected again and, as president, squash the case. This was a foreseeable eventuality, though, and the Justice Department could have addressed it by indicting Trump years ago. It didn't only recently emerge, after all, that Trump gave a speech on Jan. 6 to a crowd that went on to storm the U.S. Capitol.

Once the timing of the case pushed hard up against a national election in which Trump was likely to run, forbearance would have been the proper and public-spirited course.

Smith's prosecution would be much more consequential than, say, how Twitter handled the Hunter Biden laptop story prior to the election in 2020.

Trump didn't shoot someone on Fifth Avenue. He engaged in unworthy and impeachable acts, but nothing that is straightforwardly criminal. There was no reason that this absolutely had to be prosecuted no matter what; at best, the case is discretionary.

But influencing the outcome of the election is clearly a feature, not a bug, for Smith and his minders.

There is no way President Biden, Merrick Garland, Jack Smith and Judge Tanya Chutkan would be going down this route if they thought doing so would help Donald Trump become president again. But nearly everyone assumes that a conviction would, at a minimum, hurt Trump's chances and perhaps destroy them.

The posture of the Biden administration is, basically, it'd be really awful if Republicans supported a felon for president, and, by the way, we are going to move heaven and earth to make your likely candidate a felon.

Democrats fear losing the election but apparently haven't thought about what it would mean to win this way, or maybe they just don't care.

Now, if he loses, Trump won't accept the result, even if it is a strictly by-the-books affair, and his rhetoric will be angry and irresponsible. But after a conviction and a 2024 loss, Trump would have legitimate reason to complain — to wit, he was targeted in a politicized prosecution that succeeded in its goal of taking him down in a national elec-

Smith's prosecution would be much more consequential than, say, how Twitter handled the Hunter Biden laptop story prior to the election in 2020.

Imagine if, because Chutkan has to wait on a Supreme Court ruling on obstruction, the trial doesn't start until July or August, and a guilty verdict comes down in October? Smith will have fashioned a classic October surprise. Even on the current timetable, sentencing easily could take place in October. The most extreme scenario, of course, is that they actually jail Joe Biden's opponent.

And how do they expect any of this to be received by the roughly 47% of the country that would support Donald Trump in a rematch with Joe Biden? Are these people supposed to believe in the neutrality of Joe Biden's Justice Department, even though that's absurd, or simply accept that this is how the system works now?

Exactly how this plays out this year is impossible to predict, but what's clear is that Jack Smith has foolishly and unnecessarily set in motion a dangerous dynamic.

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

FLASHBACKS

January 28, 1944

Pvt. Moncreath Kennedy has been attached to the Medical Detachment of an Engineer Battalion at Camp Shelby, and writes that he "likes the Medicos okeh." He adds: "The Democrat really helps to pass the time away and kindly brings me back home in a way - keep the good work going.'

An appeal was made Saturday by Mayor W. Marshall Prince to Congressman Arthur Winstead to use his influence with the Fuel Administrator in Washington in an effort to relieve the critical Butane gas shortage in this city and nearby area, which is serviced by the Lott Furniture Company of this city.

January 28, 1954 Mayor Norman A. Johnson

Jr. has proclaimed next Friday, January 29, as Mothers' March on Polio Day in Philadelphia. Text of the Mayor's proclamation follows. Whereas, Friday, January 29, has been designated as the date for the Mothers' March on Polio, which will climax the 1954 March of Dimes.

An impressive installation service was held Thursday evening Jan. 14th in the Masonic Hall for officers of Philadelphia Chapter 91 Order of the Eastern Star in

the presence of a large group of members and visitors. The chapter was opened by the retiring Worthy Matron Mrs. Myrtis Richardson and Worthy Patron.

January 23, 1964

Tom Wallace Cox has been named county engineer by the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors, succeeding L. A. Conerly of Laurel. Mr. Cox, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Cox of the Sandtown community in Neshoba County, is a graduate of Mississippi State University, and has offices on the ground floor of the courthouse.

January 31, 1974 A bill which includes authorization of the proposed \$45 million Edinburg Reservoir in Neshoba County is expected to reach President Nixon's desk the second week in February.

January 25, 1984

An explosion early Sunday at Williamsville, believed to have been fused by dynamite, was under investigations by the Neshoba County Sheriff's Department.

January 26, 1994

A quick money scheme that tells how to turn \$1,500 into \$12,000 that has "spread like wildfire" in the Neshoba County area, has been declared illegal.

Petyon Manning, the middle son of Archie and Olivian Manning, verbally committed to Tennessee on Tuesday. Peyton is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper Williams of Philadelphia.

January 28, 2004

County supervisors said emphatically this week they want the \$3.6 million courthouse renovation finished but were still quibbling with the contractor over matters such as cleaning the outside steps and replacing ceiling tiles

January 29, 2014

Local legislators are among others supporting pay raises for teachers and other state employees but both have concerns about the financial and long term feasibility.

Tutoring is making a difference at Westside Community Center through the Neshoba Youth Coalition. More than 100 students in kindergarten through sixth grade have been reached through a mentoring program that places a strong emphasis on summer tutoring.

LETTERS

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

The Neshoba Democrat Publishing Co., Inc. 439 Beacon Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350 neshobademocrat.com Telephone: 601.656.4000

BIBLE SELECTION

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to vou. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8 (ESV)

OBITUARIES

Cathy Nicholson

There will be a private family funeral service for Ms. Cathy Nicholson.

Ms. Cathy S. Nicholson, 79, passed away Sunday, January 21, 2024 at Rush Hospital in Meridian, MS. She has lived in the Linwood Community since 1995, and she was a member of Dry Creek Baptist Church and ASAP. Her hobby was being an animal rescuer. Ms. Nicholson is preceded in death by her husbands, Clifton Reed and Horace Nicholson; parents, John William Swindle and Emmie Sullivan Swindle; sister, Mildred Conner; brother, Swindle; Survivors Richard Fulton. include, daughters, Debbie Alford (Rob) of TN, Jamie Smith (Wayne) of Preston, Cyndi Savell (Daniel) of Philadelphia, Rhonda Andress (David) of AL; (7) grandchildren; (21) grand-grandchildren.

Vickie Nell Holley

Funeral service for Ms. Vickie Nell Holley will be held at 1 PM Friday, January 26, 2024 at New Zion United Pentecostal Church with Rev. Bobby Edwards and Rev. Billy Patton officiating. Interment will be in East Lawn Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 11 AM Friday, January 26, 2024 at New Zion United Pentecostal Church. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Holley, 68, passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at Neshoba County Nursing Home. She was a member of New Zion UPC. She enjoyed singing and

Preceded in death by her parents Paul Edward Mathews, Jewel Jeanette Clark Mathews.

Survivors are daughter, Vickie Elaina Holley of Columbus; son, Adrian (Lori) Holley of Philadelphia; sister, Sandra Mathews of Philadelphia; brothers, Charles Edward Mathews of Brandon, Timothy Paul Mathews of Denham Springs, LA; 6 grandchildren; several nieces and

Deborah Sue Joiner

Memorial services for Mrs. Deborah Sue Joiner will be held at 2 PM Thursday, January 25, 2024, at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. Eric Helms officiating. Visitation will begin at 1 PM Thursday, January 25, 2024, at John E. Stephens Chapel. John E Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Joiner, 66, passed away Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at her home in Philadelphia, MS. She lived most of her life in Ohio but lived in Neshoba County for the past 2 Years. She was Baptist by faith, and her hobbies were horses and dogs.

She is preceded in death by her father, Chester Dombrowsky. Survivors include her husband, Albert Joiner of Philadelphia; daughter, Nicole Peterson of Ohio: son. Christopher Lee Peterson (Cara) of Ohio; mother, Betty Jarvie Victor; brother, James Victor of Ohio; (3) grandchildren.

Melvin Lee Yarbrough

Funeral services for Mr. Melvin Lee Yarbrough were held at 11 AM Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. Stevie Mosley officiating. Interment in Hopewell Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Yarbrough, 68, passed away Monday, January 8, 2024, at his residence in Neshoba County where he lived most of his life. He worked at Neshoba General Hospital as an Admission Clerk. He was a member of Hopewell Methodist Church. His hobbies were deer hunting, fish-

Preceded in death by parents, Wesley E.J. Yarbrough, Clara Miller, brothers, Tommy Miller, Yarbrough, George Yarbrough, Milton Yarbrough.

Survivors wife, Daphne Regina Yarbrough of Philadelphia; daughters, Bernice Thomas of Carthage, Deidra Pickens of Philadelphia, Miesha Yarbrough of Brandon; son, Robert Yarbrough of Philadelphia; brothers, Albert Yarbrough of FL, James Yarbrough of Philadelphia; (10) grandchildren; (2) great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews.

John David Rogers

Graveside services for Mr. John David Rogers were held at 2 PM Sunday, January 21, 2024, at New Blackjack Cemetery John E. Stephens Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Rogers, 70, passed away Sunday, January 14, 2024, He lived most of his life in Philadelphia, MS. He was Veteran of the US Marine Corps, a Master Sergeant of the US Army National Guard. He was a member of Mars Hill Church, the DAV, VFW. He was a Veteran fire chief at Hope Fire Department, a Veteran member with Fairview Fire Department.

Preceded in death by parents, Johnny L. Rogers, Druesillar Rogers Neese; late wife, Linda Massey Rogers; daughter, Vonda Hollis; sister, Linda Bryan; brother, Robert Neese Jr.

Survivors: wife, Elaine Rogers; son, Johnny Rogers (Amanda); daughters, Pam Sharp (Robert), Cyndi Wilcher (Jimmy); numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, greatgreat-grandchildren; sisters, Virginia Drake (Troy), Jodie Cottles (Brian), a host of nieces and

Billy Derrell Edwards

Funeral services for Mr. Billy Derrell Edwards were held at 2 PM Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Golden Grove Church with Rev. Jason Cameron officiating. Interment in Golden Grove Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel was in charge of arrange-

Mr. Edwards, 56, passed away Sunday, January 14, 2024, in Neshoba County. He was a mechanic, and his hobbies were visiting and talking.

Mr. Edwards is preceded in death by his parents, Billy Ross Edwards, and Sallie Doris Sharp Edwards. Survivors include his son, Ashton Edwards of Philadelphia; sister, Jackie Griffin of Philadelphia; (Danny) nephews, Patrick Griffin of Philadelphia, Dylan Griffin of SC; niece, Destiney Edwards of Philadelphia.

Ramona Jean **Commer Woods**

Funeral services for Ms. Ramona Jean Commer Woods were held at 2 PM Friday, January 19, 2024, at Mars Hill Pentecostal Church. Interment in the church cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5-8 PM Thursday, January 18, 2024, at John E. Stephens Chapel.

Ms. Woods, 87, passed away Monday, January 15, 2024, at her home in Winston County where she lived most of her life. She was a member of Mars Hill Pentecostal Church. Her hobbies were fishing, gardening, and working in the yard.

Ms. Woods is preceded in death by her parents, Odie Ray Commer, and Hazel Inez Barrett Commer; sister, Joyce Commer Rushing, twin sisters, Ruby and Ruth Commer; grandson, Jason Woods.

Survivors include sons, Ricky Woods, Randy Woods; (4) grandchildren, Jeremy (Crisseta), Michael, Brent (Aimee) Woods, Michael Castle; (10) greatgrandchildren; (3) great-greatgrandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Jerry Lee Steve

Funeral service for Mr. Jerry Lee Steve will be held at 2 PM Friday, January 26, 2024 at Conehatta CERF Building with Bro. Tim Tubby officiating. Interment will be in the Conehatta Community Cemetery with Military Honors. Visitation will begin at 10 AM Thursday, January 25, 2024 at the Conehatta CERF Building.

Jerry Lee Steve was born on December 18, 1946 in Philadelphia, MS. The son of Sarah Jane Stephens and Curtis Steve, his spent part of his adult life working in the oilfield industry. Then, he worked at Choctaw Electronics in the Conehatta community for several years. He enjoyed watching his beloved Dallas Cowboys, playing cards, and telling jokes and stories with family and friends. He cherished his dogs and treated them as if they were extra children.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ŝarah Jane Stephens and Curtis Steve; his wife, Norma Steve: step-children Charles Briscoe, Herman Smith, John Smith, and Cynthia Smith Dixon; and granddaughter, Hayley

He is survived by his children: Kevin (Tasha) Steve, Cherie Steve, Cheryl Steve Smith, and Kimberly Števe; stepdaughter, Sharlene Vasquez; a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephew, and a great-grandson, Tushka Young, and great-granddaughter, Sienna Nichols and Mila Steve.

Quanelious Hayes

Funeral service for Mr. Quanelious Ke'Shawn Hayes was held on Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 2 P.M. from St. Paul M.B. Church, with Pastor Devertis Savage officiating. Burial was at the church cemetery. Beck Funeral Home, Inc was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hayes, 17, of Philadelphia, passed away on Saturday, December 30, 2023 in Hinds County, MS.

He is survived by his parents, Linda Hayes of Philadelphia, MS, and Quanelious Hayes of Meridian, MS, his stepfather, Wayne Phillips, one sister, Ellicia Rushing, two brothers, De'Avioun Hayes and Dewayne Phillips, Jr., his grandparents, Jannie Moore and Shirley Hayes, and two nephews.

Pallbearers were Tony Bingham, Eric Burkes, Albert Clemons, Dee Clemons, Ervin Bingham and Ervin Marshall.

Erica Hunter

Funeral service for Ms. Erica Sandria Hunter was held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 12 P.M. from Springhill M.B. Church in Union, with Elder Cleveland Jones officiating. Burial was at the church cemetery. Beck Funeral Home, Inc was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Hunter, 37, of Decatur, MS, passed away on Monday, January 18, 2024 at River Oaks Hospital in Jackson.

She is survived by her parents, Kimmie Jean Hunter and Herbie Thompson both of Union, MS, three sisters, KeHanna Holley of Union, MS, Bridgett and Laura McCreary of Moss Point, MS, three brothers, Nigel and Brock Hunter of Union, MS, and Harvey McMillian of Moss Point,

Pallbearers were Nigel Hunter, Harvey McMillian, James Jones, Brock Hunter, LaSalle Jones, Miles Jones, Matthew Holley and Willie Patrick.

Bobby H. Hardy

Funeral services for Bobby H. Hardy were held Sunday, January 21, at 2 p.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Rev. Mark Williams and Rev. Ronnie Gomillion officiating. Burial followed in North Bend Community Church Cemetery. Visitation was held Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 5 until 8 p.m. at McClain-Hays Funeral Home.

Mr. Hardy, 90, of Philadelphia, died Thursday, January 18,

Bobby was a native and longtime resident of Neshoba County. He worked for the USDA and later the MS Department of Agriculture and retired as a health inspector and compliance officer. He was also a cattle and tree farmer. Mr. Hardy was a member of North Bend Community Church where he had served on the Pastor Parish Relationship Committee, chairman of the board and on the Cemetery Committee. He had served in the United States Air Force.

Survivors include wife of 66 years, Joyce Barrier Hardy of Philadelphia; son, Mike Hardy (Sarah) of Nashville, TN; grandchildren; Madison Hardy Dennis (Daniel) and Michael Wilson

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Hardy (Caleigh) all of Nashville, TN; great-grandchildren, Olivia and Levi Dennis; siblings, Corrine Brantley, Jane Johnson, Lynda Wood, Narcy Walker, Nancy Williams and Jerry Hardy (Tommie); a host of nieces, nephews and their families.

Mr. Hardy was preceded in death by parents, Ollie and Sadie Hardy; brothers, J.C. and Ovett Hardy.

Pallbearers, Ken Johnson, Shane Hardy, Michael Hardy, Jerry Hardy, John David Williams and Allen Brantley.

Honorary Pallbearers, Mike McKay, Art Fulton, Al Fulton, Hugh Barrier, Jim Odle, Aldean Valentine, Kinsey Smith, Bunkie Smith, Danny Skinner, Ferrell Alexander, Richard Posey and Dennis Matkosky.

Reda Faye McDonald

Funeral services for Reda Faye McDonald were held Monday, January 22, 2024 at 11 a.m. from Coye Assembly of God Church with Rev. Ronnie Malone and Rev. Mitchell McDonald officiating. Burial followed in Coye Assembly Cemetery. Visitation was held Sunday, January 21, 2024 from 5 until 8 p.m. at McClain-Hays Funeral Home and at 10 a.m. until service time on Monday, January 22, 2024 at Coye Assembly of God Church.

Ms. McDonald, 78, of Preston, died Thursday, January 18, 2024 at her home.

Reda was a lifelong resident of the Preston Community in Kemper County. She worked at the blanket factory in DeKalb, Wells Lamont and Wal-Mart in Philadelphia and then became a caregiver. She loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and quilting. Ms. McDonald was a member of Coye Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include sons, Doug McDonald and Allen McDonald (Mary Lynn) both of Preston; grandchildren, Raney, Champ, and Ashlee McDonald of Preston and Sarah Higginbotham (Ben) of Philadelphia; great-grandchildren, Brycen, Kaylin and Caden Higginbotham and Riley Grace Hill; sisters, Roxie Richardson, Rachel Malone and Becky Smith; a host of nieces, nephews and their families.

Ms. McDonald was preceded in death by husband, Delane McDonald; mother, Loridia Williams; father, Carl "Buddy" Williams; sisters, Seretha Hartness, Naydean Haston and Barbara Kay Fanning.

Pallbearers, Shawn Luke, John Stokes, Jeff Goodin, Stan Copeland, Johnny Malone, Marty Malone, Lee McDonald and Ben Higginbotham.

Bro. Randall Boatner

Funeral services for Bro. Randall Boatner were held Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 11 a.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Rev. Steve Craft, Rev. Don Savell, Bro. Gary Caudill, Bro. Terrell Jackson, Bro. Scotty Boatner and Bro. Gary Lutrick officiating. Burial followed in Mars Hill

Beck **Funeral Homes & Cremation Services**

MS. ERICA SANDRIA HUNTER 12 P.M. SAT. JAN. 20, 2024 SPRINGHILL M.B. CHURCH, UNION **INTERMENT CHURCH CEMETERY**

MR. QUANELIOUS KE'SHAWN HAYES 2 P.M. SUN., JAN. 21, 2024 ST. PAUL M.B. CHURCH **INTERMENT** CHURCH CEMETERY

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

(601)-656-2472

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

Bro. Boatner, 73, of Philadelphia, died Wednesday, January

Bro. Randall was a native and longtime resident of Plattsburg Community of Winston County. He formerly worked as a commercial welder for Yates Construction and Taylor Machine Works. Bro. Boatner pastored Way of the Cross "Cowboy Baptist" Church in Plattsburg.

Survivors include his wife, Sandy W. Boatner; children, Angela Boatner, Randy Pauley, Amy Caudill (Gary) and Bob Boatner; 11grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and sister, Debra Counce.

Bro. Boatner was preceded in death by parents, Kimble Boatner and Marie Blount; brothers, Donnie and Ronnie Clyde Boatner.

Sue Johnson

Funeral services for Sue Johnson were held Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 2 p.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Rev. Dennis Duvall and Rev. Chester Carlisle officiating. Burial followed in Cedarlawn Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Johnson, 81, of Philadelphia, died Thursday, January 18,

Sue was a native and longtime resident of Neshoba County. She was a former owner/operator of the Family Restaurant in Philadelphia and a homemaker. Ms. Johnson was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

Survivors include son, Ken Watkins (Kim) of Philadelphia; granddaughters, Brittany, Kelsey and Sydney Watkins all of Philadelphia.

Ms. Johnson was preceded in death by parents, Hester and Jewel Ogletree.

Pallbearers, Matt Weems, Jody Atkins, Jason Graves, George Terry Sciple, Neil Chadwick, Dale Hancock, Jackie Farrow and Chris Stewart.

Diane Smith

Funeral services for Diane Smith were held Friday, January 19, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. from Antioch Baptist Church with Rev. Mike Skinner and Rev. David Richardson officiating. Burial followed in Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Smith, 76, of Calera AL., died January 15, 2024.

Diane was a native of Neshoba County and was a graduate of Neshoba Central High School and a graduate of ECCC. She worked in Administrative Accounting for most of her career. Mrs. Smith was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in House Community.



SERVICES JANUARY 19 ANTIOCH BAPTIST **CHURCH** INTERMENT ANTIOCH **CEMETERY**

SERVICES JANUARY 20 MCCLAIN-HAYS CHAPEL INTERMENT CEDAR-LAWN CEMETERY

BOBBY H. HARDY

SUE JOHNSON

SERVICES JANUARY 21 MCCLAIN-HAYS **CHAPEL** INTERMENT NORTH BENT COMMUNITY **CEMETERY**

REDA FAYE **MCDONALD SERVICES JANUARY 22** COYE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH COYE ASSEMBLY **CEMETERY**

BRO. RANDALL **BOATNER SERVICES JANUARY 23** MCCLAIN-HAYS **CHAPEL** INTERMENT MARS HILL CEMETERY WINSTON COUNTY



McClain-Hays Funeral Home

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Survivors include husband, James D. Smith; son, Steve Smith (Laura); two grandchildren; sister, Janice Alawine; brother, Roland Chisolm; numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by parents, Frank and Oneta Chisolm.

Pallbearers, Anderson Smith, Paul Payne, Mitchell Alawine, Tony Alawine, Jonathan Ryals and Christian Richardson.

Edna Faye Willis

Funeral services for Mrs. Edna Faye Willis were held at 10 AM Saturday, January 20, 2024, at her home-72 McFarland Road with Bro. Mark Patrick officiating. Interment was in the Bogue Homa Community Cemetery. Visitation was at 10 AM Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 72 McFarland Road. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Willis, 62, passed away Friday, January 12, 2024 at South Central Regional Hospital in Laurel, MS. Her hobbies included puzzle books, fishing, watching tv, cracking jokes and spending time with family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Wilkie Frazier, I and Bernice Thomas Frazier; daughter, Carolyn Smith.

Survivors include her husband, Dan Willis; daughter, Marion Smith; son, Eric Smith; sister, Valerie Kaminski; brother, Wilkie Frazier, II and Paul Frazier; 3 grandchildren and 1 greatgrandchild.

Pallbearers: Bruce Willis, Michael Briscoe, Cecil Thompson, Lydell Nickey, Lemuel Solomon, Pat Jones; honorary pallbearers are Troy Nickey, Jr., Nela Terrell, Alexander Hilt, Mark Frazier.



MS. RAMONA JEAN COMMER WOODS 2 PM FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024 MARS HILL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH MARS HILL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH **CEMETERY**

MRS. EDNA FAYE WILLIS 10 AM SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024 72 MCFARLAND ROAD. HEIDELBERG, MS 37439 **BOGUE HOMA COMMUNITY CEMETERY**

MR. BILLY DERRELL **EDWARDS** 2 PM SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024 **GRAVESIDE GOLDEN GROVE CEMETERY**

MR. JOHN DAVID ROGERS 2 PM SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024 **GRAVESIDE** NEW BLACK JACK CHURCH CEMETERY

MR. MELVIN LEE YARBROUGH 11 AM TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 JOHN E. STEPHENS **CHAPEL** HOPEWELL CEMETERY

MRS. DEBORAH SUE **JOINER** 2 PM THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 MEMORIAL SÉRVICE JOHN E. STEPHENS **CHAPEL**

MS. VICKIE NELL **HOLLEY** 1 PM FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024 **NEW ZION UNITED** PENTECOSTAL CHURCH EAST LAWN CEMETERY

MR. JERRY LEE STEVE 2 PM FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024 CONEHATTA CERF **BUILDING CONEHATTA** COMMUNITY **CEMETERY**

CATHY NICHOLSON PRIVATE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE

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CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY \$545 + Costs **CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY** Court Fees Up Front

JIM ARNOLD, ATTORNEY 601-656-6914

Public lotices

TITLE OF ABANDONMENT YEAR: 2015 MAKE: BMW MODEL: 328i DATE: 02/19/2024 TIME: 7:00 a.m. PLACE OF PUBLIC SALE: 11401 HWY 492 EAST UNION, MS 39365 MOORE'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR COST: 2150.06 VIN: WBA3A5C55FF606444 Lien: United Auto Credit Corp.

TITLE OF ABANDONMENT YFAR: 2014 MAKE: Chevrolet MODEL : Fauinox DATE, TIME, PLACE OF PUBLIC SALE: 02/22/2024 7:00 A.M. 11401 HWY 492 EAST UNION, MS 39365 MOORE'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR COST: 2135.45 VIN: 2GNALAEK2E6347038 LIEN:Mississippi Lending Services Cash Money

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NE-SHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADJUDICA-TION OF THE STATUTORY WRONGFUL DEATH BENEFICIARIES OF COLBY ALLEN BENEFIC MADDOX, F C E Α S E

RULE 4 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF NESHOBA

CAUSE NO. 23-31

TO: Any and all claiming to be a Wrongful Death Beneficiary of Colby Allen Maddox, Deceased, see under Miss. Code Ann. §11-7-13, and Any and all Persons Claiming or Having a Legal or Equitable Interest in the matter of Colby Allen Maddox,

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Petitioner Jason Lamar Maddox seeking a determination and adjudication by the Court of any and all wrongful death beneficiaries of Colby Allen Maddox, Deceased.

You are required to mail or hand-deliver a written response to the Petition in this action to Samantha D. Weathersbee, PO Drawer 668, Oxford, Mississippi 38655.

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE 24 th DAY OF JANUARY, 2024, WHICH IS THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT SO MAILED OR DELIVERED. A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE EN-TERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MON-EY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE PETITION.

You must also file the original of your Response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 12 day of January, 2024.

Gidget Stovall Tate. Chancery Clerk Neshoba County, Mississipp

BY: Ashley Duran **DEPUTY CLERK**

SECTION 00010

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Central Water Association

915 Valley View Drive, Philadelphia, MS

Separate Sealed Bids for the Construc-Tanks in Neshoba County, MS. Bids will be received by Central Water Association. herein called the "owner" at the office of Central Water Association until 10:00 AM local time February 22, 2024 and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS and CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

1. Central Water Association - 915 Valley View Drive, Philadelphia, MS 39350 (City Clerk's Office, Chancery Clerk's or Loan Recipient's Office)

2. Fontaine Engineering, LLC 107 E. Donald Street Ste. 9 Quitman, MS 39355 (601) 776-8910 (Consulting Engineer's Name. Office Address, Phone Number)

3. MSDH/DWSRF 570 E Woodrow Wilson Jackson MS (Call – David Murtagh 601-576-7518

The BID SCHEDULE may be examined at the following locations: A. Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program (MPTAP) Mississippi Development Authority, Minority & Small Business Development Woolfolk Building 501 North West Street, Suite B 01 Jackson, MS 39201 Contact: Secret Luckett, 601-359-2700

B. Contract Procurement Center closest to your project area; Natalie Purvis (601)

Specifications may be obtained Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 till 4:00 from Fontaine Engineering at: 107 E. Donald Street Suite 9 Quitman MS 39355, (601) 776-8910 for a deposit of \$200.00 per set non-refundable

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of 5% of the total bid price, as a quarantee that if the bid is accepted, the Bidder will enter into a contract and execute the Performance and Payment Bonds in the form and within the time specified.

The successful Bidder will be required to execute a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the Contract, issued by a Surety Company licensed to operate in the State and shall be named in the current list of "Companies Holding Certificates of Authority as Acceptable Sureties on Federal Bonds and as Acceptable Reinsuring Companies" as published in Circular 570 (amended) by the Audit Staff Bureau of Accounts, U.S. Treasury Department. Each Bidder shall have a Certificate of Responsibility to bid on contracts for public projects in which the bid price exceeds \$50,000.00 and for private projects in which the bid price exceeds \$100,000.00 as required by the laws of the State of Mississippi. Each Bidder shall show on the outside of the envelope containing his bid: his current certificate of responsibi lity number and expiration date or if applicable, a statement certifying that the bid enclosed does not exceed \$50,000.00 for a public project or \$100,000.00 for a private project. Failure to show these items on the outside of the envelope containing the bid will result in the bid being returned to Bidder unopened

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the non-resident Bidder's state awards contract to Mississippi Contractors bidding

Public lotices

under similar circumstances. In order to ensure that Mississippi's so called Golden Rule is followed, state law requires a non-resident Bidder to attach to his bid a copy of his resident state's current laws pertaining to such state's treatment of non-resident contractors.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of sixty (60) days after date of actual bid opening, without Owner's consent. The Owner reserves the right reject any or all proposals received to waive any informalities in the bids received, and to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to The Owner.

Minority and women's business enterprises are solicited to bid on this contract as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potentia subcontracting opportunities and equipment, material and/or supply needs

This contract is funded in whole or in part by funds as is established in the Safe Drinking Water Act's State Revolving Loan Funds (42 U.S.C. 300j-12); therefore, this project must comply with the American Iron and Steel requirements of the Act.

Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in whole or in part by anticipated funds from the Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund (DWSIRLF) Loan Program from the State of Mississippi. Neither the State of Mis sissippi, the Local Governments and Rural Water Systems Improvements Board, nor any of their employees is or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting or related contracts. This procurement will be subject to all applicable sections of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annoted, as they apply to local governments, in accordance with Appendix D of the DWSIRLF Program Regulations

BY: John Wilkerson, General Mgr. Central Water Association Publication Dates: January 17, 2024 January 24, 2024

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF NESHOBA

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated May 21, 2019, executed by SIDNEY M. BISH OP and SHELLY L. BISHOP conveying certain real property therein described to BRANNING LAW FIRM, P.A., as Trustee for MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGIS-TRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS BENEFI-CIARY, AS NOMINEE FOR CARDINAL FINANCIAL COMPANY, LIMITED PART-NERSHIP, Original Beneficiary, to secure the indebtedness therein described, as same appears of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County Mississippi filed and recorded May 21. 2019, in Deed Book 2019, Page 4382;

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was transferred and assigned to WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB. AS TRUSTEE OF STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST

WHEREAS, Rubin Lublin, LLC has been appointed as Substitute Trustee; and NOW, THEREFORE, the holder of said Deed of Trust, having requested the un-dersigned so to do, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee shall, on March 13, 2024 within the lawful hours of sale between 11:00AM and 4:00PM at the north door of the Courthouse proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and hest h der for cast or certified funds ONLY, the following described property situated in Neshoba County, Mississippi, to wit:

BEGIN AT THE SW CORNER OF THE SE 1/4 OF SE 1/4, SECTION 17, TOWN-SHIP 11 NORTH, RANGE 12 EAST, FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING: THENCE RUN NORTH 341 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST 512 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF THE PUBLIC ROAD; THENCE RUN SOUTH 33 DEGREES 30 MINUTES WEST 259 FEET ALONG THE WEST-ERN LINE OF SAID ROAD; THENCE RUN SOUTH 49 DEGREES WEST 436 FEET ALONG THE NORTHWEST LINE OF SAID ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 32 DEGREES WEST 100 FEET TO FORTY LINE: THENCE BUN NORTH 248 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CON-TAINING THREE (3) ACRES. MORE OR LESS, AND BEING IN THE SE 1/4 OF SE 1/4, SECTION 17, AND ALSO IN THE NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4, SECTION 20 ALL IN TOWNSHIP 11 NORTH BANGE 12 EAST, NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSIS-

LESS AND EXCEPT:

COMMENCING AT AN IRON PIN FOUND MARKING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 11 NORTH RANGE 12 EAST, NESHOBA COUNTY MISSISSIPPI: THENCE NORTH 250.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT THENCE NORTH 90.50 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE EXISTING ELLIS DUNN PARCEL; THENCE ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID PARCEL EAST 512.90 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF A GRAVEL PUBLIC ROAD: THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE SOUTH 33 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST 108.89 FEET; THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF-WAY LINE WEST 452.35 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID TRACT CONTAINS 1.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND ALL BEING A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTH EAST 1/4 OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 11 NORTH, RANGE 12 EAST, NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be 10070 ROAD 1527, PHILADELPHIA MS 39350 . In the event of any discrepancy between this street address and the legal description of the property, the legal description shall control.

Title to the above described property is believed to be good, but I will convey only such title as is vested in me as Sub stitute Trustee.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT

Rubin Lublin, LLC 428 North Lamar Blvd. Suite 107 Oxford, MS 38655 rlselaw.com/property-listing Tel: (877) 813-0992

Fax: (470) 508-9401

PUBLISH: 01/24/2024, 02/21/2024, 02/28/2024, 03/06/2024

THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOBA STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BARBARA ANGELINE CAUSE NO. 2023-340 KILPATRICK

Public lotices

WILLIS KILPATRICK, JR., PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 19th day of January, 2024, by the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Willis Kilpatrick, Jr., upon the Estate of Barbara Angeline Kilpatrick, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the date or they will be forever barred. THIS, the 22nd day of January, 2024. Respectfully submitted /s/ Willis Kilpatrick, Jr.

Willis Kilpatrick, Jr.—Administrator Prepared by:

WADE WHITE Attorney at Law 501 Main Street Philadelphia, MS 39350 Phone: (601) 656-3710 Fax: (601) 656-3706 Email: wade@wadewhitelaw.com MS State Bar No. 101580

Publication dates: January 24, 2024; January 31, 2024; February 7, 2024

TITLE OF ABANDONMENT MAKE: VOLKSWAGEN MODEL: CC SPORT DATE, TIME, PLACE OF PUBLIC SALE: 02/22/2024 7:00 A.M. 11401 HWY 492 EAST UNION, MS MOORE'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR COST: 2823.04 VIN: WVWBP7AN4DE508925 LIEN: EXETR FINANCE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF NESHOBA WHEREAS, on December 4, 2020 Connie Cotton, executed a certain deed of trust to Steven D. Settlemires. Trustee for the benefit of Ralph Odom, to secure an indebtedness therein described which deed of trust is recorded in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County Mississippi, in Book 2020 at Page 10659;

WHEREAS, on the 28th day of November, 2023, Ralph Odom, executed its Substitution of Trustee wherein it substituted Alan D. Rhea as Trustee in and for the above described Deeds of Trust of record in Book 2020 at Page 10659, records of the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi, in lieu and in place of Steven D. Settlemires. which instrument of Substitution of Trustee was filed for record at 9:29:17 A.M. on November 30, 2023 in Book 2023 at Page 7999. thereof, records of the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba Coun-

ty, Mississippi; and WHEREAS, default having been made in the terms and conditions of the said Land Deeds of Trust and the entire debt secured thereby having been declared due and payable in accord with the terms of said Land Deeds of Trust, and the legal holder of said indebtedness, Ralph Odom having requested the undersigned as Substituted Trustee in Deed of Trust Book 2020 at Page 10659, records aforesaid, to execute the trusts and sell said land and property in accordance with the terms of said Land Deed of Trust for the purpose of raising the sums due thereunder, together with attorney's fees, trust-ee's fees and expense of sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, 1, Alan D. Rhea. as Substituted Trustee in said Land Deed of Trust aforesaid, will on Friday, the 26th day of January, 2024, offer for sale at public outcry and will sell within legal hours (being between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. C.S.T.) at the North Door of the Neshoba County Courthouse in the City of Philadelphia, Neshoba County issinni to the

highest and best bidder for cash, the land and property lying and being situate in the County of

Neshoba, State of Mississippi, more particularly described as follows, to-wit: All that in the NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 7, Township 10 North, Range 1 1 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi that lies South of County Road 367 and North and West of Mississippi Highway Number 21 South all in Section 7 Township 10 North, Range 1 1 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

LESS AND EXCEPT: Beginning at the intersection of the West boundary line of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4, Section 7, Township 10 North, Range 11 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi, with the North right-of-way line of Mississippi Highway No. 21 (which is the point of beginning): thence North 51 degrees 41 minutes East 206.73 feet; thence North 131.00 feet; thence South 76 degrees 59 minutes West 166.49 feet; thence South 221.66 feet to the point of beginning , containing 0.66 acres, more or less, and being situated in the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 and the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 7, Township 10 North, Range 1 1 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT: Beginning at the intersection of the West boundary of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4, Section 7, Township 10 North, Range 11 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi, with the North right-of-way line of Mississippi Highway No. 21; thence run North 52 degrees 00 minutes East 205.8 feet to the point of beginning; thence run North 210 feet; thence run North 52 degrees 00 minutes East 103.20 feet; thence run North 55 degrees 50 minutes East 71.80 feet; thence run South 210 feet to the North right-of way line of Mississippi Highway No. 21; thence run Southweste rly along said highway right-of-way 175 feet to the point of beginning, containing 3.4 acres, more or less, and situated in the NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 and SE 1/4 of NE 1/4, Section 7, Township 10 North, Range 11 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi

The land conveyed herein is approximat

Witness my signature, this the 27th day of December, 2023.

Substituted Trustee of a Substituted Trustee of Deed of Trust in Book 2020 at Page 10659 Nettles & Rhea

Attorneys at Law P O Box 148 Carthage, MS 39051 Tele. No. 601/267-8404

SEQ CHAPTER \h \r 1

/s/Alan D. Rhea

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NE-SHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF JB CIV-IL ACTION, FILE NO. 07-261

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI **COUNTY OF NESHOBA**

BRIDGET R. BOUNDS is believed to be resident of the State of Mississippi, who is not to be found in this state on diligent search and inquiry by the Executrix and whose whereabouts. place of abode, and post office address are unknown to Petitioner after having made diligent search and inquiry to ascertain the same but whose last known address was believed to be in Neshoba

Public lotices

County, Mississippi.

You have been named an interested party in the Petition filed in this Court by Joseph Bounds, seeking to close this guardianship.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said Petition in this action at 9:00 o'clock A.M.. on the 27th day of February, 2024, at the Neshoba County Chancery Courthouse, Philadelphia, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the things demanded in the Petition.

Issued under my hand and official seal of said Court, this the 19 th day of January, 2024. /s/ Gidget Stovall Tate

CHANCERY

You are not required to file an answer or

other pleading but you may do so if you

Jim Arnold 435 East Beacon Street Philadelphia, MS 39350 Telephone 601-656-6914 Facsimile: 601-656-6958 jarnoldlawoffice@att.net

GIDGET STOVALL TATE NESHOBA COUNTY

CLERK

Publish: 1/24, 1/31 and 2/7, 2024

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW IN-DIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF TAMMIE DEE MCMILLAN, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2023-597 RAVEN DEANN MCMILLAN **PETITIONER**

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND ANY AND ALL OTHER PERSONS, whether resident/ non resident of the state of Mississippi, claiming any right, title or interest as heirs of Tammie Dee McMillan, deceased.

You have been made a Respondent in the Motion to Determine Heirs filed in this Court by Raven Deann McMillan, Administratrix, seeking to adjudicate the sole and only heirs-at-law of Tammie Dee McMillan, deceased, as fully set out in the Motion on file in the Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

You are summoned to appear and defend against the Motion to Determine Heirs filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock A.M. on the 6 TH day of March 2024, in the courtroom of the Choctaw Tribal Court in the Smith John Justice Complex located on the Pearl River Reservation, Choctaw, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgement will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 22 nd day of January,

/s/ Kenyetta Barojas TRIBAL COURT CLERK

Douglas J. Graham mires & Graham, PLLC 410 East Beacon Street Philadelphia MS 39350 601-656-9597 MSBN: 101965

City of Philadelphia Fire Department

The City of Philadelphia will be accept ing sealed bids for Paratech Search and Rescue equipment. Bids accepted until February 6th 2pm at City Hall, 525 Main Street, Philadelphia, MS. Spec sheets available at City Hall, 601-656-3612.

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW IN-

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRA OF THE ESTATE OF SANDRA RENEE WILLIS, DECEASED CAUSE NO.2023-802

SYDNEY TUBBY PETITIONER **SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND ANY AND ALL OTHER PERSONS, whether resident/ non resident of the state of Mississippi, claiming any right, title or interest as heirs of Sandra Renee

You have been made a Respondent in the Motion to Determine Heirs filed in this Court by Sydney Tubby, Administra trix, seeking to adjudicate the sole and only heirs-at-law of Dayna S. Nickey, deceased, as fully set out in the Motion on file in the Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the Motion to Determine Heirs filed against you in this action at 1:00 o'clock P.M. on the 21 st day of February 2024, in the courtroom of the Choctaw Tribal Court in the Smith John Justice Complex located on the Pearl River Reservation, Choctaw, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgement will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 3rd day of January, 2024.

/s/ Kenyetta Barojas TRIBAL COURT CLERK

STEVEN D. SETTLEMIRES Settlemires & Graham, PLLC 410 East Beacon Street Philadelphia, MS 39350 601-656-9597 MSBN: 99674

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF NESHOBA

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated April 3, 2006, executed by EARTHEL C THOMAS conveying certain real property therein described to ROBERT L. SMITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, as Trustee, for UNITED STATES OF AMER-ICA ACTING THROUGH THE RURAL HOUSING SERVICE OR SUCCESSOR AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPART MENT OF AGRICULTURE, Original Beneficiary, to secure the indebtedness

Public lotices

therein described, as same appears of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi filed and recorded April 3, 2006, in Deed Book

2006, Page 2707; and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was transferred and assigned to UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH THE RURAL HOUS-ING SERVICE OR SUCCESSOR AGEN-CY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; and

WHEREAS, Rubin Lublin, LLC has been appointed as Substitute Trustee; and NOW, THEREFORE, the holder of said Deed of Trust, having requested the undersigned so to do, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee shall, on January 31, 2024 within the lawful hours of sale between 11:00AM and 4:00PM at the north door of the Courthouse proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, the follow-ing described property situated in Neshoba County, Mississippi, to wit:

LOT 35 SHERWOOD PARK SUBDIVISION, EXTENSION A, PLAT 1, PAGE 86, OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI,

PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be 209 SHELBY DRIVE, PHILADELPHIA. MS 39350 . In the event of any discrepancy between this street address and the legal description of the property, the legal description shall control

Title to the above described property is believed to be good, but I will convey only such title as is vested in me as Substitute Trustee.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT

Rubin Lublin, LLC 428 North Lamar Blvd, Suite 107 Oxford, MS 38655 rlselaw.com/property-listing Tel: (877) 813-0992

Fax: (470) 508-9401

PUBLISH: 01/03/2024, 01/10/2024, 01/17/2024, 01/24/2024

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIAN-SHIP OF J.M.J.J., A MINOR BY PETITION-**ERS** SAMUEL AUGUSTUS VASOS and CAROLYN MICHELLE SCHREINER

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

CAUSE NO. 23-327

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TO: THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF MINOR CHILD J.M.J.J. BORN TO RO-CHELLE LEE WASHINGTON ON April 22, 2006

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT You have been made a Respondent in the suit filed in this Court by SAMUEL

AGUSTUS VASOS, and CAROLYN MI-CHELLE SCHREINER Petitioner who seeks to appoint guardians of the minor named herein. A hearing on the relief sought through the Complaint is set for the 27th day of February 2024. You are hereby no-

tified that you should personally appear before the Neshoba County Chancery Court in Philadelphia, MS on the 27th day of February 2024 at 9 o'clock a.m.. To show cause and defend against said complaint as to why relief should not be In case of your failure to appear and de-

fend, a judgment will be issued against you for the money or other things in demand in the complaint, petition, or motion. You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but may do so if you desire. Issued under my hand and seal of said

Court, this the 10th day of January 2024. Gidget Tate, Chancery Clerk Neshoba County, Mississippi (Seal)

BY: /s/ Kathy Greer SETH T. CURREN (MSB# 106280)

CURREN LAW FIRM, PLLC P.O. Box 222 Union, MS 39365 662.420.3744 stcurrenlaw@gmail.com

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

transportation activities

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian s of Choctaw, Mississippi, is considering applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division, for assistance through its Rural Area Program to provide public transportation services within Clarke, Attala, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, Oktibbeha, Lowndes, Clay, Choctaw, Webster, Winston, Smith, and Noxubee Counties. Funding is available to state agencies, local public bodies and agencies thereof, non-profit organizations, operators of public transportation services in locations other than urbanized Area and, under special circumstances, private operators of public transportation on a competitive basis to undertake eligible

The goals of the Rural Area Program are: to enhance the access of people in non-urbanized Area to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services and recreation; to assist in the maintenance, development, improvement, and use of public transportation systems in rural and small urban Area; to encourage and facilitate the most efficient use of all Federal funds used to provide passenger transportation in non-urbanized Area through the coordination of programs and services; and to provide for the participation of private transporta tion providers in non-urbanized transportation to the maximum extent feasible

The purposes for which these funds can be used are capital purchases that include such items as support vehicles, communication equipment, wheelchair lifts, etc.; administrative costs that include such items as salaries, office supplies, insurance, etc.; and operating expenses that include such items as driver's wages, fuel, oil, etc. More specific details regarding eligible activities, program requirements and the program criteria will be provided at a public hearing which will be held at Choctaw Transit Conference Room, 390 Industrial Park suite I, Choctaw, MS, on the Pearl River Reservation, on Thursday, February 1, 2024, from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm followed by a Public Hearing from 6 pm to 7 pm at the same location,

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application.

Points of Contact

Public Notice of Intent to Apply

All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Clarke. Attala, Jasper, Kemper. Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, Oktibbeha, Lowndes, Clay, Choctaw, Webster, Winston, Smooth, and Noxubee Counties. are hereby advised that the

Public lotices

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian s is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Bipartisan Infrastruc ture Law (BIL), Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act federal appropriations. MDOT will also, to the greatest extent utilize any available older 5311 Moving Ahead for Progress in 21st Century (MAP-21) funds to fund projects, for the provision of public transportation services. Service (is being) (would be) operated within Clarke, Attala, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, Oktibbeha, Lowndes, Clay, Choctaw, Webster, Winston, Smith, and Noxubee Counties. This program consists of Transportation services rendered to the general public with 32 vehicles scheduling route running 5 to 7 days per week for the purpose of health, education, social services, nutrition, and commuter employment related transportation. The purpose of this notice is to advise all in-terested transit and paratransit operators of the proposed services for the general public within the area (as) described above, and to ensure that such a project would not represent a duplication of current or of proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators

Comments either for or against this service by such public, private, and paratransit operators will be received at any time within 15 days from the date of this notice. All comments should be addressed to Choctaw Transit, 390 Industrial Park suite 1, Choctaw, MS, 39350.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NE-SHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

L.G.W., A MINOR, BY AND THROUGH JASMINE BOLER WALKER, AS NATU-MOTHER, NEXT FRIEND, AND INDI-

CAUSE NO.2023-318

PLAINTIFFS

NICHOLAS A. WALKER, FELIX GRIFFIN AND THE MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DEFENDANTS

NON-RESIDENT SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Felix Griffin, a non-resident of the State of Mississippi, whose last known mailing, post office and street addresses is unknown to the Plaintiff after diligent search and inquiry by the Plaintiff to ascertain same.

You have been made a Defendant in the

suit filed in this Court seeking a Complaint for Alteration of Birth Certificate. Defendants other than you are Nicholas A. Walker and The Mississippi State Department of Health. You are summoned to appear and defend against said Petition at 9:00 a.m. on the 27 th day of February, 2024, in

the courtroom of the Neshoba County

Courthouse in Philadelphia, Mississip-

pi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the petition. You are not required to file an answer or other pleadings, but you may do so

if you desire. Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 12 day of January, 2024.

CHANCERY

TAMMY C. SMITH, MSBN 9526 P.O. BOX 624 326-A WEST MAIN STREET PHILADELPHIA. 601-389-5888 TELEPHONE

/s/Gidget Stovall Tate

NESHOBA COUNTY

601-389-5844 FACSMILE /s/A. Duran, D.C.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF NESHOBA

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, Eugene Franklin Brown, Sr., executed a certain Deed of Trust to Robert Thomas as Trustee for The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia, Beneficiary, which Deed of Trust was recorded in the office of the

Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, In the State of Mississippi, in Book 2020 at WHEREAS, on December 21, 2023, The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia executed a Substitution of Trustee, substituting Steven D. Settlemires as the Trustee for The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia, in the place of and stead of Robert L. Thomas,

which Assignment was recorded in Book 2023, Page 5838; and WHEREAS, default having been made in the payments of the indebtedness secured by the said Land Deed of Trust, and the holder of said Land Deed of Trust, having requested the undersigned so to do, on the 29 th day of January, 2024, I will during legal hours, at public outcry, offer for sale and will sell, at the North door of the Neshoba County Courthouse at Philadelphia, Mississippi, for cash to the highest bidder, the following described land and property situated

in Neshoba County, Mississippi, to-wit;

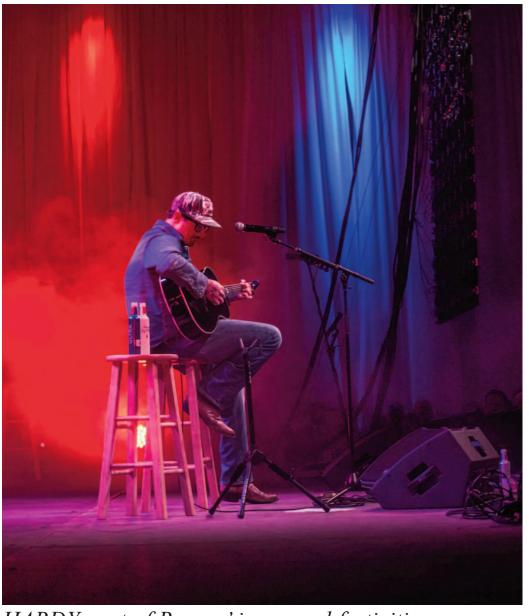
Begin at a point where the South right of way line of Mississippi State High-way482 intersects the W ½ of the SE 1/4 of Section 23, Township 11 North, Range 12 East, and run North 88 degrees 09 minutes East for 334.50 feet along said right of way; thence run North 86 degrees 52 minutes East along said right of way for 210.30 feet; thence run North 83 degrees 45 minutes East for 262.50 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence run South for 456.11 feet; thence run West for 105.00 feet: thence run South for 315.00 feet; thence run West for 52.50 feet; thence run South for 450.55 feet; thence run East for 701.34 feet to the SE corner of SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of said section; thence run North for 1,117.76 feet; thence run South 73 degrees, 28 minutes West for 235.00 feet; thence run North 0 degrees 29 minutes West for 210.00 feet to the South right of way line of Mississippi State Highway No. 482; thence run South 83 degrees 45 minutes West along said right of way for 333.80 feet to the Point of Beginning, said Point of Beginning being 157.50 feet NE of the NE corner of the property owned by Oakley Bozeman. The property under metes and bounds, contains 17.6 acres. more or less, and is situated in the W $\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\mathcal{V}}}_2$ of the SE 1/4 of Section 23. Township 11 North, Range 12 East, Neshoba County,

I will only convey such title as is vested in me as Substituted Trustee

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this the 28 th day of December, 2024.

STEVEN D. SETTLEMIRES Substituted Trustee Settlemires & Graham 410 East Beacon Street Philadelphia, MS 39350 (601) 656-9597 MSBN: 99674

Publish: January 3, 2024, January 10, 2024, January 17, 2024, and January





HARDY part of Reeves' inaugural festivities

Philadelphia native and country music sensation Michael Hardy, or HARDY as he is known, was part of Gov. Tate Reeves' inaugural festivities earlier this month.

COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail Docket

from 1/16-1/22 · Julius Deon Carter, 42, of 288 Border St; contempt of

court, failure to appear · Lakota Davis, 33, of 1863 Will Brown Rd, Conehatta; contempt of court

• Bradley Wade Dixon, 40, of 14470 Hwy 15 N; failure to appear, probation violation

 Jo Beth Fulton, 46, of 10211 Rd 131, Union; failure to

· Holly Lillian Goode, 30, of 1290 Split Lane Rd, Louisville;

hold for investigations • Thomas Harrington, 62, of

10031 Rd 167, Carthage; contempt of court · Lorenzo Houston, 21, of

318 MLK Dr; failure to appear · Willie R Houston, 56, of

1066 Frog Level Ln 79; serving sentence · Blake T Humpries, 26, of

3097 Dennis Rd, Walnut Grove; under influence/refusal to take test

 Shayna D McMillan, 34, of 2566 River Rd, Carthage; contempt of court

· Elizabeth Monk, 23, of 10641 Rd 234, Union; no charges listed

· Willie Cole Nash, 42, of 2704 Valley View Rd Lot 65; resisting arrest

· Daylen Jaderious Perkins, 18, of 166 Rolling Hills Cir; hold for investigations, burglary of a

motor vehicle X6 · Cindy Riddle, 51, of 100 Sistrunk Ave Lot 1; failure to appear, contempt of court

· Marquelia Seales, 27, of 395 Loper St; failure to appear

George Wallace, 61, of 10481 Rd 773; contempt of Alena S Wash, 27, of 10041

Rd 616; failure to appear X2

Winston County Jail Docket for Philadelphia Police arrests

from 1/15-1/21 · Sarah D Burnside, 48, of 18153 Hwy 21 S; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service, contempt of court-default in payment of

restitution · La'Kaizo Harrington, 27, of 431 Coleman St; contempt of

court-municipal court Alanna Jim, 23, of 136 Tiak

Chitto Cr; contempt of courtfailure to answer subpoenas · Michael L Lewis, 50, of

10222 Rd 1321, Union; DUI-4th

and subsequent offense

· James McCarty, 35, of 10272 Rd 1701, Union: CSschedule I or II-simple possession- 0.1-2 grams or 2-10 dosage units, CS-marijuanasimple possession- 1-5 kilograms, contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury

· Aaron Mosley, 25, of 332 Gore Rd, Lena; no charges list-

• Danielle Parker, 37, of 7838 Hwy 15 S, Louisville; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service

· Carlos A Perez-Mendez, 27, of 846 Woodland Hills Dr Apt 2: MV-careless driving, MVexpired or no driver's license, MV-no insurance. DUI-1st offense

· Joseph Robertson, 39, of 10622 Rd 763; contempt of court-nuisance, MV-careless driving, MV-seatbelt violation, MV-tag-none or expired

· Douglas A Teleisha, 44, of 3620 24th Ave, Meridian; DUItest refusal, MV-racing on street, road or highway-1st

offense Samuel Wallace, 21, of 320 Goat Ranch Rd; hold-detainer for Neshoba County SO, alco-

hol/giving/selling to a minor-1st offense · Sean Wallace, 18, of 320 Goat Ranch Rd; false identifying information, alcohol/giving/selling to a

minor-1st offense, hold-detainer for Neshoba County SO

Neshoba County Jail Docket

from 1/8-1/16 · Julius Deon Carter, 42, of 288 Border St; contempt of court, failure to appear

· Raven Beamon, 32, of 1700 Pendleton Sq Apt 42; possession of controlled substance

· Seana Eve Erevia, 49, of 3930 Juniper St. San Diego. CA; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia, possession of marijuana-vehicle

 Mario Alcides Espinoza, 46, of 1921 E Franklin Rd, Union: drug court violation

· Dakota Ladd, 28, of 109 Alexander Avenue; child neg-

· Damarion Thames, 17, of 7634 Pine Bluff Rd Decatur: grand larceny-more than \$1000

· Jesus Villanueva, 37, of 722 Iona Dr, Sandersville, CA; driving a commercial vehicle with suspended license, no insurance, expired license tag, possession of marijuana-vehi-

· Amy Burnham, 38, of 12220 Rd 610; public drunk Nikeem Jaquel Carter, 27, of 802 Chestnut St; contempt of Valley View Dr; serving sen-

Norris Carter, 48, of 513

· Cassie Danielle Denson, 24, of 759 Hugh Mitchell Rd, Conehatta; suspended driver's

· Bradley Wade Dixon, 40, of 14470 Hwy 15 N; public drunk Amadeo Gabriel, 39, of 503 Smith St, Carthage; no driver's

license, no insurance Spencer Harvey, 31, of 10041 Rd 371; possession of paraphernalia

· Randall James, 32, of 12601 Hwy 21 S; failure to appear, contempt of court

· Leeann Jayroe, 56, of 10300 Rd 537; abusive calls/emergency phone Crystal Lamae McWilliams,

Carthage; hold for investiga-• David Keith Moody, 70, of

33, of 3473 Laurel Hill Rd,

111 Megan St; contempt of court, hold for chancery court · Christopher S Nolan, 39, of

10030 Rd 2418, Union; serving sentence · James Norris, 41, of 3473

Laurel Hill Rd, Carthage; disturbing the peace Nicky Parker, 38, of 10220

Rd 848, Noxapater; contempt of court, hold for investigations · Maranda N Payton, 31, of 244 Martin Luther Dr; posses-

sion of marijuana-vehicle · Chantale S Phillips, 31, of 202 Goatranch Rd; contempt of court

· Shanna Renfro, 37, of 12850 Hwy 488; contempt of court

· Sanatra Rush, 31, of 277 Northwest; public drunk, possession of controlled substance

· Alana Shoemake, 32, of 29 Mills Rd, Conehatta; petit larceny-less than \$1000 · Shreey Smith, 30, of 2898

Coosa Rd, Edinburg; failure to appear, contempt of court William Craig Snow, 47, of 16131 Hwy 15 N; possession of

paraphernalia, hold for investigations · Cyril Patrick Tallon III, 53, of 717 Pecan Ave; disorderly con-

duct · Tayshaun Thomas, 20, of 612 Tusska Dr, Conehatta; fail-

ure to appear · Griffin Thompson, 49, of Sylacauga, AL; hold for other agency

· Edward Wilkinson, 48, of 10212 Rd 2638; public drunk, disturbing the peace

Winston County Jail Docket for Philadelphia Police arrests from 1/8-1/14

Mika H Sam. McMillan Rd; DUI-2nd offense, MV-driving while license revoked or suspended

• Cortez Cole, 28, of 1125 West Ave; contempt of courtdefault in payment of restitution

· Samantha Collins, 36, of 14510 Rd 505; DUI-1st offense Corev T Fox. 28. of 8745 B

King Rd, Bailey; DUI-1st offense, MV-careless driving

· Darius Grady, 37, of 260 Martin Luther King Dr; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service · Darayus M Harris, 36, of

276 Carverse Ave; shoplifting-1st conviction of aiding and abetting shoplifting by a minor, trespass-after notice of nonpermission

· Richard S Harvey, 31, of 10041 Rd 371; warrant-arrest report, CS-schedule I or IItransfer and possession with intent- 10-30 grams or 20-40 dosage units, shoplifting-1st conviction of aiding and abetting shoplifting by a minor

Jerome F Huffman, 52, of 305 Pearl St; DUI-1st offense Therman P Isaac, 59, of

124 Thompson Rd; public drunk · James McCarty, 35, of

10272 Rd 1701, Union; CSschedule I or II-simple possession- 0.1-2 grams or 2-10 dosage units, CS-marijuanasimple possession- 1-5 kilo-Tellas Moore, 49, of 10321

Rd 367: MV-reckless drivingfirst offense, disorderly conduct-disturbance in public place Ivan Parker, 56, of 29 Hazel

Ave, Louisville; DUI-2nd offense, MV-driving while license revoked or suspended Mackinzie N Shumaker, 35,

of 31155 Hwy E, Macon; motor vehicle theft-value under \$1000 · Destiny L Taylor, 28, of

10731 Rd 383; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service

· Dalton E Woods, 21, of 7109 Mars Hill Rd; contempt of court-municipal court

• Don A Yates, 55, of 29715 Hwy 16, Scooba; motor vehicle theft-value under \$1000 or less

OF LOCAL INTEREST

Mt. Enon M.B. Church in the Dixon Community cordially invites all area church families to attend the 4th year anniver-

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

sary program for Pastor James Pinkston on Sunday, January 21st at 3:00. The guest speaker for the occasion will be Rev. Boris Griffin of Philadelphia.

PRE-K REGISTRATION

Philadelphia Elementary School Pre-K Registration 2024-2025 To register a child for the pre-

k, guardians must provide:

A.) two (2) current proofs of residency in Philadelphia Public

School District with the same address

1.) IF RENTING/LEASING: Current official home/apartment lease/rental agreement with length of lease and Parent's or Guardian's name included on lease/rental agreement and nota-

2.) Filed Homestead Exemption application form OR Current mortgage document or property deed

3.) Valid driver's license OR voter identification card

4.) Current utility bill (dated within 60 days) showing the service location with parent's or guardian's name listed - Acceptable bills: electricity, gas, water, or landline telephone 5.) Automobile Registration

receipt 6.) Property Tax Card, Prop-

erty Deed, or other document that states the residency property's Section, Township, and Range

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

God's love for His people

Song of Songs should be taken allegorically or typically. This means it was inspired by the Holy Spirit to depict the relationship between Christ and His church. To the Christian, Christ is glorious, a great King and Savior; to Christ, the church is beautiful, the people He loves and saves.

In this verse, the Lord uses parts of the body to describe His love for His people. Verse 1 reads, "Behold, you are beautiful, my love, behold, you are beautiful!" The Lord Jesus would often preface an emphatic point with the words, "Truly, Truly, I say to you." Beautiful is emphatic here.

We know that by nature there is no beauty in us; nothing to commend us to God. We are unclean, corrupted by sin. The Christian is conscious of his moral failings and his spiritual faults. And when God calls a person beautiful, He means the beauty of holiness. So, it is plain that if God calls me beautiful, it is because He has done a work in me.

The work God does in a believer is alluded to in the rest of verse one. First, He says, "Your eyes are doves behind your veil." The eyes of a Syrian dove were considered beautiful, but the word dove points us to the Holy Spirit. It was a dove that brought back an emblem of peace to Noah as the waters of judgment receded.

When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down to rest upon Him. The Holy Spirit is invisible. How did He choose to represent His presence? It was in the form of a dove. It is the Holy Spirit who works new life in us to unite us to Christ. He seals the work that makes us holy and beautiful to God. The apostle Paul says in Ephesians one: "He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him." Are you beautiful to God? If you have Christ in you, yes, you are.

Next in verse one we read, "Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead." You might not think that comparing your hair to a flock of goats is flattering. But some historians tell us that goats in that region had a silky fineness to their hair with ringlets that were striking. And the hills of Gilead were renown for their beauty.

So, it's a beautiful sight to see.

But Gilead is important in church history. When the Lord told Jacob to take his family, leave Laban, and return to the land of his kindred, Jacob left without telling his miserly father-in-law. When Laban found out, he pursued Jacob and caught up with him in the "hill country of Gilead" (Genesis 31). Jacob had Esau threatening death before him, and a hostile Laban behind him.

But Jacob and his family were the Lord's church, the Lord's people. The Lord warned Laban in a dream to be careful how he even spoke to Jacob. Then, after Jacob wrestled with God, the Lord softened Esau's heart toward Jacob. So, the Lord preserved His people. Christ would come from them. The slopes of Gilead are indeed beautiful.

Later in Genesis, when Jacob's children had grown, out of jealousy Joseph's brothers threw him in a pit. Then they sold him to men from Gilead on their way to Egypt. The Scriptures tell us that these men were traders in balm and myrrh. Gilead was renowned for its healing balm. Joseph would later prove to be the real healing balm of Gilead by saving his brothers.

The prophet Jeremiah would ask, "Is there no balm in Gilead" (Jeremiah 8)? The spiritual health of Judah was such that no medicine could be found to cure it. There was no savior for Judah at that time. Babylon was coming, and Jerusalem would be overthrown. But there was the promise of one to come. One like Joseph, only greater.

Edgar Allen Poe, in his famous poem, "The Raven," asked the same question that Jeremiah did. But in looking into the abyss of death, Poe saw neither light nor hope. But when God looks at his people, He sees a healing balm in the soul. He sees Christ, the Son of God, and Savior of sinners. He sees everlasting life in them. He sees one who conquered death.

Through Scripture, the Holy Spirit reveals Christ to us. All these types, metaphors, stories, and words are to lead us to Christ, to form Christ in us. Christ is the healing balm we must have.

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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Proverbs 27:1 (ESV)

"Do not boast about tomorrow,

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"Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind."

- 1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

SOCIETY

Draughon's creativity inspires dishes

By JACE HENDERSON jace@neshobademocrat.com

aitlin Draughon's passion for sweets stems from her upbringing, where she honed her baking skills under the guidance of her grandmother, Judy Ladd.

'My Nana always liked to make peanut butter balls and chocolate oatmeal cookies," Draughon said. "She also taught me how to make homemade sugar cookies.'

While influenced by her grandmother, she proudly considers herself more of a selftaught baker, infusing her own creativity into the kitchen.

Draughon's cooking repertoire spans from crafting cakes and holiday delights like Christmas candy to savory dishes like meatloaf, a cherished favorite among her chil-

Married to Matthew Draughon, the couple shares the joy of raising three children, Emmet Branning, Maddox Draughon, Maylee Draughon.

Matthew is an avid fan of her specialty dish, Cajun Seafood Alfredo, whenever he takes a break from manning the grill, and also loves when she makes pork chops.

"My husband always says my pork chops are the best, but the Cajun pasta is pretty good too," Draughon said.

Beyond her role as a stay-athome mom, Draughon operates "The Corner Store," a homebased business showcased on Facebook where she blends baking, cooking, and boutique retail sales.

Family gatherings for the Draughons involve her husband skillfully smoking meats on the grill, such as a Thanksgiving turkey, while she often takes charge of the side dishes.

"I enjoy seeing the results of my cooking and how people enjoy it," she said. "I also love whenever my children help me in the kitchen.

Draughon's kitchen staples include sugar, powdered sugar, and a trusty mixer, and her advice to fellow bakers is to invest in good baking utensils for a well-equipped kitchen.

Throughout her cooking journey, Caitlin Draughon not only creates flavorful memories but also inspires others to bake with heart and soul.

COOKIES N CREME CAKE COOKIES 1 box of white cake mix **12-15 Oreos** marshmallows

1 package of Hershey cookies n creme bars 1/2 vegetable oil 2 eggs

Empty cake mix into bowl



Matthew and Caitlin Draughon with their children Emmett Branning, Maddox Draughon, and Maylee Draughon

COOK OF THE WEEK

Add oil & eggs to cake mix cake mix

Add 6-8 crushed candy bars to cake mix

Optional: add 1-2tbsp of powdered sugar if you want the mix sweeter Spoon the dough out on a

baking sheet Top with marshmallows &

cover them with more cookie

Bake 8-10 minutes at 350 degrees Top with more broken

Oreos & candy bar pieces Optional: serve with vanilla ice cream

CAJUN SHRIMP & SALMON topped with garlic cream

1lb of shrimp Fresh salmon (your choice

1 cup of heavy cream 1-2 tbsp of minced garlic 1/3 of a cup of grated

parmesan cheese 4 tbsp of butter (my choice: sweet cream salted butter)

Seasonings (my choice of seasonings: blacken seasoning, kinders-the blend, & smoked paprika—I season to

taste, typically 1-2 tsp of each)

Season shrimp & salmon

Heat 2 tbsp of butter in a large pan over medium heat. Add shrimp & Salmon or until shrimp are pink and salmon is cooked throughremove from heat.

Add 2 tbsp of butter, once melted add minced garlic and sauté for 1 minute, add heavy cream, bring to a simmer, add parmesan cheese & stir until mixture thickens (if you get your mixture too thick, add a little heavier cream).

Add shrimp & salmon to mixture.

*Pair with frozen green

PEANUT BUTTER **BALLS** 1 cup creamy peanut but-

ter – avoid the natural peanut butter with oils

softened 2 cups powdered sugar 16 oz chocolate bark

In a medium sized bowl, mix together the peanut butter and butter until creamy slowly mix the powdered sugar into the peanut butter and continue to mix until well combined.

Cover the mixture and refrigerate for a few hours. Once ready, scoop 1-inch sized balls, roll them to shape and place them on a cookie sheet. Place into the freezer while you melt the chocolate.

Melt chocolate in a microwave safe bowl or in a boiler on the stove.

balls from the freezer and begin dipping by sticking a toothpick into the ball.

Drop the coated balls onto a sheet of wax paper and allow the chocolate to harden. Once hardened, place the balls into a container and store either on the counter or the refrigerator.

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS friends@neshobademocrat.com

Congratulations to Samuel Prince, a sophomore at Leake Academy, for being chosen the Clarion-Ledger High School Athlete of the Week for January 1st-6th. Samuel wears the #26 jersey for the Rebels basketball team. He is the son of Phillip and Valeria Prince of Philadelphia.

Three faculty members and a student from the University of Southern Mississippi School of Music performed a chamber music program in the Weill Recital Hall at the renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City on the evening of Jan. 11.

The chamber program, presented in part by the Blueprint Foundation, included a world premiere of music by Kazandjiev, a United States premiere of music by Poturlyan, and selections by Brahms and Piazzolla. It was a sold-out hall! Congratulations! What an honor for our state of Mississippi!

Congratulations to Cambre Willis Mayo who can now write RN after her name! She received the results of the exam she took earlier and she passed. Cambre is officially a Registered Nurse. Her family is so very proud of

Steve Wilkerson celebrated 17 years as an organ recipient on Jan. 18. He received a new liver from an organ donor who gave him the gift of life, a life he has lived well and brought so much joy to his family.

Because of this person's unselfishness, Steve is enjoying making memories with his pre-

cious granddaughter, Poplar, and sharing two grandsons with his daughter, Lacey Wilkerson Murphy and her husband, Anthony, as well as enjoying retirement with Jenny Lynn.

He and Jenny Lynn continue to be so very grateful for the life he was given during another family's sorrow. Joy came from grief which has lasted for 17 years. They remember "Happy Transplant Day" each year especially. Organ donors save lives. Please consider being an organ

Congratulations to Mary Presley Harrington who recently completed her Air Force technology training. She is an airman in the United States Air Force. Mary Presley is the daughter of Reed and Yancey Harrington. Mason Philadelphia grandparents are Judy Mason and the late James Paul Mason.

A huge bow made entirely of deep pink balloons mounted above the entrance to the home of Emmi Jones greeted the guests as they entered for the baby shower honoring Hannah Jones Beckham last week.

The theme for the shower was "Bows" since Eric and Hannah Beckham will welcome their first child, a girl, Addison Kate Beckham, in the near future. The home was beautifully decorated for the occasion including a refreshment table with an amazing multi-tiered cake covered in white frosting with a huge white fondant bow at the base which looked so realistic. Cookies cut in shapes of baby clothes, bows, and monogrammed with AKB were very

Hannah opened her many lovely gifts in front of the fireplace which had a garland of white balloons across the mantle and down the sides and little girl dresses hanging from a line beneath. Her smile was radiant as she opened each gift.

This was a joyous occasion for Hannah and Addison Kate! Hostesses for the shower were Annika Italiano, Rachel Black, Savannah Simmons, Anna Broome, Maria Sisson, Emmi Jones, Kim Price, Brandy Vance, and Stefanie McHenry.

Congratulations to the Neshoba Central High School Rocket Troupe who won 1st Place - Group Acting in the MTA State Theater Festival. Members of the group are Anna Beth Kilgore, Nathan Killen, Lola Mae Hallows, and Lakynn

The Neshoba Branch of the National Deer Association recently donated \$2,000.00 to the Philadelphia Archery Team. Over the last five years, the Neshoba branch donated more than \$45,000 in funding to people and organizations that encourage and strengthen outdoor activities among our youth and community. Thank you for this generous contribution!

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

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Lady Rockets destroy Warren Central 86-20

By STAFF REPORTS sports@neshobademocrat.com

The Neshoba Central Lady Rockets have cruised to 22-1 on the season with an 86-20 landslide victory over winless Warren Central on Friday.

Senior Erica Lyons led the squad with 16 points, followed by junior Lanayah Henry and sophomore Miley Thomas with 11 points each. Freshman Taysha Isaac and senior Nalani Thompson had 10 points each in the con-

Defensively, Thompson had 5 s rebounds, 3 assists and a steal in to

the matchup. Lyons, Henry and senior Breyonce Jim each had 5 steals.

The Lady Rockets offense scored 24 points in the first quarter, 29 points in the second quar-

ter, 19 points in the third quarter and 14 points in the final quarter. The defense did not allow double digit points in any quarter, and limited Warren Central to only 1 point in the final quarter.

Sitting at 6-0 in district play, the Lady Rockets were scheduled to take on Ridgeland Tuesday and will travel to take on Vicksburg Friday.

Leake Academy basketball pick up wins over WA

By ROBBIE ROBERTSON sports@neshobademocrat.com

The weather played havoc with Leake Academy's basketball schedule the past week.

Monday and Tuesday's games were cancelled, leaving Leake with just one game on Friday.

Both teams took care of business on Friday night as the Rebelettes hammered Wayne 72-34 and the Rebels took a 56-40 win over the Jaguars.

Leake girls 72, Wayne Academy 34

The Rebelettes pulled away in the last three periods, outscoring Wayne 47-19 to take a 38-point win on Friday night in their only action of the week.

The game was competitive in the first period as Leake outscored Wayne 25-15 in the first behind 11 points from Katye Jones. Leake then outscored Wayne 23-5 in the second period behind 11 points from Jenna Allen to take a 48-20 lead at the half. Leake got the clock running in the third, outscoring Wayne 19-2 to lead 67-22 going to the fourth period. Wayne took the fourth period 12-5 for the final margin.

Jones led Leake with 13 points while Allen had 11 points. Marleigh Myers had a good night

with 10 points, four rebounds and four steals while Addie Crowe also had nine points and three rebounds. Anna Morgan Young had eight points while Sara Prince added seven points. Olivia Rudolph also had four rebounds and three assists for Leake.

The Leake girls improve to 23-4 on the season and have three games scheduled this week. Leake will travel to rival Simpson on Tuesday and then host Grace Christian on Thursday for senior night. Leake will then wrap up the regular season on Friday night as they host East Rankin in a makeup game from last week.

Leake is 6-2 in district play

but after Lamar beat Simpson last week, it opens up the window for the Rebelettes to still capture the No. 1 seed going to the district tournament, which will be at Simpson this year.

"Our team likes our chances heading into next week," Leake coach Amanda Hatch said. "We talked about how some things are out of our control, like like the results of other district games; but we can control certain aspects of the game as far as defensive and rebounding intensity as well as offensive execution to give ourselves the best opportunity. If we can win our last two district games next week (including beat-

ing east rankin by at least seven), we can secure the one seed heading into the district tournament."

Leake boys 56, Wayne Academy 40

The Rebels dominated the middle two periods and took a 16-point win over the Jaguars on Friday night.

Each team scored 13 points in the first period while Leake outscored Wayne 20-11 to lead 33-24 at the half. Leake continued to extend the lead in the second half, outscoring Wayne 12-6 in the third and 11-10 in the fourth.

Samuel Prince led Leake with

17 points while Jack Harkins had his best game of the season with 16 points. Jake Freeny had six points while seven other Rebels scored.

The Leake boys improve to 21-7 on the season and also head to Simpson with a chance at first place. Simpson won the first contest 61-59 in overtime.

"I love where our team is heading into the last week of district games," Leake coach Jason Morgan said. "We have a shot at first place Tuesday at Simpson, then it will be time to wrap up the regular season and get ready for postseason play."

Choctaw Central squads fend off NE Lauderdale

By STAFF REPORTS sports@neshobademocrat.com

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors defeated Northeast Lauderdale 70-27 on Friday to improve to 16-2 on the season and 4-0 in district play.

The contest remained close in the first 3 minutes before the

Lady Warriors' defense took advantage of mistakes and capitalized on offense.

The Lady Warriors were up 4-3 with 5 minutes to go in the first quarter before pulling ahead 20-5. A couple Northeast Lauderdale free throws at the end narrowed the lead to 20-8, which is where

the first quarter action would end.

The second quarter is where things heated up for Choctaw Central, with the Lady Warriors adding another 16 points to take a 36-14 lead into halftime.

Three minutes into the third quarter and Northeast Lauderdale couldn't land a basket, while Choctaw Central extended the lead to 48-14. By the middle of the fourth quarter, the lead was extended to 64-24.

The Lady Warriors are scheduled to play again on Saturday.

After the girls' dominating victory, the Choctaw Central Warriors hit the court against

Northeast Lauderdale.

The contest was much closer, with the Warriors leaving the first quarter with a 16-14 lead. They extended the lead to 37-28 at half-

The momentum stayed with the Warriors for the rest of the match and after the final buzzer the score stood at 75-64.

The Warriors improved to 17-5-1 on the season and remain undefeated in district play.

They are scheduled to play East Webster on Saturday.

Yellowjackets defeat Tornadoes in division matchup in short week

By ROBBIE ROBERTSON sports@neshobademocrat.com

The Union Lady Yellowjackets stayed unbeaten in division play as they rallied to beat Philadelphia in

their only action last week.

The Lady Yellowjackets trailed most of the first half and rallied to take a 64-51 win over the Lady Tornadoes.

The Union boys also grabbed a big division win as they held onto a big first-half lead and took a 46-

43 win over the Tornadoes.

Union will return to play this week as the travel to Eupora on Tuesday and will make up last week's game with J.Z. George on Thursday. The Yellowjackets will then wrap up the regular season next week as they host Sebastopol on Tuesday and J.Z. George on Thursday. Union will host the Division 4-2A Tournament starting Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Union girls 64,

Philadelphia 51

The Lady Yellowjackets trailed most of the first half but rallied to take a 13-point win over the Lady Tornadoes on Friday.

Philly led 13-10 at the end of the first but Union outscored the Lady Tornadoes 19-17 in the second to lead 30-29 at the half. Union came out on fire in the second half and outscored Philly 22-7 to take a commanding 51-37 lead into the fourth period. Philly took the fourth period 14-13 for the

final margin.

Union improved to 14-3 on the season and 4-0 in division play.

"I am very proud of my girls," Union coach Casey Madden said. "They have shown tremendous growth playing as a team on both ends of the court. We have had some very close, competitive games throughout district play; however, I am thankful that my girls have been able to remain mentally and physically tough to pull out the wins."

Rymia Craft had a huge game with 30 points and eight rebounds. Kylee Madden had 16 points and six assists while Sydney Coward and Elle Killen each had six points aniece.

Union boys 46, Philadelphia 43

The Yellowjackets built a big lead in the first half and held on to take a three-point win over the Tornadoes on Friday night.

Union led 14-10 at the end of the first period and then outscored

the Tornadoes 12-3 in the second to lead 26-13 at the half. Philly got back in the game in the third and outscored Union 12-5 to cut the lead to 31-25 going to the fourth. Philly outscored Union 18-15 in the fourth but the Yellowjackets held on for the win.

Kamarion Rushing led Union with 15 points while U'Darrion Hickman had 12 points. Zi Buckley had six points while Mason Tucker had five points and Keon Hutchins added four points.

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