



COOK OF THE WEEK
BOBO STARTED COOKING WITH SOME SIMPLE RAMEN NOODLES

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WINTER SPORTS
LOCAL BASKETBALL TEAMS ADVANCING

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THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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STRONGER TOGETHER

Sheriff calls for city partnership on jail

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
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Re-establishing a partnership to share and maintain the county jail will make the city and county a lot stronger, Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark told the Mayor and Board of Aldermen last week.

He called for the expansion of the overcrowded facility and described the jail as run down and out of date.

Mayor James A. Young asked if Clark had any plans to renovate and expand and Clark said no but he pleaded for their help.

“My job is to house these inmates,” Clark said. “If you can help me with some expansion and we can get you guys back on we are going to be a lot stronger together.”

“This is nothing against the supervisors. I am not here plotting against them. My thing is

that we are going to have to start working together. I need some support for this.”

Mayor Young said if some plans developed, he would willing and ready to “move forward.”

Young said he would make contact with the Board of Supervisors.

“It sounds like we need to form a panel,” said Ward 2 Alderman Jim Fulton. “It needs to be city and county representa-

tives to come up with a plan. “As of right now, we are going to have to stay where we are, but we need to come up with a plan,” Fulton said.

The current jail was built almost three decades years ago. “Here we are in 2022, and you can walk through the building and it is the same fixtures and furniture. No updates.”

About 45 people — 20 jail employees and about that many SO employees — share a single

toilet in the hallway. The jail was designed as a 66-bed facility and they steadily house between 70 and 100 prisoners. They were at 108 last Monday, Clark said.

“We have mats for the inmates. We sleep on the floor. We sleep wherever we can. There are not many things in that jail that work besides the running water and toilets and the TVs.”

When Clark took office, he

reviewed all of his department’s contracts, including the one with the city from the 1990s to house prisoners.

He proposed a new contract that would take effect in June 2020 in which the city’s cost would be increased \$4,500 per month to a total \$12,500 per month.

In the 1990s, the city had agreed to pay \$10,000 a month, but that figure had dropped by See **JAIL**, page 8A



Photo by COLEMAN EAKES

Contractors are hard at work renovating the interior of the Ellis Theatre for the Marty Stuart Congress of Country Music. Work on

Phase 1 of the \$30 million project began in October and is currently 35 percent complete.

Ellis renovation

35% complete, manager sought to book monthly shows

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
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For anyone who ever doubted whether the \$30 million Congress of Country Music would actually come to fruition, Marty Stuart says seeing is believing.

A half-million dollar donation from a Merle Haggard fan in Reno is a done deal now and there are others as a search for a professional to manage the Ellis and book monthly shows is on.

Former Gov. Haley R. Barbour and his wife Marsha are hosting a fundraiser in Jackson next month as a \$4 million renovation of the Ellis funded by the state progresses.

“As people see construction going on at the Ellis Theater, they are realizing the Congress of Country Music is going to happen,” Stuart said earlier this month. “It’s been happening for a longtime but it is finally visible.”

“My hope from day one has been that somehow it would start catching fire and the town would have a whole new chapter. I think the Ellis and the Congress of Country Music, as it comes to life, it will be a viable part of that Renaissance of this town.”

Stuart, a five-time GRAMMY-

winner, platinum recording artist, is brining a dream to his hometown.

Renovation on the Ellis began in late October and is 35 percent complete. The renovation is Phase

rooftop performance venue.

The Congress of Country Music will create an education curriculum and programming to promote the roots of country music. There will be changing

been seen on the fronts of the adjoining buildings. That space will be used later for the classrooms, offices, dressing rooms and the museum in the later phases.

The second phase will be the construction of the Community Hall where an old audio building is. Phase three will be the building and setting up the museum where Stuart’s collection of artifacts will be housed and displayed and that needs a buyer.

While Phase 1 work is going on, Stuart is thinking and working to get the doors opened and to keep them opened.

“What we need to do is look for a director and general manager for the Ellis,” Stuart said.

“If you are going to have opening week festivities at about the time they are finishing, in the show business world things are being booked right now. This is urgent. Job descriptions have been written and we are searching for the right person.”

Stuart said once the Ellis re-opens, he foresees two to three acts coming in each month. But the Ellis getting open will be the first priority.

See **ELLIS**, page 3A



I of the \$30 million project.

Located on the south corner of Byrd Avenue and Main Street, when completed the complex will feature a renovated Ellis along with a museum to display Stuart’s 20,000-plus piece collection of country music memorabilia. There will also be classrooms, a community hall, event space and a

displays which will not only spotlight Stuart’s collection. It will also include showings of international traveled artifacts, memorabilia, photography, folk art and Native American programming.

The pieces are coming together.

As work is being done inside the Ellis, outside construction can

PHILLY SCHOOLS

Juvenile arrested on terrorism in bomb threat

By DUNCAN DENT
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The juvenile charged with domestic terrorism in connection with a bomb threat made to the Philadelphia schools last week will be tried in youth court as a minor, the authorities said.

The juvenile arrested is being charged in the a bomb threat on social media that delayed the opening of school on Friday.

The juvenile is being charged with domestic terrorism and cyber stalking, both felony charges, Philadelphia Police Chief Eric Lyons said.

“No real threat of a bomb were found or believed to exist in connection with case,” Lyons said.

The threat was investigated by local, state and federal authorities and delayed the opening of city schools on the morning of Friday, Jan. 21.

Lyons said that the juvenile would not be identified and would be “charged and tried through youth court.”

Lyons said that local, state and federal authorities were involved in investigating the threats and assisted in the arrest.

The agencies included the Philadelphia Police Department, Neshoba County Sheriff’s Office, Mississippi Highway Patrol and the Department of Homeland Security.

Former Philadelphia alderman Leroy Clemons posted a screenshot on his Facebook page and denounced the threat that said:

“Philly High Come To A End Tomorrow Post This On Facebook So People Will Keep They Kids At Home!! This Not A Joke I’m Doing It Tomorrow And The Middle School Monday And Tues-

See **BOMB**, page 8A

COLLEGE CREDIT

Philadelphia students create app for event

By JOHN LEE
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Philadelphia High School sophomore Charmaine Manzano said creating a phone app with other students was an experience to remember.

Manzano took part this month in the 4th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Advanced STEM Winter Program along with about 100 students from 12 schools across Mississippi.

“Learning how to code and connect things to make apps was the part I remembered the most during the program,” Manzano said. “It was a great experience considering I’ve never had any coding experience in my life. It was a lot of fun.”

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OPINION
 Rich Lowry

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 Marianne Enochs PAGE 1B

OPINION
 Patrick Buchanan PAGE 4A



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Income tax elimination in discussion at state capitol

By JEFF BYRD
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JACKSON — Taxpayers in Mississippi could see lower car tag fees, lower state taxes, and grocery taxes if Republicans in the state Legislature can grind their way to approval in the next few weeks.

Speaker of the House Phillip Gunn said his majority wing was able to find bipartisan support with all three tax bills.

Mississippi Legislators have been tasked with finding areas of support in order to address a \$1 billion cash surplus. The cash bounty has come about through policy implementations by the GOP run legislature and funds from the American Rescue Act that was approved and signed back in March.

The \$1 trillion plan has provided state governments with about \$600 billion in funds to improve infrastructure and other public service projects.

For Gunn, a new budget that

will help address tax issues that will help all Mississippians and address some issues with health care worker shortages, COVID-19, along with highways and bridges is a must.

"We are working toward finished the budget," Gunn said. "We feel it will be a solid budget. The car tags cut is in it. We are also making progress toward the elimination of the state income tax."

"By getting these priorities done, we will greatly help the tax payers of Mississippi. We will be putting more money into their pocket. The car tag bill reduces their tag fees by 50 percent. We are also lowering the grocery tax and the state income tax. When you put all of this together, it will be great thing for our people."

Democrats were supportive of the car tags measure.

"They got behind it," Gunn said. "It passed by a 107-4 vote."

The bills now go to the Senate.

Republican state Sen.

Jenifer B. Branning of Philadelphia is another supporter of the reduced car tags.

"I really like this," she said from her legislative office. "We have started with steps toward doing away with the state income tax, but like I've said before, the devil is in the details."

Any measures to lower taxes will be met favorably Branning believes.

"The people of Neshoba County will appreciate these measures, absolutely," she said.

One bill that Branning did not support was medical marijuana.

"I was a no vote on this," Branning said.

As for the growing pool of excess funds available to the Legislators in 2022, Branning, who heads the Senate's Highways and Transportation Committee, wants to address infrastructure issues.

"Our state's infrastructure. In my five years here in the Senate, we have addressed this and have made great progress."

Branning points with pride of the ongoing construction of Highway 19 that will someday link Philadelphia with the completed four-lane at House.

"We are in the first phase of the Highway 19 project and it is on track to be completed by this fall," Branning said.

As for the second phase, Branning said her committee must look for funding sources.

"That's what we are looking at next, so those different funding sources. We know we have needs all over the state. But since 2018, we have working on improving our infrastructure," Branning said.

Rep C. Scott Bounds of Philadelphia said the main reason why Mississippi is in good financial shape now was the heavy lifting it did policy-wise during the Phil Byrant administration and continued by current Gov. Tate Reeves.

"We have about a billion more today," Bounds said of the state's current surplus coffers. "This was made possible by the policies we implement-

ed five years ago. We lowered tax brackets. We got rid of the franchise tax. This helped spur economic growth. We then promoted the state's healthy business climate."

There are areas Bounds is looking to address with the excess funds.

"We are committed to a teacher pay raise. We are committed to funding more for our roads and bridges," Bounds said. "We also want to shore up broadband, especially in the rural areas."

Healthcare and dealing with COVID-19 and its problems are also on agenda, Bounds said.

"There are things we are looking at in health care," he said. "We need to find away to ease the burden of these staff shortages."

Branning said, she supports this as well.

"We need to find the most plausible solution to the shortage of nurses," Branning said.

As for medical marijuana, Bounds said he is approaching

the matter with an open mind.

"It now with us in the House and we will begin the process," he said. "There will be changes made from the Senate bill. And it will likely change some more."

Gov. Reeves had come out against the legislation last year objecting to the potency.

"I don't know if Gov. Reeves will like this bill," Bounds said. "But maybe with the changes we make, he will find it more susceptible to at least consider it."

One thing that is easy to accept for Bounds is the push to reduce taxes.

"This is a win-win for all Mississippians," Bounds said. "We passed the car tag measure by more than 100 votes. By reducing the car tags, the income tax and the grocery tax, we will get more dollars into the hands of people here in Mississippi. That is what the House wants to do most. To get money back into the hands of our people."

App

Continued from page 1A

Students took part in creating the app to make movies at the STEM program. Grace Easley, a junior at Philadelphia said this was by far the best part of the program.

"Getting to learn how to make things like apps was really interesting," Easley said. "The app we made was an app that showed how to make movies. It was fun and a good way to prepare for our AP tests."

Each year, Global Teaching Project holds an instructional program over the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend to study the link between civil rights and educational opportunity.

Academic sessions were held at four universities around the state, including Jackson State University, Delta State University, The University of Mississippi, and Mississippi State University - Meridian Campus. There were

13 college-student STEM major tutors from around the country attending. The Philadelphia students went to Meridian.

Students from Deana Cumberland's AP Computer Science Principles class and Cristy Creel's AP Physics class took part in the program.

Manzano is part of Cumberland's computer science principles class.

Cumberland, a business and technology teacher, said her students enjoyed getting to meet other students in the same field at the STEM program earlier this month and understood what they were working with.

"The program was geared to give them information and to start thinking about their AP tests," Cumberland said.

"They have to create and send a functional app to the AP college board to be graded and get college credit. There are certain criteria they have to meet, so being at this event gave them some important experience."

Cumberland said the STEM program provided a



Students from Mrs. Christy Creel's AP Physics class take part in hands-on activities during the Martin Luther King Jr. Advanced STEM

Winter Program. Pictured, from left: Kenterrious Everette, Sultan Seales, T'kenzley Moore, and Kameron Tucker.

unique opportunity to collaborate with students from other districts around Mississippi and interact with individuals within computer science occupations. She said this allowed her students to broaden their understanding and content knowledge that will assist

for 10th and 11th graders and taking on something like this is phenomenal since they hadn't had any coding experience before this. It is nothing more rewarding, as a teacher, to see the expression on your students' faces as they say, 'I really get it, I understand what I am doing and why I am learning this!'"

Cumberland said the program kicked off on Friday at school where her students had a tutor majoring in computer science from the University of Virginia teaching them how to create apps.

"Friday night, we got on Zoom and met with Mrs. Velma Wilson, and she spoke to my students about Martin Luther King and her experience," Cumberland said.

"She told them about the work MLK had done and encouraged them to finish their education. On Saturday, we went to the Mississippi State University Meridian branch, and my students collaborated with other students there. We had tutors from Yale and other prestigious schools teaching about computer sci-

ence. They enjoyed that, especially creating the apps and grasping what they could do."

Christy Creel, a math and science teacher at Philadelphia High, also attended the STEM program with her AP physics class. She said her favorite part was seeing that students can see other AP students out there and what they're working on.

"Although AP physics is difficult, it's good for them to interact with students working on the same things as them," Creel said. "We got to do a lot of hands-on things and learned some great things virtually. My students were excited to meet other students from across Mississippi who were studying the same concepts."

Creel said her students took part in some fun activities.

"We all enjoyed physically being there and doing these experiments, especially making the applications," Creel said. "It was also great seeing tutors there from schools like Yale and the University of Virginia."

Kids' Art

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School board to discuss new superintendent hire

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
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The city School Board is expected to hold a called meeting later this week to discuss plans to find a new superintendent.

Superintendent Dr. Lisa Hull announced her retirement during last Thursday's board meeting. Dr. Hull has led the district since July 2014. Her final day will be June 30.

"The Philadelphia School District's board will meet shortly to develop its plan for the selection of a superintendent to replace Dr. Hull," said School

Board President Harold Coburn.

"With everything that was going on Friday (with the bomb threat) we are now getting to this. Dr. Hull is retiring after 38 years of service to public education in Mississippi, including her work with the district here. The board appreciates her work for the state's children and understands her decision to retire. It does come a point in time when people who have labored want to retire."

Coburn said it was his intention for the board to meet on Thursday or Friday.

Dr. Hull said she has enjoyed

her time with the students, teachers and staff.

"I wanted the board to have plenty of time to find a good person who will be a good fit for this district," Hull said. "For me, it was time."

She said she needs be able to take care of her mother who has been sick. If something were to come up, she said she needs to be available and didn't feel she could take time away from her job as superintendent. She said she does not have any plans at



Dr. Lisa Hull

this time. "This has been a wonderful career, she said. "If I had it to do over, I wouldn't change a thing."

Hull said she is leaving with a great love and respect for the students of the Philadelphia schools.

"The kids here often get lumped all together and I think that is very unfair," Hull said. "It is unfortunate because we have some of the brightest and best kids there are. If I could tell everyone of these kids how I see them, they would

know I think they are pretty amazing."

"We have some great teachers here. They are invested in our schools. They are invested in helping our children grow and become better. We have teachers who go extra miles for our students, they do after school tutoring. They come in early to work with them before school or during their planning period. They don't want recognition. They wanted to do what is best for the kids."

Coburn said the board will take one of two paths with its superintendent search.

"Some boards handle the

search themselves," Coburn said. "Others go through a (state) superintendents search committee. The board will have to sit down and decide what is best for our students."

"Hopefully, within the next three months, we will have chosen one. Dr. Hull is still under contract so we have some time."

Coburn said it is his personal preference to use superintendent search committee to "widen our search for applicants."

He said he expects a lot of interest in the position.

"We have challenges but I think we can reach greatness as a district," Coburn said.

Ellis

Continued from page 1A

"Opening the Ellis is bigger than having a concert," Stuart said. "It should be a series of events. There will be music. The Arts Council, which is absolutely a partner with us, should have the stage to do whatever they need to do."

"There should be a church service to kick it off. And one of our advisory board members, Rob Stone, who is the visual curator for the Library of Congress, I have invited him to curate a night of film so the Ellis will again be a film house."

"So, you get music, you get theater and you get the films. That is how the Ellis is going to survive. I has got to serve a lot of needs," Stuart said.

Figuring out how to pay

the bills is a top priority. Stuart, a member of the Grand Ole Opry and Country Music Hall of Fame, has been making contacts with potential investors about the project over the years. That ground-work is paying off.

"It's a life sentence," Stuart said. "That's what I do from now on. We are into the beginning stages of Phase 2 fundraising."

"There is a lady that I was introduced to on the phone back in the spring. She is from Reno, Nevada. She got Merle Haggard's old tour bus and rode across the country to visit places she had heard about. She spent the day with me here in Philadelphia. She enjoyed it and we stayed in contact. Right before Christmas, she wrote us a check for

a half a million dollars to help get Phase 2 started and to help with administration. That is done."

"There is another \$250,000 check that was placed out of Washington, just to get us started. In my mind, those two tip off Phase 2," Stuart said.

A fundraiser in Jackson on Feb. 24 is being hosted by the Barbours. "That can't hurt," Stuart said. "We will have other events later this year. So yes, fundraising is the most essential part of part of Phase 2."

The Congress of Country Music is a 5013C non-profit organization.

Members of the Congress of Country Music Board of

Directors are: David Vowell, Pat Thomasson, Jackie Hester, Marty Gamblin, Kinsey Goldman, Tim Moore, Steve Wilk-

erson, Jackie Conn, all of Philadelphia; Marty Stuart, Greenbriar, Tenn., Liz Cirlot, Jackson, John Peets, David

Conrad, both from Nashville, and Doug Hudson, Gulfport, Fla.

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The Neshoba Democrat is published every Wednesday by The Neshoba Democrat Publishing Co., Inc., 439 Beacon Street, Philadelphia, Miss., James E. Prince III, president. Subscriptions are \$36 per year in Neshoba and adjoining counties, \$40 in other Mississippi counties and \$43 for out of state. Single copy price is \$1. Periodicals postage paid at Philadelphia, MS.
The Democrat reserves the right to reject or edit any or all advertising.
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Opinion

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THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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1932-2017

EDITORIALS

Adequately fund the jail

Sheriff Eric Clark has called for a renewed city-county partnership to expand and improve the county jail, and it's time for that partnership to happen.

Constructed three decades ago, the jail is run down, out of date and dangerous.

"My job is to house these inmates," Clark told city officials appearing at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen last week.

"If you can help me with some expansion and we can get you guys back on we are going to be a lot stronger together.

"This is nothing against the supervisors. I am not here plotting against them. My thing is that we are going to have to start working together. I need some support for this."

The city chose to house prisoners in Winston County in 2020 after the new Sheriff tried to re-negotiate 30-year-old pricing.

Mayor Young said last week if some plans were developed, he would willing and ready to "move forward."

Ward 2 Alderman Jim Fulton backed a joint study to fix the jail.

"It sounds like we need to form a panel," he said. "It needs to be city and county representatives to come up with a plan.

The jail was designed as a 66-bed facility and they steadily house between 70 and 100 prisoners. They were at 108 last Monday, Clark said.

"We have mats for the inmates. We sleep on the floor. We sleep wherever we can. There are not many things in that jail that work besides the running water and toilets and the TVs."

As for the folks who keep the jail running and maintain law and order, about 45 people — 20 jail employees and about that many SO employees — share a single toilet in the hallway.

A jail is a county function and the city should be paying a fair rate to house prisoners and not subsidizing Winston County.

Re-establishing a partnership to share and maintain the county jail will make the city and county a lot stronger, Clark told the mayor and board and he could not be more accurate.

In the 1990s, the city had agreed to pay \$10,000 a month, but that figure had dropped to about \$8,000 by the time Clark took office.

Adequately funding the jail is essential and a joint study sounds like a great idea.

City residents pay county taxes and, at the end of the day, it's a county responsibility to maintain a good jail.

When Clark took office, he reviewed all of his department's contracts, including the 1990s one with the city to house prisoners.

Clark did the right thing and proposed a new contract that brought costs in line, but the city went shopping for a discount and is subsidizing Winston County.

The jail has a \$1.4 million budget. "That's just to keep the doors open and there have been no improvements," Clark said.

Neshoba County should plan strategically with the city of Philadelphia with regard to the jail. Maintaining law and order is a priority.

Adequately funding the jail is essential so let's renew this city-county partnership.

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Does the Left own the future?

Before he appeared at his first solo news conference of 2022, President Joe Biden knew he had a communications problem he had to deal with.

Namely, how to get off the defensive.

How to avoid spending his time with the White House press corps defending his decisions and explaining his actions as allegations of failure, one after another, were tossed up at him?

Biden entered knowing what issues would be paramount and what questions would be raised:

Why had he been unable to control a coronavirus pandemic now killing 2,000 Americans a day? Why was he unable to contain an inflation eating up the wages, salaries and savings of American families at a yearly rate of 7%? Why was he unable to secure a southern border that 150,000 illegal immigrants were crossing every month?

To get off the defensive and onto offense, Biden brought his own questions for his GOP inquisitors and conservative critics:

"What are Republicans for? What are they for? Name me one thing they're for," Biden demanded to know.

Turning the tables, Biden charged his Republican critics with having no policy goals, other than the willful obstruction of his goals.

"The fundamental question is: What's Mitch (McConnell) for? ... What's he for on immigration? What's he for? What's he proposing to make anything better? ... What's he for on these things? What are they for?"

Biden was making the case that while the Democratic Party has an agenda of declared goals, providing benefits to millions, the GOP is the party of "No."

Why not fight our battles on this terrain for a change? Biden was demanding. And, behind his exasperation, he has a point.

Democrats do have an agenda. They do have things they want to accomplish. And the party of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy is basically an

Is Biden Right? Does the Left own the future?

opposition party whose goal is to prevent them from succeeding.

There is another reason Biden would like to force Republicans to identify their goals. Naming them would reveal the divisions inside the GOP on priorities and open Republicans up to the kind of attacks the GOP is mounting against Biden's agenda.

In short, behind Biden's demand that the GOP identify its goals was an attempt to shift the debate onto terrain more familiar and favorable for the Democratic Party.

For the truth is that Democrats are the party of government, and Republicans are the party of the private sector. These are their historic roles. Biden is seeking to re-elevate that critical difference.

Democrats, for example, are almost unanimous in their support of federally funded universal pre-K, child care, the child tax credit, student loan forgiveness and federal standards for voting in federal elections.

Historically, Democrats led the fight for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, civil rights, voting rights, welfare and most of the rest of a federal monolith that now consumes perhaps a fourth of our GDP.

Republicans have been the party that resisted the expansion of government over our lifetimes, and its role has often been to conduct an orderly retreat to a new defense perimeter after the most recent defeat.

The most celebrated Republican of the last century was Ronald Reagan, who famously declared that the nine most terrifying words in the English language were, "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help."

Republicans have emphasized, as a major role of government, providing the security that citizens cannot provide for themselves.

Security against crime and violence, security against an

invasion of the country, security against hostile foreign powers.

Biden's problem is that while millions might agree on aspects of his Build Back Better plan, the present primary concerns of the electorate are those government duties that his party is visibly failing to perform: controlling the pandemic, stopping the shootings and killings of cops, halting the invasion across our southern border, preventing the loss of incomes and savings to inflation.

Yet, despite the imperiled position of Biden's party today, it has relative strengths and long-term trends in its favor.

America's white majority, home to the base of the GOP, is a diminishing majority, on average older than the core constituencies of the Democratic Party — the young, the migrants and people of color.

Second, the Democratic mega-states in presidential elections — California, New York, Illinois — seem solidly blue, while Republican mega-states like Texas and Florida seem less solidly red.

Third, America's major media centered in New York and Washington, D.C., is liberal and Democratic, as are our cultural institutions — museums, Hollywood, higher education, the entertainment industry.

Fourth, the trend for democracies is toward transferring more and more power to central governments, not less. Under President Calvin Coolidge, the U.S. government share of GDP was 3%.

As for the culture wars, traditionalism has been in retreat since the 1950s.

Biden appears to be a failing president who believes in the inevitable victory of the ideology toward which he himself has been moving over his half-century career since arriving in Washington as a 30-year-old centrist Democrat.

Unfortunately, he may not be wrong.

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

LETTERS

Thanks to Sheriff Clark and his team

To the editor:

On behalf of myself, my family and I am sure most residents of Neshoba County, I want to express my appreciation to Sheriff Eric Clark and his staff for the effective relentless

effort they are pursuing to police crime and drugs in our county.

Thank you Sheriff Clark for the job that y'all are doing. I hope that you are getting the support that you need to run your department. Please know

that I am praying for your safety and protection as you continue to provide us residents the best law enforcement that you can provide.

Max Loper
Philadelphia

FLASHBACKS

JANUARY 23, 1942

Destroying four dry kilns and approximately 200,000 feet of high grade lumber, flames swept the Henderson-Molpus Lumber Company yard Tuesday morning causing losses estimated at \$20,000 by H. B. Turner, manager.

JANUARY 24, 1952

One of the most enjoyable socials of the Business and Professional club was given by hostesses Mary Barnett, Elizabeth Rush and Esther Kerr Tuesday evening at the Benwalt Hotel, the event being a scavenger hunt.

A large attendance is expected at the First Methodist church Sunday morning, January 27th, to hear Dr. L. G. Jacobs of the Indiana Conference. Dr. Jacobs is head of the United Evangelistic Mission which is being planned by the church.

JANUARY 25, 1962

Melvin Tullos has been named representative of District Five of Neshoba County on the Board of Trustees of East Central Junior College at Decatur. Mr. Tullos' appointment was made by the Nesho-

ba County board of Supervisors in December, and is for a term of five years.

JANUARY 27, 1972

Westside Community Center was "buzzing with activity" Sunday as every Headstart child in Neshoba County received a physical checkup. During the day, 175 children and 156 parents were attended to by teachers, staff members and a team of physicians and nurses from Meridian and Jackson.

M. M. (Bud) Kennedy has been named manager of the Neshoba County office of the state Employment Security Commission. He replaces Bennie Harris who was promoted to field representative at Clarksdale. Harris managed the office here four and a half years.

JANUARY 28, 1982

The apparent robbery of a local couple's mobile home immediately prior to a fire that destroyed the structure Friday, Jan 15, is under investigation by the Neshoba County Sheriff's Office and the State Fire Marshall's Office.

JANUARY 29, 1992

The Tribal Council of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has been considering a feasibility study for storing nuclear waste. The nuclear material apparently would be stored on a 466-acre site in Noxubee County that was given to the tribe about two years ago by a company that had hoped to manage a non-nuclear hazardous waste facility.

JANUARY 30, 2002

A prominent woman with a gifted ear for music who helped the Choctaw Indians preserve a part of their culture was remembered in a hymn sung by three Choctaw Women during a graveside service on Monday.

JANUARY 31, 2011

There was no formal arrival plans for the National Guard's 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion expected by week's end after a year in Afghanistan because they will all be flying home separately from Fort Hood, military officials and families said.

RICH LOWRY

Could DeSantis beat Trump?

Would DeSantis be audacious enough to run against Trump in 2024?

It was only a matter of time before Ron DeSantis' rising star ran into the unmovable object of Donald Trump's will to continue to dominate the GOP.

A spate of recent news stories has focused on the proto-feud between the past president with future ambitions and the protégé who rode his endorsement to victory in a Florida GOP gubernatorial primary and has big ambitions of his own.

The level of the clash shouldn't be exaggerated — so far, it mostly consists of muttering from Mar-a-Lago.

Obviously, it's also insanely early. But the Trump-DeSantis storyline is inherently alluring, given the chances of a collision between two men who have been allies and the possibility of the subordinate in the relationship eclipsing the figure who helped to elevate him.

Whether that ever happens is unknowable, yet the spat is revealing, nonetheless. Some version of what DeSantis represents has the greatest odds of coaxing the party away from Trump and forging a new political synthesis that bears the unmistakable stamp of Trump while jettisoning his flaws.

There's simply never going to be a GOP revelation in which the rank-and-file suddenly decides, "It was a mistake to ever embrace Donald Trump, and now we want to be the party of Adam Kinzinger." There will be no Bourbon Restoration.

The challenge to Trump will have to come from the Trump wing — at this point, more like the Trump fuselage, wing and landing gear — of the

desperately flawed immigration system.

That he rattled China's cage but didn't make fundamental changes to the trading relationship and was too complimentary of President Xi Jinping.

And, finally, that he lost to Joe Biden, a desperately flawed candidate who only made it into the White House because Trump made himself so unpopular.

Would DeSantis be audacious enough to run against Trump in 2024? The case against waiting is that it's extremely unlikely that the governor can maintain his exalted status in the party until 2028.

On the other hand, the case against running in 2024 is that it involves the enormous risk of encountering the business end of the Trump buzzsaw, which could change DeSantis' image in the party forever.

Trump took a not-so-veiled shot at DeSantis in a recent interview, hitting unnamed "gutless" politicians who won't say whether they've gotten a COVID-19 booster shot or not. DeSantis has been notably evasive on this question, and Trump was giving him a hint of things potentially to come.

For the moment, though, DeSantis should take the grumbling from Trump as a compliment — the past and current master of the GOP sees a future threat arising.

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

LETTERS

The Democrat welcomes letters, comments or suggestions: Editor and Publisher Jim Prince
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439 Beacon Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350
neshobademocrat.com
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BIBLE SELECTION

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
— Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

OBITUARIES

Dr. Hilton McKay Fairchild

Funeral services for Dr. Hilton McKay Fairchild will be held Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 1 p.m. from Sandtown United Methodist Church with Rev. Kim Poe and Rev. Hal Hall officiating. Burial will follow in Sandtown United Methodist Church Cemetery. Visitation will be held Tuesday, January 25, 2022 from 5 until 9 p.m. from McClain-Hays Funeral Home and Wednesday, January 26, 2022 from 11 a.m. until departure.



Dr. Hilton Fairchild

Dr. Fairchild, 87, of Philadelphia, died Friday, January 21, 2022 at his home with his wife, Paulette, granddaughter Josselyn and friend at his bedside.

Dr. Fairchild was born at McAfee Lumber Camp, Carthage, MS. He moved to South Jackson, Ms with his parents at age 4. He attended Byram Elementary School then George Elementary School. He attended Enoch's Junior High School and Central High School in Jackson, MS and graduated in 1953.

After graduating high school, he entered Mississippi College that summer and graduated in 1956 with triple major in Chemistry, Zoology and Physics. After graduating from Mississippi College, he entered University of Mississippi Medical School in 1956 (this was the second medical school class after it was moved from Oxford, MS). It was during medical school, working alongside Dr. Guyton, the world renowned author of medical physiology book, that he invented the blood flow meter. Upon completion of medical school and one year Family Practice Residency, he began his medical practice in Public Health in Grenada, MS. It was during this tenure, the polio vaccine was developed and made available. He administered the vaccine on sugar cubes and developed a plan to be implemented throughout the state with temporary clinics in school gymnasiums. His duties during this time included dairy barn inspections, milk preparation and dairy preventive medicine. In 1958, he moved to Jackson, MS and began a practice in family medicine and was on staff at Baptist Hospital, St. Dominic's and Hinds General Hospital. In 1971, he moved his family to Madden, MS where he practiced in The Madden Clinic and Thaggard Hospital. In 1976, he became the medical director of East Central Mississippi Health Care, being the first doctor to work with nurse practitioners. In 1982, he moved to Sardis, Mississippi and along with family practice he delivered many babies. As the circle of life would have it, in 1992, he moved back to Madden, MS but, unfortunately, Thaggard Hospital closed in November of that year. So in 1993, he began practice at Sebastopol Clinic and Laird Hospital. In 1994, he started family practice with Rush Hospital in Philadelphia, MS at this time, he participated in building the red roof clinic at Williamsville. After a few years with Rush Hospital System, he changed his practice to Neshoba County General Hospital and Nursing Home. He practiced here until his retirement in 2015 at the ripe age of 80.

Dr. Fairchild loved practicing medicine and loved people. "To know him was to love him and he loved you back BIG!" He was always lending some kind of hand to people around him that was in need, whether it was an act of kindness or financial need. His hobbies were traveling, especially in his RV, Nascar, Ole Miss Rebels and reading.

Survivors are his wife, Paulette Fairchild, of Philadelphia; children, Susan Gavronski (Tim) of Palm Coast, FL., Kathy Bliss (Chip) of Hartford, CT, Allison Fairchild of Omaha, NE., Chad Cannon of Conway, AR., Dr. Derek Cannon (Dr. Heather) of Philadelphia, MS., and Anka Smith (Spencer) of Prairieville, LA; grandchildren, Lucas Cannon, Josselyn Cannon, Cannon Smith, Bella Cannon and Jon David Cannon; sister, Pat Oglesby (Bob); brother-in-law, Troy Branning (Katherine); one niece and one nephew.

Dr. Fairchild was preceded in death by his parents, Hilton Reese Fairchild and Esma Lucille Fairchild; niece, Robin Oglesby and sister-in-law, Retha Thrash.

Pallbearers are Chad Cannon, Derek Cannon, Spencer Smith, Tim Gavronski, Chip Bliss and Troy Branning.

In lieu of Flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Neshoba County General Hospital and Nursing Home.

Malesia Polk

Funeral service for Ms. Malesia Polk will be held at 2 PM Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at Redwater Gym with Rev. Mark Patrick officiating. Interment will be in Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10 AM Monday, January 24, 2022 at Redwater Gym. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Polk, 47, passed away on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at MS Baptist Hospital in Jackson, MS. She enjoyed traveling, spending time with her family, kids, being on the beach and in nature.

She is preceded in death by her father, George Polk, Sr. and grandparents.

Survivors include her mother, Ezaline Tubby Polk; daughters, Lalyta Henry, Kennedy Henry, Melendez Steve, Taurean Willis; sons, Tanner Henry, Milton Henry, Jr., Titan Edwards, Ramirez Steve, Sez Willis; sisters, Virginia York, Georgiana Polk, LaToya Polk, Audriana Polk; brothers, Christopher Tubby, George Polk, Jr.; 2 grandchildren, Cohen Chatkehoodle, Raylen Henry.

Pallbearers are Richard Ben, Craig Willis, Robert John, Jimmy Tangle, Dominic Hernandez, Edgar Cauthen, Davien Billy, Christopher John.

Randy Cotton

Funeral service for Mr. Randy Cotton will be held at 10 AM Thursday, January 20, 2022 at Crystal Ridge Gym with Rev. Melvin Chase officiating.

Interment will be in Choctaw Christian Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10 AM Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at Crystal Ridge Gym. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Cotton, 47, passed away on Friday, January 14, 2022, at Gulfport Singing River Hospital in Gulfport, MS. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing softball and baseball. He is preceded in death by his parents, Jimmy Cotton and Mary Tubby; brothers, James W. Cotton, Earl Cotton. Pallbearers are Domonic Bell, Dwight Willis, Franklin Hickman, Charleston Cotton, Rahim Russey, Elias Sam, Shia Moore, Rashok Cobb.

Catherine Elaine Rosales

Graveside service for Mrs. Catherine Elaine Rosales will be held at 10 AM Saturday, January 22, 2022 at Standing Pine Community Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 8:15 AM Saturday, January 22, 2022 at John E. Stephens Chapel. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Rosales, 52, passed away on Monday, January 17, 2022, at University of Alabama. She enjoyed spending time with her 2 granddaughters.

Survivors include her parents, Teodoro Rosales and Debra Cay Briscoe; daughters, Nicole Rosales and Alexandra Rosales; son, Jacob Rosales; sisters, Jessica Austin, Michelle Alvarez and Mary Alvarez; brother, Edward Rosales; 2 grandchildren.

Pallbearers are Glenn Austin, Jason Austin, Christopher John, Bret Tims, Damien Ortega, Edward Rosales, Keith Lasarge.

Twalla Triplett

Funeral services for Ms. Twalla Renette Triplett will be held on Friday, January 28, 2022, at 2 P.M. from Jerusalem Temple Church with Bishop Stan Jones officiating. Burial will be at Donald Rest Cemetery, Beck Funeral Home, Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Triplett 48, of Meridian, passed away on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

She is survived by her children, Keyake, Terriaki and Kornelius Triplett all of Philadelphia, MS, her stepmother, Mary Sue Triplett of Meridian, MS, three brothers, Robert Triplett, Willie Triplett and Blake Boyles all of Meridian, MS, six sisters, Donna Wash of Philadelphia, MS, Susan Davis, Brandy Steele, Natalie Triplett, Mary Triplett and Kelsey Triplett all of Meridian, MS, and nine grandchildren.

Pallbearers are Georgio Grace, Xavier Keys, Cadarius Houston, Quinterrius Daniels and Mon Daniels.

Alma Stewart

Graveside services for Mrs. Alma Lee Stewart were held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 2 P.M. from New Jerusalem Church Cemetery in Magnolia, MS. Beck Funeral Home, Inc. was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Stewart 70, of Philadelphia, passed away on Friday, January 21, 2022 at Andersson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She is survived by her husband, Billie Stewart of Philadelphia, MS, her daughters, LaMonica LaTrease Stewart of Philadelphia, MS, Sabrina Stewart Foster of Philadelphia, MS, her son, Billie Stewart II of Philadelphia, MS, her father, Hilery Brown of Magnolia, MS, seven brothers, Rev. Perry L Brown, Hilery Brown Jr., Morris W. Brown, Michael O. Brown, Lee W. Brown, James O. Brown, and Percy Brown, one sister, Norma Alexander, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Family and friends served as pallbearers.

Billy Joe Seales

Funeral services for Mr. Billy Joe Seales were held on Saturday, January 22, 2022, at 11 A.M. from the Hopewell United Methodist Church Cemetery with Bro. Liminski Patrick officiating. Beck Funeral Home, Inc. was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Seales 82, of Philadelphia, passed away on Friday, January 14, 2022 at Rush Foundation Hospital in Meridian.

He is survived by wife, Dorothy Lee Carter-Seales of Philadelphia, MS, six daughters, Kathy Seales, Alma White, Delphine Woody, Millie Patrick, Tamera Willis and Quorliss Black, seven sons, Billy Seales, Franklin Seales, Shaun Seales, Towaski Seales, Kiwanis Willis, Terrance Willis and Cenika Black, two sisters, Anna Moore and Bobbie Jackson, 42 grandchildren and 68 great grandchildren.

His grandsons served as pallbearers.

Travis Evans

Graveside services for Mr. Travis Sentel Evans were held on Saturday, January 22, 2022, at 2 P.M. from Little Mountain M.B. Church Cemetery in Union with Pastor Joe Buckley officiating. Beck Funeral Home, Inc was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Evans, 40, of Union, passed away on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at his residence.

He is survived by four siblings, John F. Evans of Union, MS, Alicia Evans-Williams of Lena, MS, Barbara Evans-Donlad and Tommie Evans both of Harrisburg, PA, two uncles, Cleve Buckley and Willie Evans, and two aunts, Marie Calloway and Thelma Evans.

Pallbearers were Dexter Thompson, David Clay, Terrell Fisher, Fred Gill, Kendrick Clay and Bobby Campbell.

Clara Mae Dunn

Funeral service for Ms. Clara Mae Dunn will be held 2 PM Thursday, January 27, 2022, at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. John E. Stephens and Rev. Rusty Parsons officiating. Interment will be in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 12-2 Pm Thursday, January 27, 2022, at John E. Stephens Chapel.

Ms. Dunn, 87, passed away Sunday, January 23, 2022, at her home in Neshoba Co. where she lived most of her life. She was a member of Salem Baptist church and worked in the school cafeteria for years. Her hobbies were crafts, crocheting, and sewing.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Malcolm Dunn Jr.; parents, Robert Dosby Reid and Estabelle Love Reid.

Survivors include daughter, Donna Sharp (Joe) of Philadelphia; sons, Mitchel Dunn (Beth) of Philadelphia, Paul Michael Dunn of Philadelphia, Lloyd Malcolm Dunn (Penny) of LaCombe, LA.; (8) grandchildren; (11) great-great grandchildren.

Gary L. Todd

Funeral service for Mr. Gary L. Todd was held at 2 PM Sunday, January 23, 2022, at John E. Stephens Chapel with Bro. Jim Sisson and Rev. John E. Stephens officiating. Interment was in Bethlehem Cemetery at Four Corners. John E. Stephens Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Todd, 72, passed away Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at Choctaw Residential Center in Philadelphia, MS. He lived in Neshoba Co. most of his life where he was a member of Mars Hill Pentecostal Church. He was in the Army Guard, also was a contract Truck Driver for Sisson Trucking. His hobbies were reading the paper, watching westerns, working.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jimmy Willis Todd, Genell Hoyt Sisson Todd.

Survivors include his wife, Jan Gentry Todd; sons, Marcus Todd (Kristy), and Riley Todd (Katie); (3) grandchildren, Trevor, Abbe, and Mollie; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Melody Alberta Brown

Memorial service for Ms. Melody Alberta Brown was held 3 PM Friday, January 21, 2022, at Southside Methodist Church with Rev. John E. Stephens officiating. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Brown, 67, passed away Saturday, January 8, 2022, at her home in Long Beach, MS. where she lived most of her life, and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. She was a retired secretary for The Good Will. She loved to crochet and loved art, but her big hobby was watching Gunsmoke.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Patsy Jean Cheatham; sister, Rosemary Mann; brother, Randy Brown.

Survivors include her daughter, Amy Johnson Laughlin; sisters, Kathy Hale, Naomi Pettis, Angela Turk; (1) granddaughter, Kyleigh Laughlin.

Janie Edwards Blount

Funeral services for Janie Edwards Blount was held Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 2 p.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Joey, John and Joseph Blount officiating. Burial followed in Spring Creek Cemetery. Visitation was held Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 5 until 8 p.m. at McClain-Hays Funeral Home.

Janie Ruth Edwards Blount, age 84, was born at home in the Fork community of Neshoba County. She lived her whole life in this county. She was a homemaker and stay-at-home mom until beginning her tenure at Neshoba Central Elementary School, serving as first grade assistant teacher and Parent Resource Center Coordinator. She retired from the Neshoba County School District in 2010. Mrs. Blount loved children and was proud to have taught so many to read. She was an avid reader herself and encouraged a love for learning.

She married the love of her life, Norman, during her senior year of high school. Many have expressed never having witnessed a couple more in love. They celebrated 60 plus years of marriage. Part of Janie died on April 27, 2016, when Norman passed. He was her heart. Mrs. Blount was a member of Spring Creek Baptist Church where she taught children's Sunday School, VBS, sang in the choir, and served on various committees, including interior and flower committees. Her love of flowers made her a natural for choosing beautiful flowers and wreaths for the church.

Janie was known for her beautifully landscaped yard and her plants. Her ferns were enormous and in great demand for event decorating. She grew numerous varieties of day lilies and added to her collection each year. She loved her vegetable gardens. She was quite the gracious southern lady, and kept a lovely home, and cooked delicious meals for her family & friends. Her specialties included chicken dressing, pecan & coconut pies and buttermilk biscuits. Family meant the world to Mrs. Blount. She was extremely proud that each member of her lineage was educated and successful. She lived to see five generations of children to love as had her mother.

Mrs. Blount is survived by daughters, Kay (Michael) Hillman of Philadelphia, Pam (Johnny) Wilcher of Carthage, son, Joey (Sheila) Blount of Philadelphia; Six grandchildren, Bonnie (John Mark) Posey, Josh (Liz) Moore, Jon Michael Hillman, John (Anna) Blount, II, Katie (Tyler) Sistrunk, Joseph Blount; five great-grandchildren, Damon Witcher, Ali (Tyler) Dill, Madison Moore, John Travis Blount, III, Silas Blount; two great-great grandchildren, James Norman Dill, Ezra Dill; brother, Ben (Bettye) Edwards, sisters, Roma Grimes, Linda (Mike) Gully; sisters-in-law, Helen Jones, Glenda Edwards, Elizabeth Jones, and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Mrs. Blount is preceded in death by her spouse of 60 years, Norman Blount; parents J.V. and Lizzie Benson Edwards; brothers, Jimmie Edwards and David Edwards.

Pallbearers are Jon Michael Hillman, John Mark Posey, Damon Witcher, Tyler Sistrunk, Tyler Dill, and Stacy Lashley.

Frances Page was born in the Forest Dale Community and raised in the community of Shady Grove in Neshoba County. Mrs. Page was a member of Trinity Baptist Church. She was a teacher's assistant at Neshoba Central Elementary for 21 years, and a volunteer at the Neshoba General Hospital gift shop.

Survivors include her daughters, Janet Perry and Tammy Hood; sons, Rick and Keith Page; nine grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; sister, Faye Hoyt; brothers, Steve and Bob Wilkerson; a host of nieces and nephews.

Services for Mr. Abraham Simmons will be held Monday January 31, 2022 at 12 p.m. at E.E. McDonald Community Chapel with Pastor Thermon Brazzle officiating. Viewing will be Monday January 31, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at E.E. McDonald Community Chapel. Mr. Simmons, 90, of Philadelphia, MS passed on January 15, 2022 at Rush Foundation Hospital.

Abraham Simmons

Services for Mr. Abraham Simmons will be held Monday January 31, 2022 at 12 p.m. at E.E. McDonald Community Chapel with Pastor Thermon Brazzle officiating. Viewing will be Monday January 31, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at E.E. McDonald Community Chapel. Mr. Simmons, 90, of Philadelphia, MS passed on January 15, 2022 at Rush Foundation Hospital.

James Rushing

A graveside service for James Rushing was held Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. from Sand Hill Cemetery with Rev. Tommy Conn officiating. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Rushing, 61, of Philadelphia, died Sunday, January 16, 2022.

He was a native and longtime resident of Neshoba County. He was a heavy equipment mechanic by trade. He enjoyed camping and traveling.

Survivors include three daughters, Misty Rushing, Lyndsey (Bobby Lee) Hardy, Hailey (Dillon) Cumberland, all of Philadelphia; grandchildren, James Hardy, Hailyn Hardy, Kelton Hardy, Delilah Cumberland; sister, Brenda (Chuck) Coleman of Philadelphia; one niece and several nephews.

Preceding Mr. Rushing in death were parents, A. V. and Mary Rushing; two brothers, Dwayne and Mitchell Rushing.

Pallbearers are Chris Bounds, Bobby Lee Hardy, Jimmy Rushing, Walyann Pettis, James Hardy, and Exo Moore IV. Honorary pallbearers are Guy Morris, Greg Peebles, and Scotty Vowell.

See OBITS, page 6A

Frances Page

Funeral services for Frances Page was held Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 11 a.m. from McClain-Hays Chapel with Dr. Mike Carr and Dr. Wayne Hill officiating. Burial followed in Mt. Olive Cemetery in House Community. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Page, 83, of Philadelphia died Tuesday, January 18, 2021.

Beck
Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

MR. CLAUDE YATES TUBBY
10 AM THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022
PEARL RIVER FACILITY BUILDING
PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY CEMETERY

MR. RANDY COTTON
10 AM THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022
CRYSTAL RIDGE GYM
CHOCTAW CHRISTIAN CEMETERY

MS. MELODY BROWN
3 PM FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022
MEMORIAL
SOUTHSIDE METHODIST CHURCH

MS. CATHERINE ELAINE ROSALES
10 AM SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022
GRAVESIDE SERVICE
STANDING PINE COMMUNITY CEMETERY

GARY L. TODD
2 PM SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022
JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL
BETHLEHEM CEMETERY (FOUR CORNERS WINSTON CO.)

MS. MALESIA POLK
2 PM TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022
REDWATER GYM
OLD MT. ZION CEMETERY

MS. CLARA MAE DUNN
2 PM THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022
JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL
CEDAR HILL CEMETERY

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

THE LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.

Sunday School (All Ages)
9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Activities
Family Night Dinner
6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Bible Study and Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)
Children's Program
7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia

"For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever"

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

DR. HILTON MCKAY FAIRCHILD SERVICES JANUARY 26 SANDTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH INTERMENT SANDTOWN CEMETERY

MRS. JANIE BLOUNT SERVICES JANUARY 23 MCCLAIN-HAYS CHAPEL INTERMENT SPRING CREEK CEMETERY

MRS. FRANCES PAGE SERVICES JANUARY 22 MCCLAIN-HAYS CHAPEL INTERMENT MT. OLIVE CEMETERY (HOUSE)

MR. JAMES RUSHING GRAVESIDE SERVICE JANUARY 20 SAND HILL CEMETERY

MRS. REDIE FAYE MCBEATH -ARRANGEMENTS INCOMPLETE-

Member
THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN RULE

McClain-Hays Funeral Home
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JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL FUNERAL SERVICES

MR. CLAUDE YATES TUBBY
10 AM THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022
PEARL RIVER FACILITY BUILDING
PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY CEMETERY

MR. RANDY COTTON
10 AM THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022
CRYSTAL RIDGE GYM
CHOCTAW CHRISTIAN CEMETERY

MS. MELODY BROWN
3 PM FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022
MEMORIAL
SOUTHSIDE METHODIST CHURCH

MS. CATHERINE ELAINE ROSALES
10 AM SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022
GRAVESIDE SERVICE
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BETHLEHEM CEMETERY (FOUR CORNERS WINSTON CO.)

MS. MALESIA POLK
2 PM TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022
REDWATER GYM
OLD MT. ZION CEMETERY

MS. CLARA MAE DUNN
2 PM THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022
JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL
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Cache of meth seized after road racing incident

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

A large amount of meth was seized about midnight Thursday after two cars were spotted racing on Highway 16 west headed into town, the authorities said.

Darrell E. McBeath, 36, 10711 Road 133, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana in a vehicle, Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark said.

McBeath also received several misdemeanors and traffic violations including careless driving, failure to yield to blue lights, a seatbelt violation and two counts of disorderly conduct.

McBeath remains in the Neshoba County Detention Center and has been denied bond. Clark said that he was denied bond because he is out on bail for drug trafficking charges in



Darrell McBeath

Leake County.

Terrence Cardell Boyd, 39, 11516 Road 121, a passenger, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Boyd was out on a \$15,000 bond by Sunday afternoon. The driver of a second car,



Terrence Boyd

Thomas Rys hun Grayson, 23, 1773 Bunk Newell Road, Meridian, was arrested and charged on several warrants for contempt of court, failure to appear in court and DUI.

Grayson remains in custody.



Thomas Grayson

Clark said that the incident started at about 11 p.m. on Jan 20 when a Sheriff's deputy saw a Buick and Chevy Impala that appeared to be racing on Highway 16 headed east toward town.

The deputy described the two vehicles as "weaving in and out" of traffic and traveling "bumper to bumper." The Buick, driven by McBeath, was stopped near

Frog Level Road. After a search of the vehicle the deputy found a "large amount of meth" and a misdemeanor amount of marijuana.

The Impala, driven by Grayson, was pulled over by the Philadelphia Police Department around Walmart.

Clark said a deputy soon arrived on the scene to assist.

Clark said they established that Grayson had outstanding warrants and made the arrest.

COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail Docket for 1/18-1/24
• Johnny Abel, 63, of 14951 Hwy. 19 South, indictment.
• Joshua Andrews, 30, of

8021 Hwy 488, indictment.
• Roger L. Bankhead, 39, of 10920 Road 737, indictment.
• Timothy B. Barnett, 59, of

1070 Goforth Road, poss. of controlled substance.
• Terrence Boyd, 40, of 11516 Road 121, poss. of controlled substance.
• Matthew Cain, 34, of 10131 Road 383, indictment.
• Billy J. Clemons, 56, of 10181 Road 612, indictment.
• Bryan Cook, 39, of 2323 County Road 660, indictment.
• Jamie Cumberland, 51, of 10951 Road 616, indictment.
• Lawrence Davis Jr., 34, of 1009 Ingram Street, indictment.

• Austin Dempsey, 24, of 14710 Hwy 21 South, indictment.
• Jackie Dunn, 41, of 10351 Road 573, malicious mischief over \$1,000.
• Charisma Edwards, 30, of 10123 Hwy 15 East, failure to appear.
• Maria Edwards, 44, of 10190 Road 264, indictment.
• Ronnie Edwards, 42, of 566 C Pippen Road, indictment.
• Timothy Eichelberger, 51, of 199 Ray McDonald Road, contempt of court.
• Shonteika Erving, 30, of 1719 Hwy 19 N Apt. 69, failure to appear.
• Cory Evans, 30, of 1070 Hudson Road, poss. of controlled substance.
• Johnny Gipson, 54, of 103 St. Francis Dr., indictment.
• Venora Graham, 37, of

1693 Morehead Road, indictment.
• Anderson M. Gray, 27, 100971 Hwy 482, poss. of controlled substance.
• Thomas Grayson, 23, 1773 Bunk Newell Road, driving under the influence of other substance second offense, contempt of court, failure to appear.

• Tameria Hall, 23, of 155 Dan-Boon Road, hold for investigations, trafficking of controlled substance.
• Matthew Harris, 29, of 10301 Road 301, indictment.
• Johnny Harrison, 24, of 10910 County Road 206, indictment.
• Kefus Henderson Sr., 52, of 385 Loper Street, indictment.
• Dalton Holley, 20, of 11580 Road 2610, hold for investigations.
• Joshua Howard, 33, of 10831 Road 628, indictment.
• Jamey Johnson, 34, of 397 Williams Road, indictment.
• Lewis Killen, 45, of 11361 Road 501, indictment.
• Mecedric Kirkland, 33, of 2672 Madden Road, robbery, aggravated assault manifest extreme indif. To life
• Mark Ledell, 61, of 15403 Hwy 21, indictment.
• Liquori Lewis, 44, of 10371 Road 549, indictment.
• Shuntalidia Lewis, 31, of 129 Chitto Goves, driving under the influence-1st offense.

• Anterio Madison, 20, of 1700 Pendelton Square Apt. 32, failure to appear.
• Bobby Massey, 43, of 10113 Road 2430, indictment.
• Darrell McBeath, 37, of 10711 Road 133, hold for investigations, careless driving, disorderly conduct, poss. Of controlled substance, seat belt violation, poss. Of marijuana in vehicle, disorderly conduct, failure to yield to blue light/siren.

• Davita McClelland, 47, of 114 Bogue Chitto Cove, driving under the influence/refusal to take test.
• Marquarius Mickles, 30, of 700 15th ct nw, indictment.
• Megan Morgan, 30, of 3752 Midway Road, indictment.
• Keith C Nash, 36, of 1081 Road 1321, indictment, poss. Of controlled substance.
• Dalton Petty, 25, of 510 Cumberland Ave. 3B, hold for other agency.
• Kendall Pilgrim, 57, of 12360 Hwy 486, indictment.
• Eric Pope, 42, of 519 Line Street, sale of controlled substance, sale of controlled substance.
• Edward Pullin, 45, of 10041 Road 371, indictment.
• Jason Reed, 39, of 11470 Road 149, forgery of a prescription.
• James J Robinson, 32, of 10280 Road 402, sale of controlled substance, sale of controlled substance.
• Casey Russell, 36, of 393

Dr Brantley Road, indictment.
• William Sciple, 47, of 1178 Rock Creek Road, indictment.
• Anthony Sherman, 19, of 236 Walnut Grove Road, hold for investigations.
• Daniel Smith, 45, of 10491 Hwy 21 North, indictment.
• David H Smith, 36, of 31130 Calhoun Road, indictment.
• Jody Solomon, 55, of 246 Oswald Road, poss. Of controlled substance, poss. Of paraphernalia.
• Jason J Stribling, 46, of 411 Austin Street, disturbance of family, indictment.
• Jarrod Stuart, 36, of 325 North Street, indictment.
• James T Tucker, 51, of 1009 road 703, hold for investigations.
• Deangelo Warren, 35, of 227 MLK Drive, indictment, indictment.
• Willie J Warren, 31, of 10190 Road 147, stalking.
• Bjorn Williams, 44, of 186 Goat Ranch Road, failure to appear, contempt of court, failure to appear.
• Daryl Willis, 36, of 631 James Billie Road, driving under the influence- 1st offense.
• Jeffrey Willis, 61, of 13850 Road 602, indictment.
• Samantha Woodruff, 42, of 10010 Road 331, indictment.

Obits

Continued from page 5A

Katherine Moore Curtis

Services for Ms. Katherine Moore Curtis were held 3 pm, Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church with burial in the church cemetery. Bro. Rusty Walton, Bro. Mike Powell and Bro. Lin Chesney officiated.



Visitation Katherine Curtis were held 1:30 pm- 3 pm, Wednesday at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Ms. Curtis, 88, of Little Rock died Saturday, January 15, 2022 at her residence.

She was a lifetime member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and was a faithful supporter of her husband's prison ministry.

Survivors:
2 Daughters: Marie McMahan and husband Charles "Red" of Little Rock
Trista "Tennie" Singleton and

husband Dewitt of Decatur
Grandchildren: Chet McMahan, Casey Scarborough and husband Micheal, Tracy Rule and husband Chris, Heath Mathis and wife Tish, Brock Singleton and wife Nancee, Natasha Clark and husband Aaron and Tomekia Curtis
23 Great Grandchildren
2 Sisters: Joyce Hollingsworth and Glenda Neese
3 Sister in laws: Delorse Savell, Omera Moore and Ida Mae Moore

Ms. Curtis was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Carl Curtis; one son, Carl Curtis, Jr. and three brothers, John Moore, Ed Moore and L.M. and grandson in law, Josh (J.K.) Robinson.
Pallbearers: Roger Moore, Kenneth Moore, Aaron Clark, Heath Mathis, Jax Clark and John Rush
Honorary Pallbearers: Deacons of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
Milling Funeral Home of Union in charge of the arrangements.

**MANY BIG SHIPMENTS
HAVE ARRIVED & BEING PUT ON DISPLAY**

**SEVERAL 1,000 SILK BUNCH FLOWERS
FISHING SUPPLIES**

TOOLS, HARDWARE, AUTO ITEMS & TARPS

**WE HAVE BOXES OF VALENTINE CARDS
32 PC - \$1.39, \$1.79 & \$1.98 A BOX**

**3 BIG SHIPMENTS NOW
BEING PUT ON DISPLAY**

**CRAFT ITEMS • WEDDING ITEMS • RIBBON • ROCKS • BALLOONS •
TABLE CLOTHS • BURLAP • CANDLE HOLDERS & MORE**

SEVERAL 100 GIRLIE GIRL PRINTED T-SHIRTS

WEB BELTS & SUSPENDERS

DUE IN FRIDAY - TRAILER LOAD OF FOAM RUBBER

**DUE IN WEDNESDAY NEXT WEEK - TRAILER LOAD
OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS**

Jerome Tank
1115 E. MAIN STREET
PHILADELPHIA
1 MILE FROM DOWNTOWN
601-656-7104
Season-2-Season, Inc.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program

Mississippi's State Health Insurance Assistance Program is a part of a national network of programs that offer free confidential counseling, education and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers.

Certified SHIP counselors provide:
Health Insurance Counseling | Education & Information
Eligibility Screening | Enrollment & Application Assistance

These programs include but are not limited to
Part D Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help | Medicare Savings Program
Medicare Preventive Benefits

Contact SHIP
Certified SHIP counselors provide free assistance. Counselors can help Medicare beneficiaries complete and submit their MSP & LIS applications, as well as, enroll into a new plan.

Call SHIP toll free 1-844-822-4622
or contact your local Area Agency on Aging.

Central MS Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren, & Yazoo 601-981-1516	North Delta Cahoon, DeSoto, Panola, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, & Tunica 662-661-4100	Southern MS Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone, & Wayne 228-869-2326
East Central Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Leflore, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, & Smith 601-683-3401	Northeast MS Alcorn, Bolivar, Marshall, Prentiss, Tippah, & Tishomingo 662-728-7938	Southwest MS Adair, Amite, Calhoun, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Warren, & Wilkinson 601-446-6044
Golden Triangle Choctaw, Clay, Lawrence, Neshoba, Oktobeh, Webster, Wilcox 662-524-4650	South Delta Bolivar, Humphreys, Itawamba, Sharkey, Sunflower, & Washington 662-728-7937	Three Rivers Calhoun, Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Marion, Pontotoc, & Union 662-489-2415
North Central Attala, Carroll, Grenada, Holmes, Leflore, Montgomery, & Yalobusha 662-283-2675		

www.mdhs.ms.gov

Public Notices

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF JOYCE BELL JOE, DECEASED
CAUSE NO. 2021-701
LANELL JOE
PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted on the 1st day of December, 2021, by the Court Clerk of the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to the undersigned upon Joyce Bell Joe, 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 this date or they will be forever barred.

/s/ Lanell Joe
LANELL JOE
ADMINISTRATRIX
Prepared By:

STEVEN D. SETTLEMIRE
ATTORNEY FOR ADMINISTRATRIX
SettleMires & Graham, PLLC
410 East Beacon Street
Philadelphia, MS 39350
(601) 656-9597
MSBN: 99674

Notice to Bidders

The Neshoba County School District will receive Competitive Sealed Proposals in the Neshoba County School District Office, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350, until 2:00 pm, on March 4, 2022, for Elementary Supplemental Phonics Curriculum for Grades Kindergarten through Two. Detailed specifications for the above described Request for Proposals may be obtained from the Neshoba County School District Office, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350, or www.neshobacentral.com, or by calling Dr. Penny Hill at 601-656-3752.

Instructions to Bidders:

All responses shall be placed, with Proposals included therewith, in a sealed envelope marked "Proposal for Phonics Curriculum," and submitted to the Neshoba County School District Office, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350, until 2:00 pm, on March 4, 2022. It shall be incumbent upon each bidder to understand the specifications and requirements and submit questions to Dr. Penny Hill at phill@neshobacentral.com by February 8. It is not the intent of the specifications to limit the bidding to any particular provider of services, but rather to select services to fit specific needs. Any reference to name-brand materials or services is intended to establish standards only and proposals submitted on materials, or services thereto shall be considered. The owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive irregularities.

Published Wednesday, January 26, 2022 and Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOB COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NESHOB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES, BY MARCUS D. DAVENPORT, AND CHRISSE ALEXANDRIA CREEL, A MINOR, BY AND THROUGH HER NEXT FRIEND, MARCUS D. DAVENPORT PETITIONERS

GAVIN MCLLOUD CREEL RESPONDENT

CHANCERY COURT SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: **Gavin Mcloud Creel**, who is not to be found in the State of Mississippi on diligent inquiry and whose post office address is not known to the Petitioners after diligent inquiry made by said Petitioners.

You have been made a Respondent in the suit filed in this Court by the Neshoba County Department of Child Protection Services by Marcus D. Davenport, Social Services Regional Director, and Chrissy Alexandria Creel, a minor, seeking to terminate your parental rights as those rights relate to said minor and demanding that the full custody, control and authority to act on behalf of said minor be placed with the Neshoba County Department of Child Protection Services.

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO APPEAR AND DEFEND AGAINST THE PETITION FILED AGAINST YOU IN THIS ACTION AT 9:00 O'CLOCK A.M. ON THE 3rd DAY OF MARCH, 2022. IN THE COURTROOM OF THE NESHOB COUNTY CHANCERY COURTHOUSE AT 401 E. BEACON STREET, STE. 107, PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI, AND IN CASE OF YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AND DEFEND, A JUDGMENT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE PETITION.

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

ISSUED under my hand and seal of said Court, this ____ day of 2022.

GUY NOWELL, CHANCERY CLERK NESHOB COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350 BY: _____

Deputy Clerk
Nathan H. McIntosh, MSB #106131
Office of the Attorney General
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
Telephone No. (601) 359-4286
Nathan.McIntosh@ago.ms.gov

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF NESHOB COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The NESHOB COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS will receive competitive sealed bids and proposals in the Office of the Chancery Clerk, for the Board of Supervisors of Neshoba County, Mississippi, at the Neshoba County Courthouse, 401 Beacon Street, Suite 107, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350 or electronic bids and proposals submitted at www.neshobacount.y.net/bids until 10:00 AM on the 22 nd day of February 2022 for the purposes of acquiring the following services and contracts: Lawn Care Maintenance Services for Neshoba

Public Notices

County Facilities.

Detailed specifications for the above described services and bid submittal forms may be obtained from the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors office at the Neshoba County Courthouse, 401 Beacon Street, Suite 201, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350, by calling 601-656-6281 or on Neshoba County's website at www.neshobacount.y.net . Neshoba County, Mississippi will determine with the specifications exist before accepting any bid.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS:

All responses to the solicitation for said system shall be returned, with detailed proposals included therewith, including the fixed price amount to be bid, via sealed envelope clearly marked with "Proposal for Lawn Care Services" to the address provided above or in a PDF document format, and submitted electronically, at www.neshobacount.y.net /bids under the correct bid solicitation, by 10:00 AM, local time, on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

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

Published by Order of the Board of Supervisors of Neshoba County, Mississippi on the 18 th day of January 2022. /s/ GUY NOWELL
GUY NOWELL, CLERK
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NESHOB COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Publication dates: January 26 th and February 2 nd , 2022

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF GUARDIANSHIP OF BRYCETON KOI COTTON, A MINOR

MIDORI Y. JOHN AND AS NEXT FRIENDS PETITIONER

VS. CAUSE NO. 2020-772

ALEXANDRIA HOPE COTTON AND UNKNOWN PUNITIVE FATHER RESPONDENT

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: UNKNOWN PUNITIVE FATHER ADDRESS UNKNOWN

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed by this Court by MIDORI Y. JOHN AND RICKY JOHN Petitioners, which seeks Guardianship of a minor.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint, petition or motion at **9:30 o'clock A.M. on the 2nd day of March, 2022**, in the Tribal Courtroom of the Smith John Memorial Judicial Complex located on the Pearl River Reservation, Choctaw, Mississippi.

In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things determined in the complaint, petition or motion.

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

Issed under my hand and the seal of this Court, this the 18th day of January, 2022.

/s/ Jennileen Young
TRIBAL COURT CLERK

IN THE TRIBAL COURT OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF GUARDIANSHIP OF DREW IVEY WILLIAMS, A MINOR

LORETTA NICKEY WILLIAMS, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS NEXT FRIEND PETITIONER

VS. CAUSE NO. : 2020-873

DEYONDRIA JUNE WILLIAMS UNKNOWN PUNITIVE FATHER RESPONDENTS

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: UNKNOWN PUNITIVE FATHER ADDRESS UNKNOWN

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by LORETTA NICKEY WILLIAMS Petitioner, which seeks Guardianship of a minor.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint, petition or motion at **9:30 o'clock A.M. on the 2nd day of March, 2022**, in the Tribal courtroom of the Smith John Memorial Complex located on the Pearl River Reservation, Choctaw, Mississippi.

In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint, petition or motion.

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of this Court, this the 18th day of January.

/s/ Jennileen Young
TRIBAL COURT CLERK

NESHOB COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS EXPENSE SUMMARY FOR:

01/18/2022
001-100 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 9646.81
001-101 CHANCERY CLERK 1556.81
001-102 CIRCUIT CLERK 571.56
001-105 TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR 817.99
001-120 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR 92.96
001-151 MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING/GROUND 17892.49
001-152 DATA

Public Notices

PROCESSING 1726.85
001-154 VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE 61.72
001-160 CHANCERY COURT 4981.40
001-161 CIRCUIT COURT 7725.43
001-164 JUVENILE DRUG COURT 31.02
001-166 JUSTICE COURT 121.50
001-167 CORONER/MEDICAL EXAMINER 126.71
001-171 COURT ADMINISTRATOR 1307.32
001-180 ELECTIONS 4557.29
001-200 SHERIFF ADMINISTRATION 15654.86
001-220 CUSTODY OF PRISONERS 31402.75
001-232 MEDICAL SERVICE - PRISONERS 1628.40
001-260 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 224.64
001-420 HEALTH CENTER 38.00
001-450 WELFARE ADMINISTRATION 698.74
001-452 COUNCIL ON AGING 174.10
001-540 RECREATION/COLISEUM 217.60
001-631 COUNTY EXTENSION 3466.63
001-676 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTH 78.18
097-265 COUNTY WIDE E-911 4229.00
097-890 CO WIDE E-911 - LEASE/PURCHASE 9757.79
106-251 COUNTY LINE VFD 55.26
106-254 LINWOOD VFD 86.54
106-256 TUCKER VFD 35.00
120-221 INMATE CANTEEN FUND 86.00
130-000 COLISEUM EXPENSES 100.00
150-300 COUNTY UNIT ROAD 15237.47
150-890 CO UNIT RD - LEASE/PURCHASE 880.24
160-300 COUNTY WIDE BRIDGE & CULVERT 39527.96
160-890 CO WIDE BRIDGE-LEASE/PURCHASE 3806.92
225-800 2013 REFUNDING PARK BONDS 1940.00
230-800 COURTHOUSE RENOVATION 1940.00
235-800 EOC/SOLID WASTE BONDS 1940.00
400-340 SOLID WASTE 11585.64
400-890 SOLID WASTE - LEASE/PURCHASE 5628.69
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: 201638.27
THIS IS A SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES FOR PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 18, 2022 LISTING THE TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS BY EACH DEPARTMENT/FUND PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MISSISSIPPI CODE ANN. § 19-3-35. A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL EXPENDITURES REPRESENTING THESE TOTALS IS RECORDED IN THE DOCKET OF CLAIMS AND IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION IN THE CHANCERY CLERKS OFFICE OR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS. /S/ GUY NOWELL CLERK OF THE BOARD NESHOB COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOB COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
IN RE BRADY STEWART, DECEASED
CAUSE NO.: 22-cv-00002-JK

SUMMONS
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TO: All Unknown Heirs

Address Unknown
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
THE PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the Petition for Determination of Heirship at 9:00 a.m on the 3rd day of March, 2022, in the courtroom of the Neshoba County Chancery Courthouse in Philadelphia, Mississippi, before Judge Joseph Kilgore and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

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

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this 12th day of January, 2022.

(Seal) Guy Nowell Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOB COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF BRADY STEWART, DECEASED
CAUSE NO.: 22-cv-00002-JK

SUMMONS
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF NESHOB
TO ANY LAWFUL OFFICER OR OTHER PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SERVE SUMMONS:
TO: UNKNOWN WRONGFUL DEATH BENEFICIARIES OF BRADY STEWART.

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Alexis Stewart, Petitioner, seeking a determination of Brady Stewart's statutory wrongful death beneficiaries. Respondents/wron glul death beneficiaries other than you in this action are: Alexis Stewart, widow of the decedent and Jessi Stewart, daughter of the decedent.

You are required to mail or hand-deliver a copy of a written response to the Petition to Anna Marie Livingston, the attorney handling said Petition, whose post office address is P. O. Box 900, Jackson, MS 39205-0900, and whose street address is 401 E. Capital Street, Suite 415, Jackson, MS 39201.

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE 26th DAY OF JANUARY, 2022, 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 ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT.

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 seal of said Court this the 12th day of January, 2022.

Guy Nowell
CHANCERY CLERK OF NESHOB COUNTY, MS
By: Guy Nowell (Seal)

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOB COUNTY
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RICHARD F. BANE
LISA BOYKIN, ADMINISTRATRIX
CAUSE NO. 2021-209

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 27th day of December, 2021, by the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Lisa Boykin, upon the estate of Richard F. Bane, deceased,

notice is hereby given to all persons

Public Notices

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 27th day of December, 2021.
Respectfully submitted,
s/Lisa Boykin

Lisa Boykin, Administratrix

Terry L. Jordan
Attorney at Law, PLLC
Post Office Drawer 459
Philadelphia, MS 39350
Phone (601)656-2451
Fax: (601)656-2458
MS State Bar No. 3234

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF TOM NOAH JOE, DECEASED
CAUSE NO. 2021-702
LANELL JOE
PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted on the 1st day of December, 2021, by the Court Clerk of the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to the undersigned upon Joyce Bell Joe, 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 this date or they will be forever barred.

/s/ Lanell Joe
LANELL JOE
ADMINISTRATRIX

Prepared By:
STEVEN D. SETTLEMIRE
ATTORNEY FOR ADMINISTRATRIX
SettleMires & Graham, PLLC
410 East Beacon Street
Philadelphia, MS 39350
(601) 656-9597
MSBN: 99674

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed bids will be received in the Neshoba County School District office, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi, 39350 until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2022, for:

Neshoba Central High Precision Machinery Classroom Neshoba County School District (Philadelphia, Mississippi)

PryorMorrow Project Number: 2021155

Bid documents are being made available via original paper copy or electronically. Planholders are required to log-in or register for an account at www.pryor-morrowplans.com to view and order Bid Documents. All planholders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Bid documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. Electronic bids are not required; however, a submission of an electronic bid in lieu of a sealed bid shall be submitted at www.pryor-morrowplans.com . Questions regarding website registration, online orders electronic bidding please contact Plan House Printing at (662) 407-0193.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with Section 02000 – Instructions to Bidders, bound in the Project Manual.

BID GUARANTEE: Proposals shall be submitted with Proposal Security in the form of Certified Check or acceptable Bid Bond in an amount equal to at least five percent (5%) of the base bid; such security is to be forfeited as liquidated damages, not penalty, by any bidder who fails to carry out the terms of the proposal. The Bid Bond, if used, shall be payable to the Owner. Bonds on the project must be received on or before the period scheduled for the project and no bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for the project. Bids must be firm for a period of forty-five (45) days after the scheduled time of opening.

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

CERTIFICATE OF RESPONSIBILITY: All bids submitted by a prime or subcontractor for public works or public projects where said bid is in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to perform contracts enumerated in Section 31-3-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall contain on the outside or exterior of the envelope or container of such bid the contractor's current certificate number. No bid shall be opened or considered unless such contractor's current certificate number appears on the outside or exterior of said envelope or container or unless there appears a statement on the outside or exterior of such envelope or container to the effect that the bid enclosed therewith does not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). When bids are submitted electronically, the requirement for including a certificate of responsibility, or a statement that the bid enclosed does not exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), on the exterior of the bid envelope shall be deemed in compliance by including the same information as an attachment with the electronic bid submittal.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities.

Publish: Wednesday, January 26, 2022
Wednesday, February 2, 2022

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE EXECUTION OF THE ESTATE OF LENA WILLIS, DECEASED
CAUSE NO. 2021-699
ALAN MARTIN
PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 1 st day of December, 2021, by the Tribal Court Clerk, to the undersigned upon the Estate of Lena Willis, deceased, notice is hereby given

Public Notices

en 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 this date or they will be forever barred.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE this the 14 th day of December, 2021.

/s/Alan Martin
ALAN MARTIN
ADMINISTRATOR

Prepared by:
Steven D. SettleMires
SettleMires & Graham, PLLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
410 EAST BEACON STREET
PHILADELPHIA, MS 39350
TELEPHONE: (601)656-9597
MSBN 99674

CHOCTAW TRIBAL CIVIL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DORINE JOHNSON, DECEASED
C. A. NO. 2021-152

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: The heirs at law of **DORINE JOHNSON**, deceased, and any and all other persons claiming any right, title or interest in and to the estate of **DORINE JOHNSON**, deceased, whose post office and street addresses are unknown to the Petitioner after diligent search and inquiry, and upon whom service of process may be had by publication as prescribed by law. You have been made a Respondent in a **Petition for Determination of Heirship** filed in this court by the Petitioner Sherry Shumake, Administrator of the Estate of **DORINE JOHNSON**, deceased. You are summoned to appear and defend against the petition filed against you in this action at **9:00 o'clock A.M. on the 5TH day of April, 2022**, in the courtroom of the Choctaw Tribal Civil Court at Choctaw, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for things demanded in the petition. You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this Court, this the 10th day of January, 2022.

/s/ Kristina Jim
CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT CLERK

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOB COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF LARRY THURSTON RIVERS, DECEASED
CAUSE NO.: 2021-278
STEVEY SMITH
PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi, on the Estate of Larry Thurston Rivers, Deceased, on the 19th day of November, 2021, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the said Estate to have their claims probated and registered by the Clerk of the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, and that failure to probate and register their claims with the Clerk within that time will forever bar the claim.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE this the 23 rd day of December, 2021.

/s/ Stevey Smith
STEVEY SMITH

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

Before the Civil Division of the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

In the Matter of the Estate of Janice Darlene Pedraza, Deceased
Cause No. 2021-367
Miguel Pedraza, Administrator

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration on the Estate of Janice Darlene Pedraza, deceased, were granted to the undersigned by the Civil Division of the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on the 9th day of November, 2021, and all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present their claims to the Clerk of said Court and to have them probated and allowed within ninety (90) days from the date of the first publication of this notice, failure to do so will bar the claim.

This the 17th day of November, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Miguel Pedraza
Miguel Pedraza
Administrator

Prepared by:
Mark K. Tullos
The Tullos Law Firm
134 Main Street
Post Office Box 505
Raleigh, Mississippi 39153
Telephone: 601-782-4587
Facsimile: 601-782-4219
Email: tulloslawfirm@gmail.com
MS Bar No. 9897
Attorney for Administrator

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOB COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
**LAWANDA SMITH, PETITIONERS
HEATHER THOMPSON (MOTHER) AND**

VS. CIVIL ACTION: 21-343

UNKNOWN FATHER DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, RESPONDENTS
ATTORNEY LYNN FITCH,
DHS STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND
NESHOB COUNTY DHS

SUMMONS (Rule81)
(By Publication)
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF NESHOB

TO: **UNKNOWN FATHER** , a resident of the State of Mississippi, who is not to be found on diligent inquiry made by the Plaintiff, and her whereabouts,

Public Notices

place of abode, and post office address are unknown to Plaintiff after having made diligent inquiry to ascertain the same, but her last known address was in the State of Mississippi.

You have been made Respondent, in the suit filed in this Court, Lawanda Smith and Heather Thompson, Petitioners, seeking Temporary and Permanent Custody and Other Relief. Defendants other than you in this action are: None.

You are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written response to the Complaint filed against you in this action to JIM ARNOLD, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose post office address and street address is 435 East Beacon Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350.



Trent Rickles/Facebook

Boy may have started fire

An overgrown field where residents of a trailer park had dumped a bunch of trash caught fire Sunday afternoon near Sandtown and the black smoke could be seen from town. A resident saw a 13-year old boy who likely started the fire that burned for several hours, said Assistant Fire Chief Neal King with the East Neshoba Volunteer Fire Department. No charges had been filed. Volunteer firefighters got the blaze under control and then waited while a portion that was trapped in a gully burned out. Firefighters got the call about 2 p.m. and were there till about 5:30 p.m.



Grand opening for Philly Flowers and Gifts

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was recently held for Philly Flowers and Gifts. Pictured, left to right, are Tim Moore, Mattie Hudson, Grant Comans, Abby Seale, Robin Gamblin, Kevin Cumberland, Tim White, Choctaw Princess Shema Crosby, Meshay Jimmie, Kim Posey, Tony Alexander and Mayor James Young.

Bomb

Continued from page 1A

day Elementary (image of a bomb)!!"

Public Notices

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: The known and unknown Heirs-at-Law under the provisions of Sections 91-1-27 and 29 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as Annotated and Amended, of CLINTON SHANE DOOLEY, Deceased, and any other person or party claiming any legal or equitable interest in and to the Estate of CLINTON SHANE DOOLEY, Deceased.

You have been made a Respondent to the Petition to Determine Heirs-at-Law and Wrongful Death Beneficiaries of CLINTON SHANE DOOLEY, filed in this Court by KATELYN CARMICHAEL on December 8, 2021.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND COMMANDED TO PERSONALLY APPEAR BEFORE THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AT THE NESHOPA COUNTY CHANCERY COURTHOUSE IN PHILADELPHIA MISSISSIPPI, ON THE 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2022, AT 9:00 A.M. TO RESPOND TO SAID PETITION AND SHOW CAUSE WHY THE RELIEF SOUGHT AND PRAYED FOR IN THE PETITION TO DETERMINE HEIRS-AT-LAW AND WRONGFUL DEATH BENEFICIARIES OF CLINTON SHANE DOOLEY SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED, AND IN CASE OF YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AND DEFEND, A JUDGMENT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF 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 SEAL OF SAID COURT this the ___ day of _____, 2022.

Guy Nowell, Neshoba County Chancery Clerk

Publish Three Times. BY _____, D.C.

Issued at the Request of: Ann L. Griffin (MSB #104935) BRYAN NELSON P.A. 109 Fairfield Drive (39402) Post Office Drawer 18109 Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404-8109 Telephone: (601)296-9017 Facsimile: (601)261-4106 Email: agriffin@bnlawfirm.com

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CLINTON SHANE DOOLEY, Deceased

CAUSE NO.: 21-CV-00344-JK KATELYN CARMICHAEL, PETITIONER

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: The known and unknown Wrongful Death Beneficiaries under the provisions of Section 11-7-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as Annotated and Amended, of CLINTON SHANE DOOLEY, Deceased, and any other person or party claiming to be a wrongful death beneficiary of CLINTON SHANE DOOLEY, Deceased.

You have been made a Respondent in the suit filed in this Court by Katelyn Carmichael, Petitioner, seeking a determination of the Wrongful Death Beneficiaries of CLINTON SHANE DOOLEY, Deceased. Respondents other than you in this action are none. You are required to mail or hand-deliver a copy of a written response to the Petition to Determine Heirs-at-Law and Wrongful Death Beneficiaries to Mark Fowler, attorney for Petitioner whose mailing address is P.O. Box 3949, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, and whose street address is 162 E Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201-2118. Your response must be mailed or delivered within thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication of this summons. If your response is not mailed or delivered, a judgment by default will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the Petition. You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of this Court

Federal authorities became involved and the district issued a statement on Facebook that said:

"Philadelphia High School is aware of a threat on social media involving a possible

Public Notices

within a reasonable time afterward. Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this the ___ day of _____, 2022.

Guy Nowell Neshoba County Chancery Clerk (seal) BY: _____, D.C.

Issued at the Request of: Ann L. Griffin (MSB #104935) BRYAN NELSON P.A. 109 Fairfield Drive (39402) Post Office Drawer 18109 Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404-8109 Telephone: (601)296-9017 Facsimile: (601)261-4106 Email: Agriffin@bnlawfirm.com

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ARNOLD KEITH BOSTICK, DECEASED CAUSE NO.: 2021-312

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration C.T.A. having been issued on November 24, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Administrator C.T.A. of the ESTATE OF ARNOLD KEITH BOSTICK, DECEASED, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present such claims to the Clerk of such Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice, or such claims will be forever barred.

This, the 5th day of January, 2022. **Bennie Keith Bostick, Administrator C.T.A. of the Estate of Arnold Keith Bostick, Deceased**

s/James W. Janoush By: James W. Janoush (MSB #103966)

PREPARED BY: Harris H. Barnes, III (MSB #2018) James W. Janoush (MSB #103966) BARNES LAW FIRM, P.A. 5 River Bend Place, Suite A Flowood, Mississippi 39232-7618 Telephone: (601) 981-6336 Facsimile: (601) 981-7075 ATTORNEYS

PUBLICATION DATES: January 12, 2022; January 19, 2022 and January 26, 2022

Public Notice

All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott and Smith Counties, are hereby advised that the East Central Planning and Development District is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, for the provision of Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Service within the aforementioned counties.

This program consists of providing transportation services five days a week for medical, social, nutrition, and personal needs.

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit and paratransit operators, of the service being planned for providing transportation services for the elderly and disabled within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a program would not represent a duplication of current or proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.

Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time within 5 days from the date of this notice. All comments should be addressed to: East Central Planning and Development District Area Agency on Aging Post Office Box 499 Newton, MS 39345

bombing," the district said on Facebook early Friday morning in delaying the start of school.

"Local, Federal and State Authorities have been notified. Detectives have been working hard to locate and identify the person responsible for the threat, and all buildings are being swept. The District takes the safety of our students and staff as its highest priority.

"We encourage all families to take time to reinforce the expectation for safe schools and responsible use of social media. If a student should see something or hear anything suspicious or concerning, they should immediately report these concerns to a trusted

adult, district administrator, and/or law enforcement."

Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark said Friday morning officials were "taking precautionary measures to make sure all of our campuses are safe."

He went on to say local officials are "working with all levels of law enforcement to ensure schools are getting needed attention."

"I was notified by Homeland Security and we are working with them to make sure there's not a threat."

The district said in an update about noon:

"The Philadelphia Police Department immediately began the investigation after

notification of the threat and contacted multiple state authorities for their assistance.

"This morning, bomb-sniffing dogs were on campus before the students and staff arrived. The dogs and investigators swept every bus, building, and classroom at the middle and high school. Nothing was discovered.

"Also, when students arrived on campus, they were directed to place their book bags in a secure location. Nothing was detected in any student's book bag.

The students are now in class, and police officers will remain on campus throughout the day to serve as another layer of protection for our stu-

dents and staff.

"Last night, authorities determined there was not a viable threat to Philadelphia Elementary for today. However, they will continue to monitor and investigate and will communicate with school district administrators throughout their process.

"Thank you to the Philadelphia Police Department, Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, Mississippi Highway Patrol, and Homeland Security for working to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We will continue to communicate as new developments occur."

Jail

Continued from page 1A

the time Clark took office.

The mayor and the past board felt the price was too high when considering the number of

prisoners, they said then.

Philadelphia is responsible for a person it arrests until that person is arraigned before a judge. This usually takes three or four days. Afterwards, the inmate belongs to the county.

The city talked to other jurisdictions. Instead of signing a

new contract, the board voted to house its prisoners at the Winston County jail for \$25 per day per inmate. If someone stays less than six hours, the fee is \$10.

There has been some concern voiced by aldermen, past and present, about the time that it takes to transport an inmate from Philadelphia to Louisville.

Police Chief Eric Lyons has consistently said his department is handling it while maintaining protection.

The city recently purchased a van so they can transport multiple inmates, especially on court day.

Clark called for the re-establishment of the jail partnership between the city and the county.

"Back in the 1990s, the city and the county got together and built the current jail," Clark said. "There was an agreement and I actually have a copy of it. Philadelphia was going to pitch in and pay \$10,000 a month to help with the cost running the jail.

"Now, that jail is on a \$1.4 million budget. That's just to keep the doors open and there have been no improvements. The city's rate of pay had dropped to \$8,000 per month.

"Now, that is in proportion to \$25 per day but it is not in proportion to maintain the jail. If it housed 75 people, the city was putting half of them in there. We were doing the bond for city. It got to the point to where we had to do something. We were in growing pains and that's where we are today," Clark said.

There is room for expansion and improvements to the jail at its current site, Clark said and he called for the city to work with him.

"The only way to move forward is for you guys (and the public) to put some pressure on everybody who is involved whether it is the Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator and the Sheriff," Clark said.

"We need to jump out of this 1994 facility and do some expansion. There is talk about building a new jail at a new site, we can't do that. We need to do something immediately.

"You can go out there now and add an expansion, something with 12 foot ceilings with block walls. On the other end, put some latrines and showers to give a little privacy. There is enough footprint up there to with city water and sewer."

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Call: 601-656-1685

Wireless commission OKs new MSWIN radios

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Neshoba County received approval from the Mississippi Wireless Communications Commission for the deployment of MSWIN radios to the county's volunteer fire departments, the Road Department and other county entities.

Supervisors were notified of the commission's decision during their meeting last Tuesday.

Earlier this year, supervisors accepted a \$1,680,060 bid for ComSouth to purchase 394 MSWIN radios and complete the infrastructure for the

new system. The board plans to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies for the purchase.

Locally, the Sheriff's Department along with the Philadelphia police and fire departments have already transitioned to the MSWIN radio system.

In another matter, supervisors received 10 bids for the construction of a spec building in the industrial park which will be purchased by Taylor Machines. It will be located between two other buildings Taylor owns.

When completed, the building will have 7,600

square feet. It will have three bays including one that is 65 feet tall. It is being projected to be used for repair work on large forklifts, cranes and other machinery.

Supervisors took the matter under advisement.

In other actions, supervisors voted to:

- Approve paying the 2022 membership dues totaling \$1,000 to the Mississippi Sheriff's Association for Sheriff Eric Clark.
- Approve the application for disposal of seized and abandon weapons to Head Auction Co.;
- Approve an impaired

driving training grant application to the Mississippi Office of Highway Safety;

- Approve the promotion of Deputy Josh Jolly to narcotics officer for the sheriff's department. He will receive a \$1 per hour raise;
- Accept the Monthly Meal Log and the Detailed Billing reports from the jail.
- Adopt the new four-year Road Improvement Plan
- Approve an ad valorem tax exemption request for Viking Metal;

- Approve to pay the annual fee of \$485 to Conduent Image Solutions for the Chancery Clerk's office.

- Accept the Land Redemption Report;
- Approve a school bus turnaround on Road 262 for the Union School District;
- Approve the employment of Brittany Talbert and Breonna Foster for the Emergency Management Department;
- Approve the county employee payroll ending January 10 and totaling \$185,221;
- Approve the Elected Officials Payroll ending January 15 and totaling \$43,292;
- Approve the Out of Order Claims including \$9,887 to Philadelphia Utilities and \$306 to Mississippi PERS for

an employee match;

- Accept the Claims Docket and the minutes from the previous meeting; and,
- Approve the advertisement for Landscape Services for 2022.

Supervisors also accepted a COVID-19 Testing in Confinement Facilities Provider Agreement with the Mississippi Department of Health.

Supervisors also approved travel requests to the MEMA District 6 Quarterly meeting in Starkville Feb. 2 and the Fire Coordinator's Meeting in Louisville Feb. 11.

Clemons' election challenge delayed until the summer

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Another delay has arisen in Leroy Clemons' election challenge for the alderman-at-large seat he lost last summer.

City election commissioners certified the results of the June 8

municipal race with James Waltman winning by one vote, 670-669.

Clemons the incumbent claims there were widespread irregularities in the election and a lack of security with the ballot boxes. Clemons also questions the process of how affidavit bal-

lots were considered and disqualified.

The matter had been scheduled for Jan. 31 in Circuit Court. However, in his order dated Jan. 20, Judge Larry Roberts reset the trial for June 20.

The case was originally to be held in October 2021, but had to

be postponed because one of the witnesses tested positive for COVID-19.

Roberts set a motions hearing for May 6 at 2 p.m.

This is currently set as a jury trial. Attorneys for Waltman plan to file a separate motion for summary judgment.

They will have to show there is no dispute as to any material facts and that judgment will be made as a matter of law

Clemons, among other things, claims the tapes of the voting results from the optical mark reading equipment were not present in the ballot boxes

for Ward 1, 2 and 3 when he and his representatives examined the ballot boxes.

Clemons is asking the court to determine the true final vote. If that is not possible, he is asking for the election to be thrown out and that a new election be held.

Tribe, MSU collaborate with help from USDA grant

By JOHN LEE
john@neshobademocrat.com

Tia Grisham says a \$500,000 federal grant is being put to good use providing more opportunities to Tribal students at Mississippi State University.

The USDA grant benefits the New Beginning for Choctaw Tribal Students program that has three main goals:

- Increase recruitment of Choctaw Central High School students to Mississippi State;
- Increase retention and graduation rates of Tribal students at MSU;
- Foster a culture at Mississippi State University that creates an inviting space for Tribal students.

Recruitment efforts, the grant application said, will focus on high school preparation through the implementation of the 4-H Build Your Future curriculum which includes experiential learning activities and MSU recruitment programs including career days, preview weekends, and admissions counselor seminars.

Now retired, Dr. William Brescia of the Tribe proposed the grant back in the spring of

2021. He and other Tribal members agreed that they wanted more opportunities for Tribal students in the collaborative grant with MSU.

The USDA approved the grant in June and the Tribal Council approved it in December 2021, according to Grisham, director for the Youth Opportunity Program at Choctaw.

"The funds from this grant will be used to prepare Tribal students for college and the next chapter of their lives after they graduate from college," she said.

They're providing services to around 25 Tribal students from the ages of 14 to 18 and college students attending Mississippi State University to pay for internships of their choosing. The grant runs until July 31, 2025.

Grisham said the Tribe is working with multiple departments from MSU including the Agriculture, Economics and Sociology.

Katie Ford, extension agent for the federally recognized Tribal Extension Program at MSU, said her favorite aspect of the project is seeing students



Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians spokesperson Tia Grisham joins Mississippi State University Extension personnel Kaiti Ford, Mariah Morgan, and Jim McAdory in reviewing a memorandum of understanding that will strengthen partnerships between the tribe and MSU. Pictured, from left: Kaiti Ford, Mariah Morgan, Tia Grisham, and Jim McAdory

succeed in their goals.

"I want to see every Tribal student, no matter if they attend Mississippi State University or not, succeed and accomplish their goals and dreams," Ford said.

"MSU has partnered with the Mississippi Band of

Choctaw Indians on many projects, and through this partner-

ship, we have been able to collaborate and build a bright

future for Tribal students.

"The New Beginnings for the Build Your Future grant helps recruit and retain Tribal students to college. College is a big transition for any student, no matter where they are from, and this grant will help us make the transition from high school to college just a little easier."

Grisham noted that on Jan. 27, the Tribe will discuss plans for a College Day at MSU, including a stickball tournament, classes on stickball and how to make stickball sticks, and other ways to show off the Choctaw culture.

"I hope next year we can continue this," Grisham said. "Dr. Brescia got this done for us right before he retired, and we're all very grateful to him and MSU. There are professors there that are willing to give our college students internship opportunities as well."

\$25K in pot seized by deputies

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A suspected drug dealer has bonded out of jail and another suspect is being sought in connection with a \$25,000 marijuana bust last week.

Tameria Michelle Hall, 22, 155 Dan Boone Road, Carthage, was taken into custody and charged with the trafficking of marijuana at a raid at north Pecan Avenue residence.

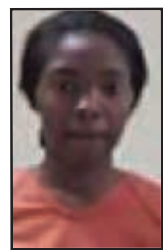
At least one more suspect is being sought in connection with the ongoing multi-agency drug

investigation that yielded the marijuana in vacuum-sealed bags last Thursday, the authorities said.

Jail records show that Hall released on a \$50,000 bond Saturday.

Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark said that more charges were anticipated and that they have identified the one additional suspect though they have not made an arrest.

At about 10:45 a.m. agents



Tameria Hall

from the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Neshoba County Sheriff's Office and Philadelphia Police Department executed a search warrant at 909 Pecan Avenue.

"This is an ongoing investigation, and more charges are expected to be filed," Clark said.

Clark said that approximately four pounds of high-grade marijuana, with a street value of approximately \$25,000 was seized.

Alleged casino mugger arrested

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@neshobademocrat.com

A Carthage man wanted in connection with a December mugging at one of the casinos has been arrested, Sheriff Eric Clark said.

Mecedric Cortez Kirkland, 32, 2672 Madden Road, Carthage was arrested and charged with robbery and aggravated assault-manifest extreme indifference to life.

Kirkland remains in the Neshoba County Detention Center on a \$35,000 bond.

Clark said that Kirkland is wanted in connection with a robbery of a Silver Star casino

patron reported on Dec. 7.

Clark said that Kirkland and the victim made contact playing slot machines when Kirkland said that he was an undercover security guard and would escort the victim back to his room.

At the victim's room in the

casino, Kirkland assaulted the victim and took \$1,500, his cell phone and several slot machine coupons.

Clark said that Kirkland was identified through the casino's security system and was arrested on Jan. 20.



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SPORTS

Lady Rockets claim signature victory

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Neshoba Central Lady Rockets picked a big win Saturday as they dominated defending Class 6a state champion Olive Branch 83-66 in the Choctaw County Classic.

The Lady Rockets are ranked No. 1 in the overall state poll over girls basketball. They are also ranked No.

1 in the Class 5A girls poll. "I am fully convinced of what our capabilities are after that one," Coach Jason Broom said. "Now it is a matter of staying focused and staying well."

The Lady Rockets jumped out to a 23-11 lead at the end of the first quarter. Olive Branch outscored Neshoba Central 22-20 in the second quarter but the Lady Rockets led 43-33 at the half.

Neshoba Central outscored Olive Branch 24-16 in the third quarter and carried a 67-49 lead into the final quarter. Olive Branch played closer in the fourth quarter as the Lady Rockets had a 19-17 scoring edge. But time ran out and the Lady Warriors had the victory.

Hama'ya Fielder and Veronica Williams both scored 19 to lead Neshoba Central. Shaylynn Hunter scored 12. Carly Keats scored

11 while Zharia LeFlore and Kaylin Willis both put in 10.

The Lady Rockets also picked up wins over Canton 92-35 and Ridgeland 63-36.

Against Canton Fielder and Williams both scored 15 points. Keats scored 12 while Willis and LeFlore both scored 10.

Williams was the leading scorer against Ridgeland as she put in 13 points.

Neshoba Central boys

The Neshoba Central boys went 1-2 last week. The Rockets dropped two close district games, falling 50-45 to Canton and 57-53 to Ridgeland. The Rockets bounced back to defeated Aberdeen 67-32.

William Dreiffuss was the leading scorer in the Rockets loss to Canton. Elijah Ruffin scored 12 points to lead the Rockets in the Ridgeland game while Zae Goodin and

Bryceton Spencer both scored 11 points.

The Rockets cranked up after the first quarter against Aberdeen and scored 33 points in the final quarter. Spencer led with 16 while Ruffin added 14.

Neshoba Central will be on the road this week as they visit Holmes County on Tuesday and Bay Springs on Thursday.

Leake Academy teams head into final week

By ROBBIE ROBERTSON
sports@neshobademocrat.com

The Leake Academy girls ran their current win streak to eight games as they picked up three more wins this past week.

Leake Academy opened the week with a 62-40 win over East Rankin and then beat Park Place 68-21. They finished the week with a 75-27 win over Winston Academy.

The Leake boys won two out of three games as they beat East Rankin 62-31 before losing to Park Place 73-40. The Rebels finished the week with a 58-46 win over Winston.

Leake will finish out the regular season this week with a pair of road games. Leake will travel to Simpson County Academy on Tuesday and then to Lamar on Friday. Both Leake teams will then play in the district tournament the following week at Winston Academy.



Leake Academy's Miriam Prince goes up for a layup against Winston Academy on Friday night.

Rebelettes 62 East Rankin girls 40

The Rebelettes jumped out to a double-digit lead in the first period and cruised to a 22-point win over the Lady Patriots on Tuesday.

Leake jumped out to a 20-9 lead in the first period and outscored East Rankin 17-8 in the second to lead 37-17 at the half. Leake then outscored East Rankin 14-11 in the third to extend the lead to 51-28 at the half. East Rankin took the final period 12-11 for the final margin.

Miriam Prince had a big night shooting with a season-high 29 points, going 6-of-8 from the 3-point line and 9-of-11 overall from the field. Prince also had six assists and four rebounds. Katye Jones had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds while Emeri Warren had nine points and seven rebounds. Laney Turner also chipped in five points.

Rebels boys 62 East Rankin 31

The Rebels outscored the Patriots in every period and cruised to a 31-point win.

Leake led 15-10 at the end of the first and outscored East Rankin 15-12 in the second to lead 30-22 at the half. Leake

then exploded in the third period and outscored East Rankin 19-3 to take a 49-31 lead going to the fourth. Leake then outscored East Rankin 13-6 to take the win.

Samuel Prince led Leake with 18 points while Whitt

Welch had 15 points and Jake Freeny added nine points.

Rebelettes 68 Park Place 21

The Rebelettes dominated the first half and cruised to a 47-point win over the Lady

Crusaders.

Leake jumped out to a 22-2 lead and outscored Park Place 21-4 to lead 43-6 at the half. Park Place took the fourth 7-5 while Leake finished by outscoring the Lady Crusaders 20-8 in the fourth.

Miriam Prince led Leake with 16 points while Raylea Atkinson had 13 points. Morgan Freeny had 11 points while Natalee Vaughn had seven points. Ella Bell and Emeri Warren each had five points apiece.

Park Place boys 73 Rebels 40

The Crusaders dominated the first half and cruised to a 33-point win on Thursday.

Park Place led 23-9 at the end of the first and outscored the Rebels 20-6 in the second to lead 43-15 at the half. Park Place outscored Leake 26-16 in the third to lead 69-31 going to the fourth. Leake took the fourth 7-5 for the final margin.

Samuel Prince led Leake with 16 points while Jake Freeny had nine points and Aiden Watkins had six points.

Rebelettes 75 Winston 27

The Rebelettes scored early and often and took an easy 48-point win on senior night to improve to 25-2 on the season.

Leake outscored Winston 25-11 in the first period and 25-5 in the second period to lead 50-16 at the half. Leake continued to extend its lead in the second half, outscoring Winston 10-9 in the third and 15-2 in the fourth.

Miriam Prince led Leake with 21 points, four assists and three rebounds. While Marleigh Myers had 10 points and four rebounds, Grace Maxey had nine points while Katyle Jones had eight points and five rebounds. Natalee Vaughn had eight points while Emeri Warren and Laney Turner each had six points apiece.

Rebels 58 Winston 46

The Rebels jumped out to an early lead and cruised to a 12-point win over the Patriots on Friday night.

Leake led 18-8 at the end of the first and then outscored Winston 16-7 in the second to lead 34-15 at the half. Each team scored 11 in the third period as Leake led 45-26 going to the fourth. Winston outscored Leake 20-13 in the fourth for the final margin.

Jake Freeny led Leake with 20 points while Aiden Watkins had 13 points. Gavin White had nine points and 15 rebounds while Aiden Watkins and Samuel Prince had eight points apiece.

Warriors still in running for top seed in region

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Choctaw Central Warriors have four Region 4-4A games left to play as they close out their 2021-2022 schedule next Friday.

The Warriors were to play West Lauderdale Tuesday and Leake Central Thursday. Next week, they host Northeast Lauderdale and close out at home against Louisville. The Warriors stood at 19-3 overall and 3-2 at the start of the week. If they win out, they have a shot

at the top seed in the upcoming Region 4-4A tournament which will be held at Kosciusko the week of February 7.

The Choctaw Central boys picked up a forfeit win over Kosciusko last week because of COVID-19. They defeated Louisville 65-31 and Choctaw County 91-42.

Warriors 65
Louisville 31

Choctaw Central took the early lead and held on to beat Louisville in a region game.

The Warriors led 14-3 at the end of the first quarter. They outscored the Wildcats 16-8 in the second quarter and led 30-11 at the half. It was more of the same in the second half as the Warriors outscored Louisville 35-20 in the final two quarters.

Elias Bell led with 14 points, Johnny Vaughn added 13 points while Dreydon Tubby scored 12 and Thomas Tubby put in 11.

Warriors 91
Choctaw County 42

The Warriors went up 40-22 at the half as they blew out the host team at the Choctaw County shootout Saturday.

It was more of the same in the second half as the Warriors had a 50-20 scoring edge.

Vaughn led with 19 points while Tangle added 16 points. Tubby scored 14.

The Choctaw Central girls are undefeated in the regular and are assured of the top seed if they win out. The Lady Warriors have the four region

games. Saturday, they play Holmes Central in Tupelo at the Robinson Invitational. Last week, the Lady Warriors defeated Louisville 61-60 and Kosciusko 52-32.

Lady Warriors 61
Louisville 60

Choctaw Central battled through the fourth quarter to take a one point win over their regional rivals.

The Lady Warriors led 31-30 at the half. Louisville outscored the Lady Warriors 18-12 in the third round and

trailed 48-43 heading into the final quarter. Choctaw Central outscored the Lady Wildcats 18-12 in the final eight minutes to claim the win.

Mattison Bell led with 21 while Malaka Morris added 13 and Kylinn Bell put in 11 points.

Lady Warriors 53
Kosciusko 32

Morris put in 20 points to lead the Lady Warriors past Kosciusko.

The Lady Warriors led 25-13 at the half.

Lady Yellow Jackets earn two more victories

By ROBBIE ROBERTSON
sports@neshobademocrat.com

The Union Lady Yellowjackets added two more wins to their already impressive total while the Yellowjackets were able to grab win No. 2 on the season.

The Lady Yellowjackets swept through a pair of Division 5-3A opponents, beating Clarkdale 60-30 and Forest 36-23.

The Lady Yellowjackets are ranked No. 2 in a statewide

ranking of Class 3A girls basketball teams.

The Yellowjackets lost 59-33 to Clarkdale but bounced back and took a 42-41 win over Forest on Friday night.

Union will return to play this week with a pair of road games as they will travel to Enterprise on Tuesday and Southeast Lauderdale on Friday. They will finish out the regular season the following week as they host Morton on Tuesday, Feb. 1 and then finish with Clarkdale on Thursday, Feb. 3 for Senior

nigh.

Union girls 60 Clarkdale 30

The Lady Yellowjackets jumped out to an early lead and cruised to a 30-point win over the Lady Bulldogs in division play.

Union started fast as they led 18-3 at the end of the first and each team scored 10 in the second period as Union led 28-13 at the half. Union put the game away in the third, outscoring Clarkdale 21-7 to take a 49-20

lead into the fourth. Union also took the fourth period 11-10 for the final margin.

Kamiya Russell led Union with 24 points while Georgia Cooper had 12 points. Keirra Russell had nine points and Anna Shaw added six points.

Clarkdale boys 59 Union 33

Keon Hutchins led Union with 10 points while Udarion Hickmon had nine points and Zie Buckley chipped in five.

Union girls 36 Forest 23

The Lady Yellowjackets overcame a slow start and pulled away in the fourth to take a 13-point win over the Lady Bearcats in division play last week.

Forest led 8-3 at the end of the first and 12-8 at the half. But Union got going in the second half as they outscored Forest 12-7 in the third and took a 20-19 lead into the fourth. Union then outscored Forest 16-4 in the fourth to take the win.

Keirra Russell led Union with 26 points while Kamiya Russell had six points.

Union boys 42 Forest 41

The Yellowjackets got their second win of the season as they took a thrilling one-point win over the Bearcats.

Cameron Hickmon led Union with 12 points while William Hughlett had 10 points. Udarion Hickmon and Zie Buckley each had six points apiece.



Danielle Bobo

Bobo started cooking with simple noodles

By COLEMAN EAKES
news@neshobademocrat.com

Danielle Bobo is a true country girl who loves noodles and spending time with her family.

Her father, Greg Bobo, would cook deer meat when she and her brother Cody were younger and they'd be anxious for the whole week until it was ready.

"Daddy would let me and Cody help him season it and he would always joke and say he was cooking an elephant or a giraffe when we asked what he was cooking."

Her mother, Barbara Bobo, would cook sliders a few times a week after she got home from work, and Danielle still enjoys sliders to this day.

The sliders were easy and quick which is how Danielle first learned how to cook.

She then started off by cooking ramen noodles herself because they were simple and only needed some boiling water and a bit of seasoning.

She then moved on to spaghetti and then onto fettuccine Alfredo. "I think the reason I love pasta so much is because that was really the first thing I learned how to cook for myself and so I guess it just stuck with me."

Bobo's grandfather, Milton

Bobo, loved to tend gardens during the summer and so when Danielle and her brother stayed with him they would always have fresh tomatoes and squash.

Danielle hopes to one day become a prenatal nurse because she loves working with children.

She grew up in the Hope community and now she and her brother Cody live in the Burnside community.

Danielle also loves to get her nails done every two weeks, which is every time she gets a paycheck.

BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

Ingredients:
1 ½ Cups All Purpose Flour
¾ Cup Granulated Sugars
¼ Teaspoon Fine Salt
2 Teaspoons Baking Powder

1/3 Cup Neutral Flavored Oil

1 Large Egg
½ Cup of Milk (You Can Add Extra If You Like)

1 ½ Teaspoons Vanilla Extract
6 to 8 Ounces of Fresh Blueberries

Directions:
Heat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. For big-top muffins, line 8 standard-size muffin cups with paper liners. Whisk the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a

COOK OF THE WEEK

large bowl. Add oil to a measuring jug that holds at least 1 cup. Add the egg then fill the jug with ½ - 1/3 cup of milk. Then whisk to combine. Add milk mixture to the bowl with dry ingredients then use a fork to combine. Do not over mix! Then fold in the blueberries. Divide the batter between muffin cups and then sprinkle a little sugar on top of each muffin. Bake muffins 15 to 20 minutes or until tops are no longer wet and the insert a toothpick to see if they are ready. Then transfer to a cooling rack. When they are cool enough to eat enjoy!

STEAK FAJITAS

Ingredients:
Whole Bag of Steak Fajita Mix
½ Teaspoon On Virgin Olive Oil

A Whole Lemon
Texas Pete Hot Sauce
2 Tablespoons Italian Dressing

2 Slices Cheddar Cheese Slices
Salt and Pepper
Pinch of Garlic Powder

Directions:
A bag of steak fajita mix in

a skillet on medium high then add your ½ teaspoon of virgin olive oil and then add the juice of a whole lemon. Then add your Texas Pete sauce to your liking of spicy flavor that you want. Add 2 tablespoons of Italian Dressing. Add 2 slices of cheddar cheese and then a pinch of Garlic powder. Once you mix all of that together and then add salt and pepper on top of all of that for your taste.

Chocolate Poke Cake
Ingredients:
1 Chocolate Cake Mix
1-16 OZ Chocolate Fudge Frosting

2-14 OZ Caramel Ice Cream Topping
1-12 OZ Bag of Chocolate Chips

Directions:
Bake cake as directed on box, once it is done and still warm take a wooden spoon with a round handle and poke holes in the cake. Pour caramel topping over cake

and let the cake cool completely. Add your chocolate fudge frosting and drizzle more caramel on top of the frosting then top with chocolate chips. Enjoy!

HAM AND CHEESE SLIDERS

Ingredients:
A 12-Count Pack of Hawaiian Sweet Rolls
¾ Pounds Sliced Deli Ham
¾ Pounds Swiss Cheese
½ Cup Unsalted Butter

1 Teaspoon Dijon Mustard
1 Teaspoon Poppy Seeds
2 Teaspoons Dried Minced Onion

2 Teaspoons Worcestershire Sauce
¼ Teaspoon Salt
¼ Teaspoon Pepper

Directions:
Preheat oven to 350 F. Then line a 9x9 inch pan with aluminum foil, and spray with cooking spray and set aside. Use a large serrated

knife to slice the rolls in half so you have a slab of tops and slab of bottoms. DO NOT pull the rolls apart because you want to keep them connected. Place the bottom piece in a prepared pan and evenly layer then with about half of the ham. Evenly layer on the cheese and then layer on the remaining ham. Add the top set of rolls and set them aside. Add the mustard, poppy seeds, onions, Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper, and wish to combine. Pour melted butter on top of the rolls and use a spatula to spread the mixture over the rolls. Cover with aluminum foil and bake covered for about 20 minutes until cheese is melted. Uncover and then let cook for 3 to 5 more minutes and then slice into individual sliders and serve while they are warm and fresh

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

Philly Proud! Mrs. Melanie Hopkins and Mrs. Peggy Scales 7th and 8th-grade 4th-period math classes ALL showed growth on their 2nd Benchmark Tests! So very proud of each and every one of them!

The students are Steve Brown, Deriuntae Willis, JaCamdenHickman, Kamerson Burnside, Daniel Ejoyoqe, LaCalvin Evans, DeTqavious Evans, Piers Coburn, Tywan Bennamon, Chernajza McBeath, Jhordin Stephens, Adriana Sanchez, Ashley Wells, Emmaunna Prince, Tamia Johnson, and Ka"China Boyd.

Congratulations!

15 YEARS, that is 180 months, 782 weeks, 5,478 days, 131,472 hours, 7,888,320 minutes and counting! As of January 18th, that is how long since Steve Wilkerson received a life-saving organ transplant! His family is so thankful for each of those precious pieces of time that they were given with this ultimate donation of life from a stranger's family.

Jenny Lynn is thankful for that family who, despite their grief, chose to donate their loved one's organs so that others might live. Thanks to that family, Steve was present to walk his daughter

down the aisle on her wedding, and in June, hold his first granddaughter in his arms and watch her grow up.

You cannot take your organs to Heaven. Please consider being an organ donor and give the glorious gift of life to those who can use them to continue living in this wonderful world.

Congratulations to former Philadelphia residents, Robert and Mary John Turnage who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on January 19!

The Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Houston, Texas, was the site of the 60th Anniversary Worlds Universal Beauty Scholarship Pageant, January 13-16. One of our local residents competed in this pageant and WON!

Leigh McDaniel competed in personal interview, casual wear, evening gown, and on-stage questions spread out over 4 days. She was one of 12 contestants from all over the United States whom she thought were absolutely incredible.

Over the next year, Leigh will travel the United States making appearances, including Washington, D.C. Her daughter, Paisley Grace, won Worlds Universal Beauty Ages 13-15 in 2020.

Leigh feels very honored to represent her hometown and Mississippi as 2022 Worlds Uni-

versal Beauty for age 29 and up. We are honored to have you represent us, too! Congratulations!

~

Kelsey Moore can now introduce herself as "Kelsey Moore, BSN, RN" She received notice that she had passed the NCLEX: The National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses on January 21. She graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in December with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, but had to pass the NCLEX before being licensed as an RN. It is not an easy exam and lasts for 5 hours.

Her very proud parents are Randell and Tammy R. Moore. Congratulations!

Anna Fracchia is on the President's List at Mississippi State University for the Fall semester. Her very proud grandmother is Dot Lewis of Philadelphia. Anna will begin her senior year. Her parents are Trey and Sally Lewis Fracchia of Memphis, Tennessee. Congratulations!

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

Bridal Registry

Abby Wright & Kip Clark	November 6, 2021
Caitlin Purvis & Jordan Payne	November 13, 2021
Margaret Jordan & Sam Webb	November 20, 2021
Caitlin Purvis & Jordan Payne	November 13, 2021
Carly Smith & Dylan Bobo	December 11, 2021
Julia Rester & Brandon Ladd	January 23, 2022
Caitlyn Purvis & Jake Moody	February 12, 2022
Emma Clark & Ben Howe	February 19, 2022
Sara Watson & Jeremy Bowen	February 26, 2022
Raven Bain & Andrew Fortune	March 26, 2022
Gracy McLain & John Robert Irby	April 30, 2022
Rebecca Prince & John David Oubre	June 4, 2022
Sadie Fulton & Connor Breland	June 18, 2022

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Engagements & Weddings

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

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

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

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

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

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

Obituary policy

The Democrat publishes a standard format obituary at **no charge**.

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

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

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

School and community news

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

Of Local Interest

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

Tips and breaking news

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

Sports

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

Letters to the editor

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

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Founded in 1881

The Democrat was founded in 1881 and has been locally owned ever since.

(USPS 377-160)

The Neshoba Democrat is published every Wednesday by The Neshoba Democrat Publishing Co., Inc., 439 Beacon Street, Philadelphia, Miss., James E. Prince III, president. Subscriptions are \$36 per year in Neshoba and adjoining counties, \$40 in other Mississippi counties and \$43 for out of state. Single copy price is \$1. Periodicals postage paid at Philadelphia, MS.

The Democrat reserves the right to reject or edit any or all advertising. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Neshoba Democrat, P.O. Box 30, Philadelphia, MS 39350.



Competes in Pageant

She may not have brought home a crown this time but, Ella-Kaye managed to win the title of Our Little Miss World Universal Beauty 2022 1st Alternate. This was only Ella-Kaye's 5th pageant EVER! At barely 3 years old, Ella-Kaye absolutely shined with her level of confidence on that big stage and runway in Houston, Texas. This competition spanned over 4 days and included Sportswear, Interview, Playtime with judges, as well as Party dress. She had to introduce herself and answer an onstage question. Ella-Kaye is the daughter of Mitchell and Rachelle Madison. Granddaughter of Keith and Sharon Madison. Her older brothers are Ian and Dade Madison. The family thanks all her loyal supporters.

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Cecily Kate Price & Lane Waltman	June 26, 2022
Jamie Claire Musselwhite & Wesley Smith	July 3, 2021
Kinsey Gentry & Cooper Smith	July 17, 2021
Macken'z Smith & Keller Bradford.....	August 7, 2021
Savannah Jones & Johnathan Simmons	September 4, 2021
Kalee McCann & Anthony Cypher	September 4, 2021
Brianna Whittle & Jamie Rickles	September 11, 2021
Amber McKay & Zack Bounds	September 18, 2021
Skyler Frank & Garrett Myers	September 23, 2021
Caroline Willis & Dave Crasto	September 25, 2021
Alexa Harrison & Cody Vernon.....	October 6, 2021
Kayleigh Hancock & Tim Cardwell	October 9, 2021
Whitney Strickland & Mitchell Bounds.....	October 9, 2021
Laurel Ball & Michael Beckham.....	October 16, 2021
Marlee Parkes & Will Stewart	November 6, 2021
Abby Wright & Kip Clark.....	November 6, 2021
Sara Watson & Jeremy Bowen.....	November 13, 2021
Julia Rester & Brandon Ladd	January 23, 2022
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Madison Demsey & John Forrest Sisson.....	March 5, 2022
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PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Neshoba Central Elementary School recognized students who had perfect attendance for the first nine weeks. Students included were:

Kindergarten

Braxtyn Agent, Joseph Brerland, Allyson Cumberland, Matthew Hardy, Sydney Harris, Drae Hickman, Sahyimmi Isaac, Jesse Jolly, Haze Lovern, Mia McAfee, Honor McGowen, Corbin McKee, Ryleigh Overby, Parker Oviatt, Cody Pitts, Sophia Thrash, Ryleigh Tucker and Charlton Wade.

First Grade

Cora Alexander, Cordae Allen, Lakelyn Boler, Tatum Butler, Ruby Carter, Carsyn Cremeen, Shelby Cumberland, Ruthie Donald, Lathan Hoskins, Jashiah Hudson, Kase Kilgore, Callie McCombs, Genesis Patrick, Colson Rushing and

Christopher Tate.

Second Grade

Richard Braxton, Ashlyn Chrest, Ayden Cumberland, Colton Davis, Deacon Edwards, Johnathan Flannigan, Reed Huffman, Journeigh Isaac, Brooklyn Jenkins, Keller King, Sybil Ragsdale, Sadie Ramirez, Caroline Rouse, Daniel Skipper, Baylor Smith, Ricker Warren and Madalann Yarbrough.

Third Grade

Paisley Barrett, Sutton Blackstock, Addison Breedlove, Jacee Burnside, Haven Calloway, Skyler Curtwright, Taylee Fortenberry, Katie James, Ryleigh Jenkins, Mason McFee, Chase Moore, Avery Myers, Charleigh Ridout, Andrew Rumery, Raven Scott, Peyton Sharp, Kaiden Smith, Kenleigh Spencer, Andrew Taylor, Silas Taylor, McKenzie Williams and Eli Winstead.

Fourth Grade

Azaria Brantley, Aubry Clossom, Joseph Cumberland, Ava-Marie Dempsey, Emily Hathorn, Makie Huffman, John Dalton Jolly, Jax Allen Lovern, Brooklyn Moore, Eduard Morales, Ryder Overby, Maria Pham, Madison Sanders, Elliot-Bri Warren, Camren Wilson and Malia Yarbrough.

Fifth Grade

Alaina Burnham, Alyssa Burnham, Delonte Clay, Trinity Donald, Maddex Ferguson, Rodney Harris, Cameron King, Ryan Long, Chaddis McAfee, Ayden Pardue Byrnes, Evan Sharp, Zackary Smith, Joslen Wells and Ry' Kavius Williams.

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Just when you get to the point where menu prices don't matter, calories do.

You don't need references to borrow trouble.

Smart phone: an expensive device our kids use for saying nothing to each other.

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Democracy: a system under which the guy who didn't vote can spend the rest of the year complaining about the candidate the other people elected.

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— 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

There is help in Christ Jesus

In Acts 16 Paul is on his second mission trip. His desire is to revisit the churches he helped establish on his first trip. He came to Derbe and Lystra (Acts 16:1). Lystra was the place where Paul was stoned in his first mission trip (Acts 14). But the intrepid apostle had kept preaching and had made many disciples in the area.

We are introduced to Timothy in verse 1. Timothy was well spoken of by the believers in the area, so Paul decides he wants to carry Timothy with him on the mission trip (verses 2-3). Timothy will become a great help to Paul for the rest of his life.

Timothy was taught the Scriptures by his mother Eunice and Grandmother Lois (2nd Timothy 1). Their devotion planted a seed in Timothy so that he grew up to be of great use in the Lord's church. There is nothing a Christian parent should desire more than for their child to be of service to the Lord and his people. Multi-generational faith is a blessed thing.

One of Paul's purposes in his visiting the churches was to convey to them the decision reached by the Jerusalem Council (made up of apostles and elders). Paul and Silas delivered this decision for their observance (verse 4). It wasn't just information, but instruction. The council had made clear the gospel message and given instructions to Gentiles related to their fellowship with Jewish Christians. The main point being salvation is through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After strengthening the established churches, Paul goes through Galatia, heads north through Mysia, and finally ends up in Troas (verses 6-8). If you have a map in your Bible, you will notice this was a long trek through what we know today as Turkey. We aren't given mission reports along this journey, but we can be sure that Paul and his team preached Christ and made disciples along the way. We can note by their dedication how much they must have loved Christ.

The route they took was determined by the Lord. He prevented them from going to Asia (verse 6) and stopped

them from going to Bithynia (verse 7). How God conveyed this to the team we aren't told, but it was plain God closed the door. Why would the Lord prevent them from entering these places?

We aren't told why, but it was his prerogative. He is the Lord. The gospel is his gospel. The Lord Jesus is building his church through his Spirit according to his sovereign way. These places will later receive the gospel, but at this point the Lord directs Paul another way.

Some areas are not preferred over others due to their merit, seeing that none do good and none seek after God. The foundation of the gospel is mere grace, and that includes the hearing of the gospel. God will have mercy on whom he will have mercy. We shouldn't take hearing it for granted, because it was granted by the Lord before we heard it.

While in Troas, a vision appeared to Paul of a man from Macedonia saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us" (verse 9). The mission team concluded that the Lord wanted them to go to Greece to preach the gospel (verse 10).

"Help" to Paul and the others meant Christ. The Bible shows men to be in a miserable condition. Men have lost favor with God. The very nature of sin is enmity to God and all men are sinners.

Men are poor captives of the devil as well. We are like one bitten by a deadly serpent with no antidote. Sin leads to death. In that state man could not help himself. He had no strength and no creature could help him.

The gospel announces that there is help in Christ Jesus. While we were helpless, the Son of God came to undertake our cause and help us. He pitied us while we were yet enemies. He lay down his life, shed his own precious blood, paid the debt we owed to God, and conquered death and the devil.

Hope arises from the feeling of God's love to us in Christ. Our confidence of being redeemed from our sins and saved from misery is in Christ alone. "Help" in its highest form has come in Christ.

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

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— Proverbs 27:1 (ESV)

"Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind."
— 1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

WINTER SPORTS



Members of the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball team are, front row from left, Kylinn Bell, Ashlynn Stephens, Chesney Amos, Malaka Morris, Tyra Billy, Tayla Willis, second row from left, Mattison Bell, Kylie Williamson, Keshahn Wallace, Joyelyn Bell, Kyla Farmer, Kodi Jimmie, Nataysia Willis and Tori Henry.



Members of the Choctaw Central Warriors basketball team are, front row from left, Johnny Vaughn, Iverson Wallace, Kole Williams, Elias Bell, Dreydon Tubby, Abram Cotton, Hayden Jones, second row from left; Jace Sam, Amize Anderson, Thomas Tangle, Dylan Stephens, Mark Mingo and Peyton Mingo. Managers are Ivan Thomas and D'Vante Isaac.

Warrior teams ready for final run

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Both Choctaw Central basketball teams have played strong so in the regular season and are looking to the postseason.

The Region 4-4A tournament will start February 7 and will be held at Kosciusko. There are a couple of weeks remaining in the regular season and both Warrior teams appear headed for a good seeding in the tournament.

The Choctaw Central Warriors stood at 19-3 overall and 3-2 at the start of the week. They started the season at 15-0. They dropped a couple of games due to illness, quarantine and injuries but have bounced back.

"I knew I had some good kids and I knew anything was possible," Warriors Head Coach Brent Farmer said. "These kids work hard. They have great attitude. I knew anything was possible."

"We hang our hat on playing good team defense, taking care

of the basketball and playing for each other. We have to keep this up as go deeper into our season."

Hayden Jones starts at point guard. Abram Cotton plays the second guard with Johnny Vaughn Jr. handling the No. 3 guard. Elias Bell is the forward and Thomas Tangle plays center. Tangle is the leading scorer. He is averaging 14 points per game and eight rebounds.

Right now, the Warriors control their destiny. They have four regular season games left,

all against region opponents. That started Tuesday against West Lauderdale. They play at Leake Central on Friday. In their first meeting, Leake Central won 45-44. The Gators are currently undefeated in region play.

Choctaw Central plays Northeast Lauderdale next Tuesday and closes out the season next Friday at home against Louisville.

Lady Warriors
The Choctaw Central Lady

Warriors stand at 18-3 coming into the week and are undefeated in the region.

Coach Bill Smith had one starter returning from last year's team which made it to the finals of the Class 4A state championship game. The Lady Warriors' goal is always to win the state championship but Smith said they must take it one step at a time. First, they need to repeat as Region 4-4A champions.

"We still have some things we need to work on," Smith

said, "We have four games left and I hope we can win out. We will have to take it one game at a time."

Kylinn Bell starts at point guard. Mattison Bell starts at the second guard with Kylie Williamson at the third guard and Keshahn Wallace at the four guard. Kyla Farmer starts at center.

The Lady Warriors have ranked as one of the top Class 4A teams in the state throughout the season.



Members of the Philadelphia High School girls basketball team are, front row from left, Dondrya Carter, Patience Chinn, Ariel Burnside, Hailey Donald, Zariyah Jackson, Jaiden Burnside, Tramiah Moore, second row from left, Niasia Moore, Karity Peebles, Kaitlynn Black, Ayana Hannah, Sarah Renee Richardson, Pashae Roberson, Kalyce Fielder, Grace Easley, Jayla Hull, Nisha McCarty, Ambriah Parker, Nayla Arnold and Freyunna Yarborough.



Members of the Philadelphia High School boys basketball team are, front row from left, Marcus Beamon, Devontae Scott, Laydrick Carter, Jordan Davis, Andrew Carter, Javion Carter, Cassidy Hickman, Alexander Menchion; second row from left, Dylan Graham, Mack Coleman, Kawan Powell, Haven Coburn, Cal Jones, Jaderious Stephens, Bryson Boler, Jaylen Smith and Jahendrick Evans.

Tornadoes look forward to hosting tournies

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Philadelphia High School basketball teams will be hosting the Region 5-2A tournaments the week of February 7 and both Tornado coaches hope playing on their home court will be to their advantage.

"We shoot well at home," Coach Francisco Wilson said. "I feel good about our chances."

"I hope so," Coach Danielle Spurlock said. "It will be good to play in familiar surroundings."

The Tornado teams are in the final stretch of their schedule. They were to host Nanih Waiya

on Tuesday and Kemper County on Friday night. Next week, they play Lake on Tuesday and close out the regular season Friday when they host the Newton Tigers.

The brackets will be decided after the regular season ends next week.

Philadelphia boys

Coach Wilson is his first season as head coach of the Tornadoes. A long-time supporter of the football team, he had previously served as an assistant basketball coach.

"I think it's coming together well," Wilson said. "The kids have bought into what I am try-

ing to do. At first, I didn't think we would play a lot of man defense but we have played a lot of man defense this year. We are able to press a lot. We work on this every day. I feel like we can press and go man-to-man will help us in the playoffs.

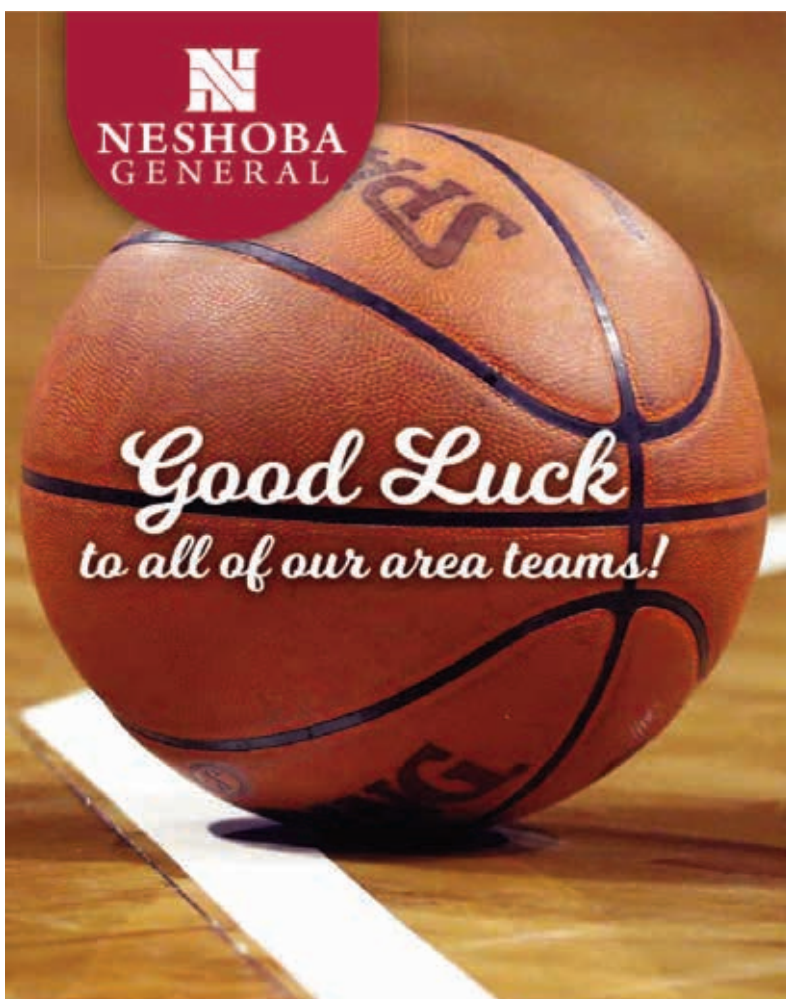
Haven Coburn starts as point guard. Alexander Menchion is the second guard while Devontae Scott is the third guard. Javion Carter is the forward and Andrew Carter is the center. Among the first to come off the bench are Troy Davis, Marcus Beamon, Jaderious Stephens and Kyle Jones.

Philadelphia girls

The Lady Tornadoes look for a repeat of last year's region tournament which saw them win a play-in game and then pull an upset that landed them in the championship game.

"We are pretty quick and we can play defense well when we can all play," said Coach Spurlock. "We have two shooters. Everyone is staying well and we are working to get ready for the region tournament."

Hailey Donald starts at point guard. Zariyah Jackson is the second guard while Ayana Hannah plays the three and Jaiden Burnside plays the four. Kalyce Fielder starts at center.



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Members of the Neshoba Central basketball girls team are, front row from left, Kailyn Willis, Ariel Henry, Bo Thomas, Veronica Williams, Carly Keats, Hama'ya Fielder, Denise Denson, Mataeya Dixon, Shaylynn Hunter, second row from left, Coach Jason Broom, Nalani Thompson, A'tyia Allen, Katelin Williams, Jakaylin York, Lanaya Henry, Erica Lyons, Zharia Leflore, Coach Shannon Ruffin.



Members of the Neshoba Central boys basketball team are, front row from left; R.J. Hudson, Patsden Williams, Zae Goodin, Bryceton Spencer, Dexter Spencer, Elijah Ruffin, D.J. Cole, William Dreifuss, second row from left, Head Coach Russell Cruise, Jakobe Hardy- MGR, Garrison Breedlove, Brantley McMillian, Carmello Whitfield, Lamont Henry- MGR, Bobby Goodin assistant coach.

Lady Rockets zero in on region championship

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The expectations for the Neshoba Central Lady Rockets were high at the beginning of the 2021-2022 season.

So far, the team has lived up to all of them.

The Lady Rockets entered the week with a 23-0 record following Saturday's victory over Olive Branch, which is ranked No. 4 in Class 6A statewide poll. Neshoba Central is ranked No. 1 in both the overall state polls and the Class 5A state polls.

The campaign started with four big victories during the first month of the season.

Not only did the Lady Rockets sweep a pair of games from Choctaw Central for the first time in recent memory. Neshoba Central also defeated Class 4A state champion Pontotoc on their home court, and defeated Germantown which played for the Class 6A championship last year.

"This has been a great November but that's what it is, November," Coach Jason Broom said at the time. "We can easily get to March and some of those teams will be celebrating a long run in the state playoffs. They can build off of us and go win the 4A or 6A championships. We have to take care of 5A. We

are happy but we want to keep things in perspective."

And Neshoba Central has definitely stayed on track with most of their victory margins ranging from 30 to 40 points. On Saturday in the Choctaw County Classic, the Lady Rockets picked up a 86-66 victory over Olive Branch.

Coach Broom says the Lady Rockets have two groups that rotate in and out. Carly Keats starts at point guard. Hama'ya Fielder plays the second guard, Denise Denson the three guard and Shaylynn Hunter playing the four. Veronica Hunter plays the forward.

When the next group

comes in, Kailyn Willis plays point guard. Zharia LeFlore plays the two guard with Mataeya Dixon at the three guard, Bo Thomas at the four guard and A'tyia Allen at forward.

There is a couple of weeks left in the regular season. The Region 3-5A tournament will be hosted by Holmes County Central. And then it will be time to tipoff the Class 5A State Tournament. The Lady Rockets made it to the Final Four last year and now are looking to bring home the Gold ball from this March.

Neshoba Central boys
Coach Russell Cruise's

Neshoba Central boys have been competitive throughout the season, and they are hoping to be a dangerous team when the playoffs start.

The Rockets enter the week with a 7-11 record but have managed to stay close in most of their games.

"We have been in every game we have played except for Canton at their place. And then we came back and played them tight at our place," Coach Cruise said. "The region is a toss-up. Any of their four teams can make it out of the tournament and on any night, any of those four teams can win."

"We play good defense and we are working on our

rebouncing. Here lately, we have done a good job getting to the rim and making our free throws. We have been shooting well, We are at about 70 percent as a team. If we can get a little bit better at that and be patient, we can be in every game we play. We have to play at our pace. We try to slow things down and play with patience."

Elijah Ruffin starts at point guard. Zae Goodin is the second guard and Bryceton Spencer is the three guard. William Dreifuss starts at forward and Dexter Spencer is the center. Patsden Williams and Garrison Breedlove are among the first to come off the bench.

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Members of the Leake Academy boys basketball team are, front row, from left, manager Kara Horn, Henry Dabbs, Jackson Freeny, Aiden Watkins, Seth Alford, Jack Harkins, Charlie Brantley, Gavin White, Whitt Welch and manager Sydney Evans. Pictured on the back row from left, manager Lauren McCall, Talon McCall, Gabriel Quick, Lucas Thomas, Jake Freeny, Benjamin Jackson, Samuel Prince, Sam Evans, Rhett Atkinson and Rebekah McCall.



Members of the Leake Academy Rebelettes basketball team are, front row from left, Ella Bell, Abigail Graham, Parker Woods, McKinley Peoples, Miley Billey and Raleigh Atkinson. On the second row, from left, Grace Maxey, Natalee Vaughn, Allen Kaye Wilcox, Kaleigh Wooten, Ramzy Beth Johnston, Laney Turner, Parks Chandler, Morgan Freeny and Miriam Prince. On the back row, Lauren McCall, Caitlin McDonald, Allison Thompson, Emeri Warren, Marleigh Myers, Maggie Stevens, Katy Jones, Olivia Rudolph, Julianna Johnston and Tori Pigg.

Rebelettes ready for postseason run

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
steve@neshobademocrat.com

two Leake Academy teams.

Leake girls

The Leake Academy basketball teams enter the last week of the regular season this week.

The Rebelettes are 25-2 on the season while the Rebels are 11-10 on the season.

Both teams will enter postseason play next week in the District 2-4A Tournament at Winston Academy in Louisville.

Here's a good look at the

The Leake Academy girls are poised for another state championship and Overall championship run this season.

The Rebelettes are 25-2 on the season with two regular-season games remaining. Their two losses this season are to Madison-Ridgeland Academy (49-40) and to Pillow Academy (70-65).

"We've had a few bumps in the road and have played a

tough schedule," Leake coach Amanda Hatch said. "We will see Pillow again in the playoffs. Brookhaven is really good in the South and the state tournament is at their place so that will be another challenge."

Leake will go after another district championship the week of Feb. 1-5 at Winston Academy and will advance to the North 4A Tournament in Columbus at Heritage Academy the week of Feb. 8-12. The Class 4A state tournament will be held in

Brookhaven on Feb. 15-19 while the Overall Tournament will be Feb. 21 through March 2.

The Rebelettes returned three starters off of last year's state championship and Overall championship squad. Leake is led by Miriam Prince, who is averaging 18.5 points, 5 rebounds and three steals a game. Morgan Freeny is averaging 9.8 points, two steals and two rebounds a game while sophomore Katy Jones is averaging 9.8 points and 7

rebounds a game for the Rebelettes.

Leake boys

The Rebels stand at 11-10 on the season with two games remaining in the regular season with Simpson County Academy and Lamar School with playoff position in the district tournament still up in the air.

Leake recently celebrated head coach Phil Shepard's 800th win in boys basketball.

Shepard and the Rebels

have tried several starting lineups this season, searching for the right five. Two constants in that lineup have been junior guard Whitt Welch and sophomore guard Jake Freeny. The Rebels have also gotten solid bench work from eighth grader Samuel Prince, who is averaging 15 points a game. Senior Gavin White and junior Aiden Watkins have given the Rebels valuable minutes in the low post.



Members of the Union girls basketball team are, back row from left, Sheridan Lambert, Macie Pilgrim, Gentry Ward, Tiara Campbell, Morgan Shaw, Anna Shaw, Rymia Craft, Destiny Campbell, Sarah Chandlee, Leigha Bozeman, Coach Kelcia Bufkin, (Front) Sydney Coward, Gracyn Tillman, Kataya Bishop, Georgia Cooper Keirra Russell, Kamiya Russell, Madison Buckley and Amagine Taylor.

Lady Yellow Jackets enjoying standout season

By ROBBIE ROBERTSON
sports@neshobademocrat.com

of the top teams in Class 3A this season.

It's a tale of two teams for Union basketball this season.

The Union Lady Yellowjackets are enjoying another standout season on first-year coach Kelcia Bufkin, who took over for Matt Wilbanks when he left to be the head coach at Morton. The Lady Yellowjackets are 19-2 on the season and have been one

On the other had, the Union boys have struggled this season with only one win to their credit as veteran coach John Darnell fields his youngest team while heading the Yellowjackets.

Union girls

The Union girls are enjoying another solid season after making the final

four of the Class 2A state tournament last season with an appearance in "The Big House."

Union is 19-2 on the season and have only one loss in division play, a three-point set back to Morton and former coach Matt Wilbanks earlier this season.

Union is led by four senior players, including twin guards Kamiya and Keirra Russell. Joining the twins are

Georgia Cooper and Madison Buckley, who have all been offered to play at East Central Community College.

Union has two weeks remaining in the regular season and a home showdown with Morton on Tuesday, Feb. 1 with the regular-season district championship on the line.

The Division 5-3A Tournament will be held at Clarkdale beginning on Feb. 8-11.

Union boys

It's been a tough year for veteran coach John Darnell and the Yellowjackets.

Union has just one win on the season as Darnell works on rebuilding the team from scratch. Union graduated four seniors from last year's squad, including standout Jamarcus Jones. The lone returning starter was Kenyon Clay, who opted not to play

basketball this season. Clay graduated in December and signed to play football at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he enrolled in January.

So far this season, Union has been led by Kamarion Rushing and Keon Hutchins. Darnell has also been getting solid playing time from William Hughlett, Zy Buckley, Kamani Townsend and Udarion Hickman.



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Members of the Neshoba Central girls soccer team are, not in order of photo, Josie Skinner, Chloe Thompson, Sadie Long, Chloe Pierce, Ella Jai Elliot, Mason Daniels, Taydem Dunlap, Ulli Cumberland, Allie Horn, Emily Duran, Anna Kay Martin, Crystal Routh, Breeanna Winstead, Rose Coats, Atley Thomas, Riley Knight, Zoie Herring, Maggie Bradley, Jaci Willis, Chloe Kirkland, Anna Bryan, Ella Adams, Sydney Nickey, Picabo Hernandez, Abbi Cumberland, Raven Kirk, Alaynah Talbert and Erica Copeland.



Members of the Philadelphia High School girls soccer team are, front row from left, Lamirria Darby, K'Kota Hudson, Carleigh Edwards, Melody Suttles, Paris Hantzis, Tamia Johnson, second row from left, Charmaine Manzano, Jakatlyn McClendon, Cher'nazja McBeath, Deasia Fortune, Elesha Frazier, Kabria Moore, back row from left, Cydney Porche, Myrehnna Clemons, goalie – Rayleigh Parkison and Kabry Coleman.



Members of the Philadelphia High School boys soccer team are, front row from left, Adrian Luke, Douglas Young, Mohammad Elnaham, Hasaan Obaid, Kentrell Miller, Jakobe Lyon, second row from left, Zach Jones, Jordan Lathan, Goalie – Markus Porche, Mandella Middleton and Cameron Goss.



The Neshoba Central boys soccer team was to be playing in the state tournament this week. Members of the team are, bottom row from left, Colin Crenshaw, Kody Tucker, Logan Collins, Luke Wilborn, Evan Hallford, Evan Boatner, Cason Mann, Jack Windham, Caden Jones; middle row from left, Omar Williams, Thanh Pham, Jon Parker Hancock, Jordan Kabore, Talbott Sistrunk, Brylee Reynolds, Conner Jimmie, Addison Dees, Ethan Apperson, Cristian Steve, Lucas McArthur; top row from left, Cobie Spencer, Hayden Burrage, Gunner Pitt, Sam Durant, Leyton Turk, Kaden McDonald and Parker Moody.

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 To all of our area teams this season.



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Members of the East Central Community College men's basketball team are, front row left; Antwan Hatton, Lamarius James, Tynerious Daniels, Trey McMullan, James Granger, Demajon Topps, and Tyrel Thames. Back row left to right; Coach Rahim Lockhart, Jelani Clark, John Woods, Anthony Richards, Avery Richards, Damian McKnight, Christopher Keys, Coach David Berry, Matthew Mackey, and Coach Joniah White.



The East Central Community College Lady Warriors took down the Mississippi Gulf Coast Lady Bulldogs 58-55 in a nail-biting, MACCC matchup on Thursday afternoon. Members of the team are, front row from left, Mer'Cades Miller, Jacey Cooper, Angela Middleton, India Singleton, Sylvia Jones, Kennedee' Shelton, Cori Keats, and Faith Guy. Back row from left to right; Alice Jimmie, Coach Kristen Sampson, Wel'Asia Roby, Mirial Cannon, Kaedre Denson, Shemaiah Smith, Myeisha Scott, Wynter Taylor, Nenah Young, and Coach LaTaryl Williams.



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