



SPORTS
THE LATE SAM REA INDUCTED INTO MRA HALL OF FAME

Sam Rea — Page 10A

COOK OF THE WEEK
SCOTT ENJOYS COOKING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS

Ashton Scott — Page 9A



THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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ARRESTED

Murder suspect skips bail, flees to NY

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

A Neshoba County woman indicted in the March 2023 murder of her boyfriend here at a residence off of Highway 16 West was arrested in New

York state on a warrant after she skipped bail.

The woman, Stephanie M. Vance, 26, of Philadelphia was arrested on Jan. 11 by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark said he was in contact with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office after it was discovered Vance was staying in that area. Clark said his



Vance

office believes Vance may have had a connection with a relative there.

According to Capt. John Waterson with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, Vance

was located in the Town of Pleasant Valley and taken into custody without incident.

At this time Vance has been charged in Dutchess County as a fugitive, and after being processed she was arraigned before the Town of

Hyde Park Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail pending extradition proceedings.

Clark said Vance has refused to sign an extradition

See **MURDER**, page 3A



Members of the Choctaw Fire Department and American Red Cross visited homes, brought awareness about smoke detectors, and installed them free of charge in the Pearl River Community during their Sound the Alarm initiative on Friday, January 19. Pictured are, front row

from left, Gabriel Bell, Marco Patrick, Anthony Acy, Melody Storgaard, Red Cross member, Zoey Anderson, Glen Billie, and Darius Jackson (Back) Brandis Johnson, Scott Smith, Glen Dixon, Samuel Farve, Barry Harrison, John Brown, Mark Anderson, and Linda Williams.

SOUND THE ALARM

Choctaw Fire Department, Red Cross give out smoke alarms

By **JACE HENDERSON**
 jace@neshobademocrat.com

Smoke detectors save lives and the Choctaw Fire Department has joined forces with the American Red Cross to educate Tribal families about the danger of smoke and house fires.

The collaborative Sound the Alarm initiative began on Jan. 19, focusing on raising awareness about smoke detectors and providing free installation in homes across the Pearl River community.

"So far, it's been going really well," said CFD Liaison Officer Marco Patrick. People are calling, letting us into their homes, and are genuinely receptive to this initiative."

Sixty-three complimentary smoke alarms have so far been installed in 43 Tribal homes, while simultaneously educating 136 individuals about the importance of having working smoke detectors, officials said.

The Choctaw Fire Department currently maintains an inventory of 150 smoke detectors, with the option of getting more from the American Red Cross.

There's been an uptick in calls from homeowners seeking smoke detector installations, officials said.

"If you're not educated on smoke detectors, then it's not doing any good," Patrick said. "It's been proven time and time again that smoke detectors save lives. It's very important to know how to keep them updated and tested and



Members of the Choctaw Fire Department and American Red Cross visit a home in the Pearl River community to install free smoke alarms.

also knowing how to change the batteries."

Officials recommend monthly testing and replacement every 10 years for smoke alarms. After each installation, these alarms undergo thorough testing to ensure they are working correctly.

Smoke detectors also need to be placed in every sleeping area and on every level of a home, and if they are

found to be malfunctioning, they need to be replaced promptly, officials said.

"The goal for fire prevention and life safety education is to encourage all tribal members and communities to have working smoke detectors," Patrick said.

CFD plans to explore the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in homes and open discussions about fire extinguishers.

While the fire department doesn't supply fire extinguishers, Patrick said that they can recharge used ones depending on the type and model.

For more information, Tribal community homeowners seeking free smoke detectors can arrange appointments with Patrick by calling (601) 656-0620 or emailing marco.patrick@choctaw.org.

ROUNDUP

Big drug trafficking ring busted

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

A four-year federal investigation into large methamphetamine and cocaine trafficking operations has led to several arrests with some suspects still on the run.

Four individuals wanted in Neshoba County are still on the run following a sweeping multi-county roundup last week.

Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark said his department is still looking for the following suspects:

- Joey Morgan, 38, a white male with a last known address in Decatur, wanted for the sale of a controlled substance.

- Delvin Houston, 42, a black male with a last known address in Kemper County, wanted for the sale of a controlled substance.

Philadelphia Police Chief Eric Lyons said they are looking for two individuals:

- Johnathan Clint Daniels, 40, with a last known address on Road 779. He is a white male wanted for the sale of a controlled substance.

- Salen M. Graham, 36, a black male with a last known address in Meridian, is wanted for the sale of a controlled substance.

A fifth suspect, Ashley Miles, 36, was picked up in Meridian on Wednesday morning, Clark said. She was wanted on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

The individuals were sought on Jan. 23 when Philadelphia Police and Neshoba SO assisted in a roundup of about 15 individuals suspected of drug crimes.

Philadelphia Police executed a search warrant at 204 Shelby

See **DRUGS**, page 2A

CRIME

7 arrested in string of burglaries

By **DUNCAN DENT**
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Seven people — including juveniles — have been arrested in a rash of burglaries in two different parts of the county this month.

In a string of auto burglaries in the Hope community on Jan. 8 between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m., several vehicles were broken into on Road 147 and Highway 488 near the Hope Store.

According to Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark, those arrested in the Hope burglaries were:

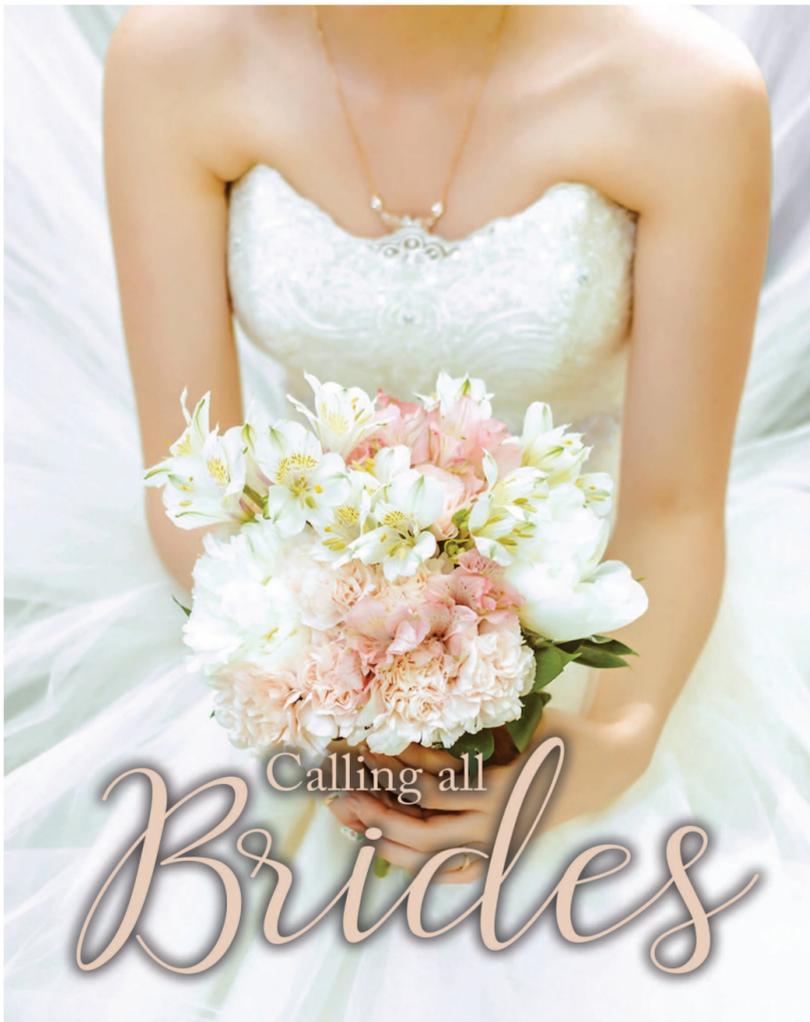
- Daylen Perkins, 19, 166 Rolling Hills Circle, Philadelphia;
- Quincy Farmer, 19, 178 Rolling Hills Circle, Philadelphia;

Two juveniles have been charged with seven auto burglaries that include the theft of a Browning 300 mag. hunting rifle, a Ruger LCP .9 mm handgun, a purse, a wallet, and miscellaneous

See **CRIME**, page 3A



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NESHOPA
 COUNTY



Tribal man pleads guilty to aggravated sexual abuse

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

A Neshoba County man has pleaded guilty in federal court to aggravated sexual abuse of a minor on the Choctaw Indian Reservation.

U.S. Attorney Todd Gee and Acting Special Agent in Charge Jessica Orench of the FBI announced the plea on Jan. 8.

The man, Scottie Amos, 26, according to court documents, committed a sexual act on a minor who was between the

ages of 12 and 16 in the Tucker community in September 2017. Amos was indicted by a federal grand jury in September 2022.

Following his plea, Amos is scheduled to be sentenced on April 11 and faces a maximum penalty of life in prison.

“A federal district judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors,” officials said.

Amos has previously pleaded guilty to burglary and awaits

sentencing in that case as well, although no details have been made available on when or where that burglary took place.

The Choctaw Police Department had not responded to requests for additional information by press time on Tuesday.

CPD and the Federal Bureau of Investigation all investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin J. Payne and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian K. Burns prosecuted the case.

Drugs

Continued from page 1A

Drive where three men were taken into custody, according to Lyons. The men were:

- Darius Davis, 25, 204 Shelby Drive, charged with felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

- Akeli Graham, 24, 204 Shelby Drive, charged with felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

- Wilfred Maury, 23, of Jackson, was charged with felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

- Other arrests included: Kaizo Harrington, 27, 431 Coleman Street, charged with the sale of a controlled substance.

- Astra High, 42, 918 Kosciusko Road, charged with the sale of a controlled substance.

- Deborah Dooley Withers, 29, 156 Ricks Road, charged with possession of a controlled substance.

- Curtis Glen Spivey, 39, 405 Austin Street, was arrested on a federal drug warrant from the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

- Bobby Coleman, 35, 116 Mason Street, Union, was arrested on a federal drug warrant from the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

- Antonio Burnside, 49, 1011 Road, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

- Dexter Carter, 47, 11240 Road 632, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

- Robert Dobson, 62, 206 Homer Avenue, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

- Kayla Ann Comby, 36, 214 Isaac Road, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

- Ja'Quez Lewis, 23, of Philadelphia, was arrested and charged with felony sale of a controlled substance.

- Kaden Seales, 19, 423 Coleman Street, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

- Robert L. Yarborough, 46, 10610 Road 553, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

Another suspect, Clifton L. Schumaker, 36, faces a felony drug warrant as part of the investigation, according to Clark. Schumaker is serving 27 years in the Mississippi Department of Corrections for burglary and drug charges committed in Winston County.

“Several more arrests are



Antonio Burnside

Bobby Coleman

Kayla Ann Comby

Darius Davis



Dexter Carter

Kaizo Harrington

Astra High

Ja'Quez Lewis



Kaden Seales

Robert Dobson

Curtis Spivey

Wilfred Maury



Deborah Withers

Robert Yarborough

Johnathon Daniels

Shalan Graham

expected in connection with this investigation,” Lyons said.

Clark echoed that saying drug investigations in Neshoba County continue.

“We have more people under investigation at this time and can expect more roundups like this in the future,” Clark said.

Last week's roundup was part of a coordinated effort with the U.S. Attorney Southern District of Mississippi crossing multiple jurisdictions including Lauderdale, Newton, Neshoba, Scott, and Jasper counties as well as related arrests in Mexico, California, Texas, and Alabama.

The charges stem from a four-year federal investigation of multiple drug trafficking operations distributing methamphetamine, cocaine, and other illegal drugs, a news release from the U.S. Attorney's office said.

According to the release, there were about 40 arrests made on Jan. 23 related to the investigation.

The announcement was made by U.S. Attorney Todd W. Gee of the Southern District of Mississippi, Acting Special Agent in Charge Eric DeLaune of Homeland Security Investigations, Acting Special Agent in Charge Steve Hofer of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Special Agent in Charge Joshua Jackson of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and U.S. Marshal Mark Shepherd.

The cases are being investigated by Homeland Security Investigations, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the East

Mississippi Drug Task Force and Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Alabama 17th Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force, the Newton County Sheriff's Department, and the Scott County Sheriff's Department.

The following agencies also assisted in the investigation: U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Mississippi Highway Patrol, Mississippi Bureau of Investigations, Neshoba County Sheriff's Office, Philadelphia Police Department, Decatur Police Department, Union Police Department, Mississippi Attorney General's Office, Mississippi Commercial Truck Enforcement Division, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, Mississippi Alcoholic Beverage Control, and the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Carla J. Clark is prosecuting the cases. The Office of Enforcement Operations in the Department of Justice's Criminal Division also provided assistance.

This case is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level drug traffickers, money launderers, gangs, and transnational criminal organizations that threaten the U.S. by using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach.

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Dr. Miller joins Neshoba General

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Neshoba General welcomes John M. Miller, II, MD to its medical staff. His specialty is Family Medicine. He will be seeing patients at Neshoba Urgent Care—Family Medicine located at 1120 East Main Street, Suite 2.

Dr. Miller received his Doctor of Medicine Degree from University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2013. He completed his Residency at the Department of Family Residen-

cy also at UMMC between 2013 and 2016.

“We are very excited to welcome Dr. Miller to the medical staff of Neshoba General Hospital, and we look forward to have him as an active member of our community during the months and years to come,” said Lee McCall, Chief Executive Officer of Neshoba General. “Our goal is to offer increased access to highly qualified medical care to the citi-



Dr. John Miller II

zens of our community and attract additional physicians to our medical staff.”

Dr. Miller will see patients Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m.-noon. He is currently accepting new patients effective Feb. 5.

For an appointment call 601.650.1991. For additional information call 601-389-1555 or visit neshobageneral.com

Crime

Continued from page 1A

cash. Investigators were able to follow tips and connect them to make arrests and recover the stolen items.

The Browning hunting rifle, Ruger LCP .9mm handgun, purse, and wallet have been returned to the owners, Clark said.

Separately, on the night of Jan. 14, at about 3 a.m. on Highway 21 South near the city limits, four automobiles and a camper were burglarized.

A Smith & Wesson handgun with a green laser attachment was taken from a Chevy Tahoe and a purse containing \$500 cash and miscellaneous cards were taken.

Sammy Wallace Jr., 21, 320 Goat Ranch Road, and two juveniles were charged with those burglaries.

Wallace’s younger broth-

er, Sean Wallace, 18, 320 Goat Ranch Road, has also been charged with possession of a stolen firearm.

The Philadelphia Police Department located the Wallace siblings and two juveniles at a local motel.

The stolen Smith & Wesson along with a purse were recovered. Those items have been returned to the owners, Clark said.

One of the juveniles is suspected of being linked to the burglaries at Hope.

Perkins and Farmer are being held in the Neshoba



Quincy Farmer



Daylen Perkins



Sammy Wallace Jr.



Sean Wallace

County Detention Center on a \$70,000 bond.

Sammy Wallace is being held on a \$55,000 bond.

Sean Wallace is being held on \$5,000 bond.

The juveniles have been turned over to Youth Court and are awaiting a court date.

Clark said both cases were solved with help from the public.

The best evidence collected in these cases was from home and business security cameras, Clark said.

Murder

Continued from page 1A

agreement and that his office is working with Neshoba County District Attorney Steven Kilgore to get a forced extradition to Neshoba County. Clark said it was a “lengthy process” and was not sure when she would be brought back to Neshoba County.

Vance was indicted here for the murder of Christopher Charles Bland on Dec. 14, 2023. Clark said she had been out on a \$100,000 bond since

September and failed to show up for a bond call on Dec. 20 after she was indicted.

The indictment stems from a Friday, March 3 incident when officers responded to 11852 Highway 16 West for an emergency medical call, Clark said.

“The caller stated that she had discharged her handgun and shot her boyfriend,” Clark said at the time. “She stated the .9mm SCCY handgun went off while they were fighting.”

Deputies and Neshoba EMS responded, Clark said. Vance was detained and Child

Protection Services was contacted to assist and take custody of their 8-month-old child.

The victim, Christopher Charles Bland, 35, who lived at the same address, was taken to Neshoba General and later flown by helicopter to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson where he died the following day, according to Clark.

He said Vance was initially charged with aggravated domestic violence, but the charges were upgraded to first-degree murder after Bland’s death.



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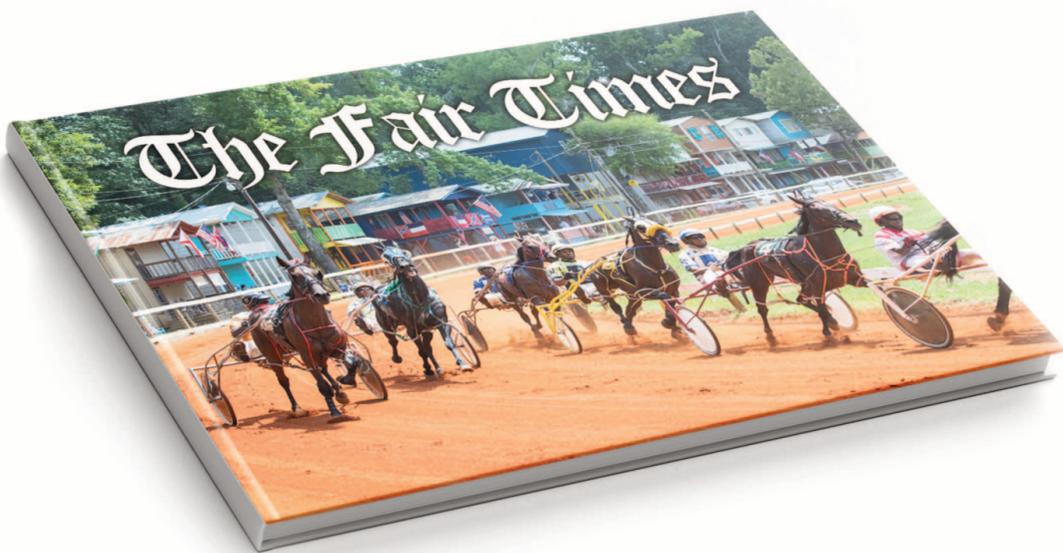
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THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT



Opinion

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THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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

EDITORIALS

A Biden retirement is best

The impeachment of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas misses the mark. Since Mr. Mayorkas is simply doing the bidding of his boss, his removal, while entirely appropriate, isn't a solution. The illegal immigration mayhem only stops when President Biden is sent home to Delaware.

The House Homeland Security Committee is expected to vote Tuesday on articles of impeachment against Mr. Mayorkas, and a full House vote is scheduled for next week. With a slim, two-member Republican majority, success in the lower chamber is uncertain. Because Democrats control the Senate, where expulsion requires a two-thirds majority, the Homeland Security secretary won't be clearing out his office any time soon.

Still, the vote is worth taking because it places a spotlight on a critical issue. Under Mr. Mayorkas' leadership, border control has been performed as if it were air-traffic control, ensuring the efficient and safe movement of travelers — in this case, illegal immigrants from nearly every corner of the globe.

The U.S. Border Patrol reported 302,034 encounters along the southwest border in December alone, setting an all-time monthly record. Including so-called "gotaways" — individuals spotted but not apprehended — the total number of illegal entries is estimated as high as 10 million during Mr. Biden's three years in office — more than the individual population of 40 of the 50 U.S. states.

By any definition of the word, the phenomenon is an invasion. A Harvard CAPS-Harris poll released last week found immigration ranks as Americans' top concern, named so by 35% of registered voters. It should surprise no one: A recent Center for

Immigration Studies report estimated the annual cost to taxpayers of housing and care for these uninvited guests to be as much as \$451 billion.

Recognizing his re-election vulnerability, Mr. Biden recently admitted, "No, it's not," when asked if the border is secure. He backs a package currently grinding through Capitol Hill's legislative sausage-making process that would, among other things, limit the flow to 150,000 border-crossers a month before the president can order a halt.

The plan, emerging from the Senate, is "dead on arrival," in the words of House Speaker Mike Johnson, Louisiana Republican. That's as it should be. Americans who see uncontrolled immigration as a problem don't view allowing "only" 1.8 million trespassers a year as a solution.

The immigration impasse is not simply a disagreement over the number of individuals who should be given a pass for violating U.S. law. It is much more fundamentally a clash over the question of whether national borders are still viable. Mr. Biden has given into the progressive notion of a borderless world under global governance — especially since that means recruiting millions of potential new voters to his cause.

All things considered, Mr. Biden and his Democratic allies have chosen to sacrifice the nation's security and prosperity to advance their aim. Citizens in communities from coast to coast are left to deal with the collateral damage.

The impeachment of Mr. Mayorkas would serve as an aspirational symbol, but the immigration invasion will not subside until the White House is under new management.

— *The Washington Times*

CAL THOMAS

Biden's bad border deal

President Biden offered a deal on the border to congressional Republicans that they could refuse. To their credit, they did.

The president, speaking from South Carolina, said he would shut down the border "right now," if Congress passed the proposed bipartisan deal now in front of them.

The proposed deal, Biden said, would "give me as president, the emergency authority to shut down the border until it could get back under control."

This deal offer is ridiculous on its face. The administration has refused to enforce immigration laws that have been in place for years, but now the president says he will selectively enforce a new law?

Through the first 27 days in December, border authorities "encountered more than 225,000 migrants along the US-Mexico border ... marking the highest monthly total recorded since 2000, according to preliminary Homeland Security statistics," reports CNN.

About 50,000 more arrived at official border crossings. There have been more than 96,000 "known gotaways" at the southern border since Oct. 1, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Who knows how many have come into the country with Fentanyl?

Perhaps the most ridiculous suggestion made during what some have rightfully called an "invasion" came from the mayor of Boston, Maura Healey, who is asking people to open their homes and businesses to the

*As Ronald Reagan said:
"A nation that cannot
control its borders is
not a nation."*

migrants. This isn't equivalent to the temporary housing offered to the 7,000 passengers and crew from airplanes forced to land in Newfoundland following the 9/11 terrorist attack. Who in their right mind would take in unvetted migrants?

According to the Center for Immigration Studies, there are 11.35 million people living in the U.S. who arrived without documentation. They're still coming. Why wouldn't they when so much free stuff awaits?

The political element behind the grand migration is not hard to discern. Democratic megadonor George Soros has made six-figure donations through his Democracy Pac II to a group called Texas Majority PAC, whose goal is to turn Texas into a Democrat-majority state. The group was formed by people associated with Beto O'Rourke, who failed in three attempts to seek various offices.

In a statement, Texas Majority PAC spokeswoman Katherine Fischer said the Soros donations are intended to help the migrants register and turn out voters "on a scale never seen before." She couldn't be clearer as to the PAC's intentions and presumably the goals of other enablers of those who broke our laws to get here.

It appears Vice President

Kamala Harris is in on this deal. She wants the migrants to have "a pathway to citizenship." There is no mystery how she and other Democrats expect most of them to vote should they acquire citizenship. If some of them break more laws after becoming U.S. citizens, what then? Would they get pardoned by the current or a future Democratic president?

As Ronald Reagan said: "A nation that cannot control its borders is not a nation." Reagan signed a bipartisan, but flawed, immigration bill. This is different and if it continues, the United States of America will be "fundamentally transformed," which former President Barack Obama and current President Joe Biden have said is their goal.

Uncontrolled immigration has reached the top of the list of voter concerns, ahead of the economy. Voters will decide in November what kind of America they want.

When Benjamin Franklin was supposedly asked what kind of country he had given us, he is said to have replied: "A Republic, if you can keep it." Whether that quote is true or not is not important. The sentiment is correct. We'll soon know if we are able to keep it. President Biden — and George Soros — have made their intentions clear.

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

FLASHBACKS

February 4, 1944

Mrs. Juanita Moseley has leased the Sanders Hotel from Mrs. A. F. Sanders Trapp, and is now operating this popular note.

War bond sales in Neshoba County continued to lag somewhat during the week, when A.D. Doggett and S.B. King, chairmen of the 4th War Loan Drive, warned that "extra efforts will have to be exerted" if the county is to reach its \$506,000 quota.

February 4, 1954

Donna Rea, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Rea, will sing this evening over WTOK-TV channel 11, Meridian at 6:30 on the local talent show.

The Beacon Street Baptist Church is formulating final plans for entering their new auditorium some time in March.

January 30, 1964

Neshoba County taxpayers will be required to pay \$2,619,000 in federal taxes as their share of the proposed \$97.9 billion fiscal federal budget for 1964 if it is adopted by Congress.

Burglars, believed to be teenagers, broke into the

Neshoba County Elementary School for the second time last Thursday.

February 7, 1974

Marty Stuart, teenage son of Mr. and Mrs. John Stuart, and a rising star in country and western music, appeared on an hour-long television special Monday night.

Sheriff Melton Bounds has announced the appointment of James Richard Willis as deputy sheriff.

February 8, 1984

The old Neshoba County jail, built in the 1950s and used for about 30 years, was sold Monday for \$10,750.

Three suspects were being questioned about several fires set Friday night at Neshoba Central High School, Sheriff Glen Waddell said Tuesday morning. The fires were set in the main office of the school, in a garbage truck and in a school bus.

February 2, 1994

Neshoba County's Junior Miss Jennifer Thomas is competing this week in Meridian for the state title.

February 4, 2004

Support beams for the

pavilion in Founders Square at the Neshoba County Fairgrounds are being replaced along with the tin roof. J.J. Jenkins and Steven Fulton of Jenkins Construction saw to the beams. One of the older harness barns is also being reworked. The metal is being salvaged from the pavilion roof. The work is expected to be completed within the next few weeks and is estimated to cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Fair officials say they will not alter the historic significance of the structures.

January 29, 2014

An effort is underway by the Police Department to collect about \$1 million in delinquent fines for the city as more than 2,000 people have outstanding warrants for their arrests. Mayor James A. Young said officials have been battling the delinquent cases in recent years.

The new \$2.5 million Choctaw Regional Maintenance Facility officially opened its doors Friday following a ribbon cutting by Tribal, state, and federal officials.

RICH LOWRY

Will Barbie survive?

Sometimes the universe has a sense of humor.

Could there be a more amusing coda to the "Barbie" phenomenon than the Ken doll, played by Ryan Gosling, getting a best supporting actor nomination, while Barbie herself, played by Margot Robbie, got snubbed?

The director, Greta Gerwig, too, missed out on the big prize, failing to get a best director nomination.

The patriarchy strikes again.

"Barbie," of course, is the annoying, occasionally entertaining \$1.4 billion feminist parable that was made into an unstoppable cultural juggernaut last year. In certain circles, if you didn't like it, you had to make yourself like it.

According to the movie's devotees, Ken getting all the glory is something straight out of the film's male-dominated dystopia that the Barbie dolls must muster the courage to resist.

Hillary Clinton expressed her sympathy on social media for the plight of Robbie and Gerwig, extremely successful people in one of the highest-profile, most lucrative industries on the planet.

Ryan Gosling struck a decidedly apologetic note. "There is no Ken without Barbie," he said, "and there is no Barbie movie without Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie, the two people most responsible for this history-making, globally-celebrated film."

If Gosling wins the Oscar, he will have to give it back, or promise to melt down the statue.

It's not as though the Academy neglected "Barbie." The movie got eight Oscar nominations, including for best picture. That it didn't get two

*Could there be a more
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"Barbie" phenomenon
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supporting actor while
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by Margot Robbie, got
snubbed.*

more doesn't exactly constitute a cosmic injustice.

As cinephile Giancarlo Sopo points out, it's not that unusual for a film to get nominated for best picture, yet not get a best director or best actress or actor nomination. It happened, for instance, to "Jaws," "Towering Inferno" and "Field of Dreams."

It's become an even more common occurrence since the Academy moved to 10 best picture nominations, up from the five in the other categories. That means five people necessarily direct a best-picture-nominated film and don't get a best-director nomination every year — it's a matter of math.

This fate befell Greta Gerwig, but we shouldn't feel too sorry for her. First, she was nominated for best adapted screenplay for "Barbie." Her first two forays as a solo filmmaker were "Lady Bird" and "Little Women," and she got nominated for best director and best original screenplays for the former and best adapted screenplay for the latter.

Suffice it to say that the Academy likes Greta Gerwig.

As for Margot Robbie, she is without a doubt a very talented actress and already has a couple of prior Oscar nominations of her own. It's true that it's hard to see how they could have found anyone better suited to play Barbie. But for the

impossibly gorgeous Robbie to play a perfect-looking plastic doll was not the most challenging role.

Why did Gosling get nominated instead? Well, he's competing in an entirely different category. And the academy might have thought he managed to make more of a limited — indeed, supporting — role. Still, no one is going to mistake his performance as a supporting actor for, say, Robert De Niro in "Godfather II" or Christopher Walken in "Deer Hunter."

If "Barbie" and its makers and performers are supposed to be privileged over other possible nominees and winners, it'd lead to perverse results even by politically correct standards.

It's important to remember that all the other nominees who beat out Robbie in the best actress category ... are women. Robbie was probably bumped for a nomination by Annette Bening, a 65-year-old actress who plays the marathon swimmer Diana Nyad, a lesbian, in the movie "Nyad." Who's more deserving on feminist grounds?

Meanwhile, if the academy feels guilty into giving Gerwig the best adapted screenplay Oscar, it will have to skip over Cord Jefferson, an African-American, nominated for "American Fiction."

The Oscar nominations — inadvertently, to be sure — show that life doesn't have to be as simplistic and monochromatic as depicted in "Barbie."

For that, thank you to the academy.

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

LETTERS

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

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neshobademocrat.com
Telephone: 601.656.4000

BIBLE SELECTION

And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."

— Mark 9:35 (ESV)

COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail Docket from 1/22-1/29

- Tremain Renard Burkes, 48, of 312 Camp Rd, Carthage; possession of marijuana-1st offense, possession of paraphernalia, possession of controlled substance
- Sheena Clemons, 32, of 201 Rolling Hills Cir; failure to appear
- Benjamin Suqinn Cole, 30, of 1991 CR 372, Enterprise; failure to yield to blue light/siren, disorderly conduct
- Bobby Coleman, 35, of 116 Mason St, Union; hold for other agency
- Beverly Ann Cumberland, 57, of 10121 Rd 2826; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia, careless driving, no insurance, driving under the influence other substance
- Deloris Jenn Ellis, 51, of 572 Harristown Rd, Carthage; possession of controlled substance X2, possession of marijuana 1st offense, possession of paraphernalia, hold for investigations
- Quincy Farmer, 19, of 178 Rolling Hills Cir; hold for investigations, burglary of a motor vehicle X7
- Shameka Farmer, 27, of 158 Farmer Rd; failure to appear
- Thomas Giles, 38, of 10170 Rd 220, Union; hold for other agency
- Michael Goforth, 69, of 92 McKee Rd, DeKalb; possession of controlled substance, careless driving
- Hernandez R Gomez, 23, of 10531 Rd 474; public drunk

- Nicholas Green, 20, of 304 Cherry Ave; possession of a handgun by minor, suspended driver's license, no insurance, resisting arrest, indictment, failure to yield to blue light/siren, leaving the scene-attended veh, reckless driving
- Kaizo Harrington, 27, of 431 Coleman St; sale of controlled substance
- Astra High, 42, of 918 Kosciusko Rd; sale of controlled substance, false pretense, petit larceny less than \$1000
- Jacarlos Malik Hoskins, 21, of 10491 Rd 842; failure to appear
- Jacob Howard, 34, of 6012 Enon Rd, Louisville; failure to appear
- April Johnson, 53, of 205 County Line St; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia, driving under the influence other substance, public drunk
- Mark Jones, 60, of 13041 Hwy 482; contempt of court
- Paul Bradley Jones, 32, of 3732 E Abercrombie Cir, Chattanooga, TN; driving under the influence-1st offense, disorderly conduct, no insurance, suspended driver's license, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle
- Paul Henry Leber Jr, 65, of 322 Hendrix St; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia
- Carl William Majure, 37, of 10211 Rd 125; disorderly conduct, disturbance of family
- D'Quavon Armoni Marshall, 24, of 10435 Rd 842; contempt of court

- Levi Dillon Matthews, 28, of 1523 Rock Creek Rd; public drunk
- Kaydee Nicole Mayo, 28, of 12300 Rd 397; driving under the influence-1st offense, no insurance
- Randall Morrow McKee, 61, of 92 McKee Rd, DeKalb; possession of controlled substance, contempt of court
- Megan Amanda McMullan, 32, of 11051 Rd 428, Union; hold for investigations, domestic violence simple assault-1st
- Phillip Mingo, 56, of 2413 Hugh Mitchell Rd, Conehatta; driving under the influence-1st offense, contempt of court, child endangerment
- Patrick Mullins, 27, of 580 Fant Dr, Louisville; contempt of court
- Jasper Mitchell Savell, 29, of 10800 Hwy 16 W; failure to appear X2
- Curtis Glen Spivey, 39, of 405 Austin St; hold for other agency
- Kensley Steele, 32, of 11070 Rd 632; possession of controlled substance
- Jeffery Allan Stuart, 54, of 10200 Rd 725; possession of controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia
- Chadwick Stewart Tsosie, 20, of 840 W Tucker Cir; failure to appear, driving under the influence-1st offense
- Samuel Jones Wallace, 21, of 320 Goat Ranch Rd; hold for investigations, burglary-commercial blg., cars, etc X5, possession of a stolen firearm
- Sean Wallace, 18, of 320

- Goat Ranch Rd; hold for investigations, possession of a stolen firearm
- Montrell Wilson, 28, of 581 Lamar Cir; contempt of court
- Shaunna Michelle Wilson, 34, of 151 Sawmill Rd, Guin, AL; possession of a controlled substance within correctional
- Deborah Dooley Withers, 29, of 156 Ricks Rd, Union; possession of controlled substance

Winston County Jail Docket for Philadelphia Police arrests from 1/22-1/28

- Antonio Burnside, 49, of 1011 Rd 1523; CS-sell, transfer, distribute, possess with intent to sell
- Sarah D Burnside, 48, of 18153 Hwy 21 S; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service, contempt of court-default in payment of restitution
- Dexter Carter, 47, of 11240 Rd 632; CS-sell, transfer, distribute, possess with intent to sell
- Jacob Chisholm, 23, of 1001 Dogwood Dr, Rosehill; warrant-arrest report
- Chelsey N Cockrell, 25, of 416 Columbus Ave; weapon-exhibiting in threatening manner
- Kayla Comby, 36, of 214 Isaac Rd; CS-sell, transfer, distribute, possession with intent to sell
- Darius Davis, 25, of 204 Shelby Dr; CS-schedule I or II-simple possession- 10-20 grams or 20-40 dosage units
- Robert L Dobson, 62, of 206 Homer Ave; CS-schedule I or II-transfer and possession

- with intent- 10-30 grams or 20-40 dosage units
- Aaron J Frazier, 21, of 404 Columbus Ave; CS-marijuana-simple possession- 1-5 kilograms
- Jason M Gilmer, 51, of 10711 Rd 573; contempt of court-failure to answer subpoenas, warrant-arrest report
- Akeli Graham, 24, of 204 Shelby Dr; CS-schedule III or IV-transfer and possession with intent- 2-10 grams or 10-20 dosage units
- Billy E Jones, 39, of 330 Dusty Trail, Talladega, AL; weapon-discharging toward dwelling of another causing damage to property or domesticated animal or livestock, disorderly conduct-interfering with business customers, invitees, etc, CS-paraphernalia-possession or use, domestic violence-simpl assault-1st or 2nd offense
- Steven P Macdonald, 52, of 1209 Farm Springs, Summerville, SC; warrant-arrest report
- Wilfred Maury, 22, of 204 Shelby Dr; CS-schedule I or II-transfer and possession with intent- 2-10 grams or 10-20 dosage units
- Darius McCallum, 39, of 10051 CR 549; warrant-arrest report
- Danielle Parker, 37, of 7838 Hwy 15 S, Louisville; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service
- Carlos A Perez-Mendez, 27, of 846 Woodland Hills Dr Apt 2; MV-careless driving, MV-

- expired or no driver's license, MV-no insurance, DUI-1st offense
- Dayleon C Phillips, 19, of 264 Hoye Pace Rd, Conehatta; shoplifting-3 offense under \$500
- Lennie Reed, 53, of 355 Goat Ranch Rd; contempt of court-municipal court
- Joseph Robertson, 39, of 10622 Rd 763; contempt of court-nuisance, MV-careless driving, MV-seatbelt violation, MV-tag-none or expired
- Kaden J Seales, 19, of 423 Coleman St; CS-sell, transfer, distribute, possess with intent to sell
- Kendrick Steve, 34, of 1863 Will Brown Rd, Conehatta; contempt of court-municipal court
- Samuel Wallace, 21, of 320 Goat Ranch Rd; hold-detainer for Neshoba County SO, alcohol/giving/selling to a minor-1st offense
- Sean Wallace, 18, of 320 Goat Ranch Rd; false identifying information, alcohol/giving/selling to a minor-1st offense, hold-detainer for Neshoba County SO
- Daryl A Willis, 37, of 631 James Billie Rd; DUI-1st offense, MV-disobedience of official traffic control devices
- Robert Yabrough, 47, of 10610 Rd 553; CS-sell, transfer, distribute, possess with intent to sell
- Rebecca L York, 30, of 643 James Billy Rd; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service

OBITUARIES

Robert H. Hudson

Memorial service for Mr. Robert Henry Hudson will be held at a later date. Beck Funeral Home, Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hudson, 82, of Philadelphia, passed away on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at his residence.

He is survived by his children, Michael Hudson, Robert Hudson and Toni Roberts all of Philadelphia, MS, 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Lamar Hudson

Funeral service for Mr. Lamar Hudson was held on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at 11 A.M. from Mt. Ary M.B. Church, with Pastor Ricardus Mixon officiating. Burial was at Mt. Vernon M.B. Church Cemetery in Noxapater, MS. Beck Funeral Home, Inc was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hudson, 81, of Noxapater, passed away on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at his residence.

He is survived by one daughter, Patricia A. Hudson, four grandchildren, Douglas Hudson, Shavada Shine, Antonio Tatum, Jr., and Antonnette Tatum, nine great grandchildren, and other relatives.

Pallbearers were Douglas Hudson, Hosea Hudson, Jr., Salento Hudson, Antonio Tatum, Jr., Jessie Hudson, Jr., and Senquary Eichelberger

Patty G. Sharp

Memorial services for Patty G. Sharp may be held at a later date.

Ms. Sharp, 75, of Philadelphia died Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

Patty was a native and long-time resident of Neshoba County, mostly in the Bethsaida Community. She formerly owned/operated Video Plus in Union and prior to owning her own store she managed Vance Cinema Rental in Philadelphia. Ms. Sharp was Baptist by faith.

Survivors include daughter, Latina J. Sharp of Homestead, FL; son, Daniel Sharp of Philadelphia; granddaughter, Tegan R. Sharp; brother, Glen Robinson of Richland.

Ms. Sharp is preceded in death by husband, Bobby Glen Sharp; parents, Curtis and Nita Robinson.

Casey Wilkerson

Funeral services for Casey Wilkerson were held Monday, January 29, 2024 at 12 noon from

McClain-Hays Chapel. Burial followed in Mt Olive Cemetery in Stephen's Town. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Wilkerson, 32, of Union died Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Casey was born in Killeen, TX and had lived in Mississippi his entire life and was home schooled. He loved his family and his animals, Rusty and Callie. Mr. Wilkerson was a member of High Hill Baptist Church.

Survivors include his mother, Amy Pogue; father, Thomas Scott Wilkerson (Elsie); sister, Jamie Pogue (Gage Fellenstein); step-sister, Sara Yates of Forest; grandmother, Lillie Ishee; grandfather, Henry Wilkerson; a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and their families.

Mr. Wilkerson was preceded in death by grandmother, Mary Sue Wilkerson; great-grandmother, Ruby Walters.

Pallbearers, Hank Thrash, Tony Bender, Lonie Luckner, Gage Fellenstein, Larry Killens and Mac McLock.

Peggy Sue Shumake

Funeral service for Ms. Peggy Sue Shumake were held at 2 PM Monday, January 29, 2024, at Macedonia Baptist Church with interment in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. Visitation was at 10 AM Saturday, January 27, 2024, at the home of Lee Shumake Sr., 4012 Mills Road Conehatta, MS. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Shumake, 58, passed away Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at her home in Neshoba County. She lived most of her life in the Pearl River Community.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Edmond Shumake and Berdie Mae Jefferson Shumake; sister, Patty Jefferson; brothers, John, Norman, and Arthur Shumake; (5) grandchildren, Daisy, Bobby, Dunne Jr., Dekomus, and Quinton John.

Survivors include daughter, Deanna Jim; sons, Thomas Jim Jr., Todd Jim; sister, Lora Denson; brother, Lee Shumake Sr.; (11) grandchildren.

Pallbearers: Elias Johnson, John Willis, Bob Jim Jr., Don Willis, Robin Willis, Harold Sockey, Ramey Dan, Peter Sockey, Gaylon Williams, Allie Martin, Michael Gipson, Dantae Frazier.

Martha Jean Green Neal

Funeral services for Ms. Martha Jean Green Neal were

held at 2 PM Sunday, January 28, 2024, at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. Marshall Stokes officiating. Interment was in the Cedar Lawn City Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Neal, 93, passed away Thursday, January 25, 2024, in Meridian, MS. She was a member of North Bend Community Church, and she was the owner and operator of the local Merle Norman for 25 years. Her hobbies were flowers, gardening, and reading.

Preceded in death by her husbands, Willard Brown Green, Johnnie D. Neal; parents, John Marvin Tingle and Minnie Lee Hillman Tingle; sisters, Mary Savell Clark, Manza Stokes; brothers, Hillman, Roy, Ross, and Thad Tingle.

Survivors include her sons, Willard Green (Marilyn), Dale Green (Terri); (2) grandchildren, Cristie Rives (Justin), Jedidiah Green; (2) great-grandchildren, Jason and Jordan Rives, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Willard "Punk" Atkinson

Funeral services for Mr. Willard "Punk" Atkinson was held at 12 PM Saturday, January 27, 2024, at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. John E. Stephens, Rev. Dennis Duvall and Rev. Matt Pittman officiating. Interment in Salem Cemetery.

Mr. Atkinson, 87, passed away Monday, January 22, 2024, at Neshoba County Nursing Home. He lived in Neshoba County all of his life and was retired from US Electrical Motors. He was a member of Salem Baptist church and was a Mason and a Shriner. His hobbies were hunting, fishing, riding horses, and being at the ballpark with his grands.

Preceded in death by his parents, Leonard Atkinson and Annie Kate Sistrunk Atkinson; sons, Terry Atkinson, Tracy Atkinson; brothers, Robert, Charles and Walter Atkinson.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Iva Nell Atkinson; daughter, Cindy Crenshaw (William); sister, Mildred Ryals; (6) grandchildren, (11) great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews and in-laws.

Sandra Ben Wishork

Funeral service for Ms. San-

dra Ben Wishork was at 2 PM Thursday, January 25, 2024 at Pearl River CERF Building with interment in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. Visitation was at 4 PM Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at Pearl River CERF Building. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Wishork, 59, passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at Choctaw Health Center. She enjoyed spending time with family, watching football games, listening to music and dancing. She is preceded in death by her parents, Chester Ben and Margaret Marie Billy Ben; brother, Alan Ben; grandchild, Tayzen Cutler.

Survivors include daughters, Hanna Wishork, Kimberly Wishork, Heather Wishork; sisters, Juana Ben, Lorna Ben, Olivia Ben, Sharon Ben, Katherine Ben; brother, Carlos Ben, Sr.; 12 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild.

Pallbearers: Kendall Miller, Skydon Comby, Dregen Denson, Alex McMillin, Phillip McMillin, Jr., Alijenedro Martin, Dayton Bell, Tayshaun Mingo. Honorary Pallbearers: Skyler Ben, Sutanga Cypress, Jr., Tracee Cypress.

Leran Jefferson, Sr.

Funeral service for Mr. Leran Jefferson, Sr. was held at 10 AM Monday, January 29, 2024, at Stonewall Baptist Church with interment in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. Rev. Robert Patrick will be officiating. Visitation was at 1 PM Saturday, January 27, 2024, at his home, 1674 Will Brown Road in Conehatta. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jefferson, 59, passed away Thursday, January 25, 2024, at his home. He was Catholic by faith. His hobbies include spending time with family and grandkids, fishing and playing washers.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Goldman Jefferson an Millie Dixon Jefferson; sons, Marcus Jefferson and Arman Jefferson, Sr.; sisters, Silvia Johnson, Mary Sue Jefferson, Cindy Jefferson; brothers, Robert Jefferson, Bobby Jefferson; grandchildren, Marques Jefferson, Antone Jefferson, Kaylub Jefferson.

Survivors include daughter, Tabatha Charlie; sons, Leran Jefferson, Jr., Jobie Charlie, Javeon Jefferson; sister, Minnie Jeffer-

son; special companion, Dyrana Thomas; 9 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Pallbearers: John Thomas, Dewayne Thomas, Marcus Jimmie, Julian Joe, Ronald Jim, Sr., Willard Dixon, Yunnel Willis, Brandon Fireplace. Honorary Pallbearers: Vernon Shumake, Theodore Thomas, Welford Willis, James Farmer.

Nancy Carolyn Williamson

Funeral services for Mrs. Nancy Carolyn Williamson will be held at 2 PM Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. John E. Stephens and Rev. Jason Martin officiating. Interment will be in Mars Hill Methodist Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Williamson, 84, passed

away Sunday, January 28, 2024 at Neshoba County Nursing Home. She lived most of her life in the Shady Grove Community, and she was a member of Mars Hill Methodist Church. Her hobbies were spending time with her grandkids and reading.

Preceded in death by parents, Vardaman May, Virgie Lee Moore May; son, Larry Hayes Williamson; brothers, Joe (Ruby Lois), Tom, Jack, Charles "Punk", Jamie "Tater" May; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Merle and Thomas Chisolm.

Survivors: husband, Son Williamson; daughter, Laura Stevens (Rickey); son, Danny Keith Williamson (Barbara); sisters, Sarah Luke, Shirley Sharp (Devon); (4) grandchildren; (9) great-grandchildren.



JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL FUNERAL SERVICES

PATTY G. SHARP
MEMORIAL SERVICE
LATER DATE

CASEY WILKERSON
SERVICES JANUARY 29
MCCLAIN-HAYS
CHAPEL
INTERMENT MT. OLIVE
CEMETERY
STEPHENS TOWN



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Beck Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

MR. LAMAR HUDSON
11 A.M. SAT.,
JAN. 27, 2024
MT. ARY M.B. CHURCH
INTERMENT
MT. VERNON CHURCH
CEMETERY,
NOXAPATER, MS

MR. ROBERT HENRY
HUDSON
-CREMATION-

MR. MICHAEL
DEWAYNE
CULBERSON
-ARRANGEMENTS
INCOMPLETE-

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Philadelphia
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JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL FUNERAL SERVICES

MS. SANDRA BEN
WISHORK
2 PM THURSDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2024
PEARL RIVER CERF
BUILDING
PEARL RIVER
COMMUNITY
CEMETERY

MR. WILLARD "PUNK"
ATKINSON
12 PM SATURDAY,
JANUARY 27, 2024
JOHN E. STEPHENS
CHAPEL
SALEM CEMETERY

MS. MARTHA JEAN
GREEN NEAL
2 PM SUNDAY,
JANUARY 28, 2024
JOHN E. STEPHENS
CHAPEL
CEDAR LAWN CITY
CEMETERY

MR. LERAN JEFFERSON
SR.
10 AM MONDAY,
JANUARY 29, 2024
ASTONWALL BAPTIST
CHURCH
CONEHATTA
COMMUNITY
CEMETERY

MS. PEGGY SUE
SHUMAKE
2 PM MONDAY,
JANUARY 29, 2024
MACEDONIA BAPTIST
CHURCH
CONEHATTA
COMMUNITY
CEMETERY

MRS. NANCY CAROLYN
WILLIAMSON
2 PM WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 31, 2024
JOHN E. STEPHENS
CHAPEL
MARS HILL METHODIST
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Mississippi State training Tribe on GIS

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

A member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians touts the benefits of an online training program with Mississippi State University that aims to help develop geographic information systems (GIS) skills in tribal communities across the country.

An online training program established by MSU's Geosystems Research Institute in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs has provided GIS training for more than 500 individuals in

tribal communities, boosting skills in land management, environmental conservation, community development and more.

Roddy Nickey, director of land management and GIS for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and a two-time MSU graduate, said the training complements the GIS work he has been conducting for more than a decade and helps him stay up-to-date on the latest software tools. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians manages approximately 35,000 acres of property in the state.

"The training equips tribal and community members with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively use GIS technologies by providing hands-on training and it helps build the capacity of individuals within tribal communities to collect, analyze and visualize geospatial data, which will increase efficiency," Nickey said. "Also, by gaining GIS expertise, individuals can pursue a career in various fields such as land management, environmental planning, emergency management and cultural resources."

The program was launched

in 2023 to help the Bureau of Indian Affairs meet GIS training needs, building on previous outreach carried out by the university's research institute.

"The Mississippi State training partnership with the Branch of Geospatial Support has been extremely beneficial to the Bureau of Indian Affairs employees and Federally Recognized Tribes," said David Vogt, chief of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Branch of Geospatial Support. "It allows us to have many more students in each class than we were previously able

to provide and at a lower cost. This allows more BIA employees and particularly tribes to take trainings they wouldn't have had access to before."

The two-week, self-paced classes cover key topics and software such as ArcGIS Pro, QGIS and Python.

MSU's Geosystems Research Institute has a long track record of providing GIS training to public-and-private sector individuals through longstanding partnerships with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The GEO Project, led by Assistant Extension Professor John Cartwright and funded by NOAA's National Ocean Service's Office for Coastal Management, was created in 2006 and has provided train-

ing to more than 5,000 participants. Dixie Cartwright, training and external facilitator for the Geosystems Research Institute, said she has been encouraged by the strong interest in GIS training from tribal communities.

"There are several benefits to adopting GIS technologies and building these skillsets among individuals," Cartwright said. "We are proud of this partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and look forward to continuing to provide GIS training to tribal communities, as well as the many coastal communities we have traditionally provided this training for."

For more on the Geo Project, visit www.gri.msstate.edu/GEO.

Public Notices

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

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

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADJUDICATION OF THE STATUTORY WRONGFUL DEATH BENEFICIARIES OF COLBY ALLEN MADDOX, DECEASED
CAUSE NO. 23-312

RULE 4 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF NESHOPA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gidget Stovall Tate, Chancery Clerk
Neshoba County, Mississippi

BY: Ashley Duran
DEPUTY CLERK

City of Philadelphia Fire Department

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

THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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

WILLIS KILPATRICK, JR., PETITIONER

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: The Unknown Heirs of Barbara Angeline Kilpatrick

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

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

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 9:00 o'clock, a.m., on the 21st day of March, 2024, in the courtroom of the Neshoba County Courthouse at Philadelphia, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

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

Public Notices

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 23rd day of January, 2024.

/s/ Gidget Tate
GIDGET TATE, Chancery Court Clerk
Neshoba County, Mississippi

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The NESHOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS will receive competitive Reverse Auction Bids to be submitted electronically via the Neshoba County website at www.neshobacounty.net with said Reverse Auction occurring via invitation on a date and during a time to be specified from qualified vendors in response to this solicitation for acquiring the following equipment:

a. One (1) or more, new, 2024 model or newer, Excavator (Mini-Excavator) for the use and benefit of Neshoba County.

b. Lease Purchase Financing proposals for the acquisition of the above described equipment.

Detailed specifications for the above described equipment and lease-purchase financing terms and bid forms may be obtained from the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors office at the Neshoba County Courthouse, 401 Beacon Street, Suite 201, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350, by calling 601-656-6281 or by Neshoba County's website at www.neshobacounty.net. Neshoba County, Mississippi will determine if compliance with the specifications exist before accepting any bid.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS:

The detailed proposal, less the fixed price to be bid, in response to this solicitation shall be submitted via single file PDF under the correct bid solicitation at www.neshobacounty.net/bids or be placed in a sealed envelope marked "2024 Mini-Excavator Bid" and filed with the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors C/O Chancery Clerk Gidget Stovall Tate, 401 Beacon Street, Suite 107, Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350 by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. The proposals submitted for the lease-purchase financing of said equipment must be in compliance with the laws of the State of Mississippi. Neshoba County will not be responsible for opening of bids not properly marked or received after the proposal response date and time.

It shall be incumbent upon each bidder to understand the specifications as listed herein and to obtain clarification when necessary. It is not the intent of these specifications to limit the bidding to any particular make or manufacturer of equipment or provider of services, but rather to select such equipment or 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 and equipment thereto, at the sole discretion of Neshoba County, shall be considered.

Bidders may submit bids for the equipment only, the lease-purchasing financing only or both the equipment and lease-purchasing. If only one bid is received for lease purchase financing, the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to solicit and obtain at least one other written competitive bid to be in compliance with the requirements of the laws of the State of Mississippi.

Additionally, for the equipment solicited herein the vendor shall offer a guaranteed buy back provision for said equipment at the end of three (3), four (4) and five (5) year periods which will also be utilized in the determination of the lowest and best bid for said equipment.

Published by Order of the Board of Supervisors of Neshoba County, Mississippi on the 18 th day of December 2023.

/s/ GIDGET STOVALL TATE
GIDGET STOVALL TATE, CLERK
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Publication dates: 1/31/2024 & 2/7/2024

THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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

WILLIS KILPATRICK, JR., PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 19th day of January, 2024, by the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Willis Kilpatrick, Jr., upon the Estate of Barbara Angeline Kilpatrick, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety

Public Notices

(90) days from the date or they will be forever barred.
THIS, the 22nd day of January, 2024.
Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Willis Kilpatrick, Jr.,
Willis Kilpatrick, Jr.—Administrator

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

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

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IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF J.M.J., A MINOR BY PETITIONERS SAMUEL AUGUSTUS VASOS and CAROLYN MICHELLE SCHREINER
CAUSE NO. 23-327

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT
You have been made a Respondent in the suit filed in this Court by SAMUEL AGUSTUS VASOS, and CAROLYN MICHELLE SCHREINER, Petitioner, who seeks to appoint guardians of the minor named herein.

A hearing on the relief sought through the Complaint is set for the 27th day of February 2024. You are hereby notified that you should personally appear before the Neshoba County Chancery Court in Philadelphia, MS on the 27th day of February 2024 at 9 o'clock a.m. To show cause and defend against said complaint as to why relief should not be granted.

In case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be issued against you for the money or other things in demand in the complaint, petition, or motion. You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 10th day of January 2024.

Gidget Tate, Chancery Clerk
Neshoba County, Mississippi
(Seal)
BY: /s/ Kathy Greer

SETH T. CURREN (MSB# 106280)
CURREN LAW FIRM, PLLC
P.O. Box 222
Union, MS 39365
662.420.3744
stcurrenlaw@gmail.com

SEQ CHAPTER 11 v 1 IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

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

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF NESHOPA

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

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

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

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire. Issued under my hand and official seal of said Court, this the 19 th day of January, 2024.

/s/ Gidget Stovall Tate
GIDGET STOVALL TATE
NESHOPA COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK

Public Notices

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

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

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

L.G.W., A MINOR, BY AND THROUGH JASMINE BOLER WALKER, AS NATURAL MOTHER, NEXT FRIEND, AND INDIVIDUALLY PLAINTIFFS VS. CAUSE NO.2023-318

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

NON-RESIDENT SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court seeking a Complaint for Alteration of Birth Certificate. Defendants other than you are Nicholas A. Walker and The Mississippi State Department of Health. You are summoned to appear and defend against said Petition at 9:00 a.m. on the 27 th day of February, 2024, in the courtroom of the Neshoba County Courthouse in Philadelphia, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the petition. You are not required to file an answer or other pleadings, but you may do so if you desire.

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

/s/Gidget Stovall Tate
NESHOPA COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK

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PHILADELPHIA, MS 39350
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/s/A. Duran, D.C.

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

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

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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

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

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

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 22 nd day of January, 2024.

/s/ Kenyetta Barojas
TRIBAL COURT CLERK

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

OF LOCAL INTEREST

CHURCH CONCERT

Kevin Spencer in Concert at Laurel Hill Baptist Church, located on Hwy 488, February 10, at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend!

PRE-K REGISTRATION

Philadelphia Elementary School Pre-K Registration 2024-2025

To register a child for the pre-k, guardians must provide:

A.) two (2) current proofs of residency in Philadelphia Public School District with the same address

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

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

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

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

5.) Automobile Registration receipt

6.) Property Tax Card, Property Deed, or other document that states the residency proper-

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ECCC holds Career Technical Open House

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

East Central Community College held a successful Career and Technical Education (CTE) open house in Philadelphia last Wednesday, showcasing the opportunities EC offers in the area.

The open house garnered substantial interest, with nearly 150 students from the local area attending. Attendees were given an interactive experience, gaining valuable insights into the diverse CTE offerings provided by ECCC in the Philadelphia area.

Guests visited the Diesel Tech program, housed at the U.S. Motors building. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to delve into the intricacies of the Precision Manufacturing and Machining program, stationed at Neshoba Central High School's Manufacturing and Innovation Center. The open house provided a comprehensive overview of the college's commitment to delivering a solid education and hands-on training in these vital fields.

Beyond these programs, students were introduced to other workforce opportunities available in Philadelphia, such as truck driving and the lineman program.



Approximately 150 area students from visited an Open House last week at the East Central Community College Career and Technical Education facility.

Importantly, ECCC emphasized that all CTE programs in Neshoba County are accessible to current high school students through dual

enrollment. The college also extended its invitation to individuals seeking to jump-start their career or education.

For more information

about CTE please contact Linda Vance at lvance@ecccc.edu or by calling 601-635-6210.

East Central Community

College remains dedicated to empowering individuals through innovative education and fostering a skilled workforce ready for success in

today's competitive landscape, while staying close to home.

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONOR ROLL

President's List

Students named to the 2023 fall semester honor roll, which includes those selected to the President's List, Dean's List, and Academic Achievement List, have been announced at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Philadelphia: Jordan Barefield, Sarah Anderson, Molly Butler, Gavin Clark, Lexie Gibson, Jonah Guy, Madeline Little, Ashton Luke, Addy Page, Brayden Pickett, Joanna Posey, Rory Renfrow, Chandler Sanderson, Laney Turner, Lathom Williams, Miriam Prince, Katelyn Sanders, and

Dustin Leopard

Union: Spencer Benson, Elijah Brown, Julia Espinoza, Morgan Hisaw, Jacob Howell, Kaleigh Jordan, Rope Lovern, Greenley Norton, Destiny Petty, Coley Ripley Herrington, DezMon Wesley, Zachary Collins, Aliyah Evans, John Henry, Andrea McMahan, and Alexandria Tucker

Dean's List

Philadelphia: Bruce Steve, Connor Vaughn, Colton Chadwick, Brewer McLain, Gavin White, Ethan Apperson, Laurel Brantley, Ali Cheatham, Matthew Clemons, Ericka

Coats, Katie Denton, John Dillard, Mallory Duke, Brittany Dunn, Asher Eubanks, Briana Eubanks, Kiara Evans, Kaniya Frazier, Jason Fulton, Jamie Gray, Peyton Gray, Reid Hall, Kaegen Henry, Cheyenne Holt, Hailey Loyd, Leilaya McMullan, Kylie Nation, Erica Ngin, Madison Padgett, Samuel Painter, Raiyleigh Perry, Hunter Pollack Bavetta, Jessica Posey, Robert Posey, Dalton Powell, Braedon Raffield, Matthew Roark, Maggie Stovall, Kaydee Taylor, Kaitlyn Ward, Chiquita Windham, Kera Easley, Carleigh Edwards, Charmaine Man-

zano, and Krislyn Warren

Union: Matthew Lott, Devanne Bradley, Madison Buckley, Molly Cliburn, William Harris, Benjamin Land, Madison McDaniel, Autumn Robinson, Angela Singleton, Saurahnee Sullivan, Kamryn Robinson, Georgia Cooper, Natalie Donald, Hailey Heath, Zackary Jones, Joshua McCrary, Ali McElhenny, Jasmine Overton, Bankston Rush, Morgan Shaw, and Lois Sullivan

Academic Achievement

Philadelphia: Annie Isaac, Brett Isaac, Nicholas Gomil-

lion, Elaina Cole, Elias Bell, Skye Bell, Dylan Bonner, Abigail Boswell, Tristan Boswell, Alexis Clair, Grant Cook, Mason Daniels, Allandra Dunaway, Emily Duran, Kaisen Edwards, Chloe Fulton, Felicia Goss, Gavin Gray, Zachary Griffin, Saniya Holmes, Rachel Jackson, LaBraysia Jim, Mauhree Jones, Sydney Kilgore, Rhonda Lewis, Mariah Malone, Abby McCann, Bryce Parker, Ahmarion Ragsdale, Kaitlyn Robertson, Riley Robinson, Tyshay Sanders, Cameron Sanderson, Tanner Sharp, Demidrea Stokes, Alexia Strib-

ling, Omarion Stribling, Bianca Tanksley, Jessy Thrash, Mason Whitehead, Blair Whittle, Madison Willis, Alicia Bell, Sunshine Spivey, Destiny Taylor, Shelby Valdiviez, and Payton Flake

Union: Julia Creel, Baylee Hamilton, Deelenna Jefferson, Kaydon Lee, Kayla Massey, Britley Milling, Jeremy Moore, Hannah Mowdy, Justin Smith, Haley Walker, Sara White, Shelby Bailey, Annsley Boatwright, Karsyn Cumberland, Lacey Dolan, Jacoby Donald, Alanna McKee, Davia Tucker, Michael Berryhill, and Ryleigh Wolverton



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Versus other media platforms



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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

Jesus sought, then taught sinners

Psalm 110 is one of the most quoted psalms in the New Testament. It teaches the divinity of the promised Messiah. That is an incredibly deep truth to contemplate. But what we see is that the Bible clearly teaches that Christ is the eternal Son of God, very God of very God.

In Mark 12, Jesus says that David was speaking in the Holy Spirit when he wrote this psalm. Psalm 110:1 says, “The Lord said to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’” God had promised David (2nd Samuel 7) that one of his descendants would rule over God’s people forever.

Jesus says in Mark 12, “David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?” Jesus is teaching that the Messiah already had existence as the eternal Son of God when David spoke of him. In John 10, Jesus says that he was before Abraham. When Jesus was speaking of these things he had not yet been exalted to the right hand of God.

Psalm 110:1 is speaking of the exaltation of Christ after his resurrection and ascension into heaven. His “sitting at the right hand of God” indicates he is resting from his work of suffering for sinners, but now has been given all power and authority to build his church. His exaltation means he has been exalted in our nature.

This has vital application for us. The Son of God came into this world to save sinners. When Jesus taught, he was teaching sinners. He taught us that our soul was our most important possession and need: “What can a man give in exchange for his soul” (Mark 8)?

The main problem with man in this world is that he is not concerned about his soul. The Scriptures are not only clear in their teaching about the divinity of Christ, but also explicit in stating that Christ is the only Savior of sinners. He took our nature in order to represent us and reconcile us to God. There is no other name under heaven whereby men can be saved.

There is a dire warning in this verse: Christ will judge all his enemies. Whoever doesn’t know the power of his salvation will know the power of his wrath

against sin. We learn what misery and wretchedness there is in sin that would make men enemies to Christ, who is full of goodness and love. Christ died in order to save men from such opposition to God.

All who come to Christ will be welcomed. There is great encouragement here for us. Although the Son of God is infinitely above us, he is not unfamiliar with our weakness and struggles with sin. He experienced the frailty of our nature. He knew the assaults of the devil, betrayal by men, the allurements of sin and the world, and so on. He is not unsympathetic to sinners.

Psalm 110:4 speaks of his intercession for us: “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.’” In the Old Testament the high priest would sacrifice an animal and then take the blood into the holy of holies (the presence of God) to sprinkle it on the mercy seat. It represented the need for atonement for sin.

Christ after he offered himself on the cross for his people, went into the presence of God with his offering as the Lamb slain for sinners. The blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin. The oath of God that Christ will be a priest forever assures us that we have eternal life in his name. How else can we enter into the presence of God? There is no communion between darkness and light, between sin and a holy God. But Christ takes away all our corruption, takes away the offense.

We have in this psalm clearly laid out for us both the majesty of Christ, and the condescension of Christ to come and take our sins upon himself. The question is do you believe it? Do you know Christ? Have you called on his name?

If you have Christ, you have here great reason to love him and honor him, to be humble and thankful. You have reason to serve him and his kingdom. He is your king, your Lord. He is the Savior of your soul, and the unchangeable rock you can rest upon now and forever.

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

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

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“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.”
— 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)

SOCIETY

Scott enjoys cooking with family

By JACE HENDERSON
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Ashton Scott's cooking journey traces back to her childhood, where the art of cooking was passed down through several members of her family.

She inherited the skills to craft wholesome country dishes, such as homemade cornbread, tasty chicken, and peas, along with mastering the art of baking cakes and pies, from her mom, Carma Lewis, aunt Laura Lewis, and grandmother Gertie Hathorn, who worked several years in the cafeteria at Neshoba Central.

Scott said her best cooking memories are times spent in the kitchen with her family during family gatherings, emphasizing the significance of these experiences. She said one standout recipe is her cherished homemade lemonade, a family favorite.

"For family gatherings, I usually do the baked macaroni and cheese, lemonade, and a chocolate cake, but mostly it's the lemonade," she said.

Beyond her cooking talents, Scott is a front desk receptionist at Neshoba General and a mother to three boys, Jazuan Scott Jr., Aiden Scott, and Joston Hollins. Additionally, she cherishes the memory of her late daughter, Kaislyn Scott.

Her go-to dish to prepare is smothered chicken over rice, while her boys eagerly anticipate her regular spaghetti and chicken spaghetti, a recipe that was passed down from her mother.

Scott said she loves the positive reactions she receives from her family about her cooking, especially her boys, who never hesitate to proclaim her as the "best cook ever."

Scott relies on a measuring cup, cast iron skillet, reliable wooden spoon, and a trusty mixer in her kitchen, and her advice to fellow cooks is to taste as they go to ensure the perfect outcome.

Above all, she emphasizes the importance of cooking with love, saying, "I cook how I like to eat, so I cook with love. That's the main thing."

For Scott, cooking is an expression of love, which she puts in every dish.



Ashton Scott

COOK OF THE WEEK

SMOTHERED CHICKEN OVER RICE

1 pack of chicken legs or thighs

- 1 green bell pepper
- 1 orange bell pepper
- 1 yellow bell pepper
- 1 can of chicken broth
- 1 can of cream of chicken
- 2 cups of rice

Wash and pat chicken dry. Season with your choice of seasonings. My seasonings

are seasoned salt, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika, and mustard. Place seasoned chicken into an oven safe pan and pour chicken broth over it. Wash and slice each bell pepper and place on top of chicken. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes and remove. Once removed, pour chicken

broth from chicken in a skillet and add 1 can of cream of chicken. Bring broth and cream of chicken to a boil and pour back over chicken. Place chicken back in oven for another 30-45 minutes.

Measure 2 cups of rice and wash 3 times or until cloudiness is not showing in water. Pour rice into a boiler and add 4 cups of water. Bring to a boil and reduce heat. Boil for 15 minutes or until tender. Add salt, pepper, and butter.

HOMEMADE LEMONADE

- 2 cups of sugar
- 5 lemons
- 5 16.9 fl. oz. of water

Pour 2 cups of sugar into pitcher. Roll lemons around to get all juices. Wash lemons and cut in half. Place each half into lemon squeezer and squeeze juice into pitcher with sugar. Combine 5 16.9 fluid ounces of water into pitcher with ingredients and stir.

BAKED MAC AND CHEESE

- 1 box of elbow noodles
- 1 block of Velveeta cheese
- 1 bag of mild or sharp shredded cheese
- Half stick of unsalted butter
- 1 egg
- 1 16 fl. oz. of heavy whipping cream
- Sour cream

Boil noodles, and then drain them. Once boiled and drained sit to the side. In a

skillet, add half stick of unsalted butter. Once melted pour in heavy whipping cream, 1 tablespoon of sour cream, and 1 egg beaten. Cut block of cheese into cubes and combine with ingredients to make a cheese sauce. Season cheese sauce with onion powder, garlic powder, and paprika, but it is optional. Once cheese sauce thickens, pour over noodles in an oven safe pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until top browns.

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

The Diocese of Jackson announced the ordination of the Rev. Tristan Stovall to the Sacred Order of the Presbyterate by the Most Reverend Joseph R. Kopacz, D.D., Ph.D., Bishop of Jackson, on Saturday, May 18 at half past 10 o'clock in the morning at the Cathedral of Saint Peter the Apostle in Jackson.

The Rev. Stovall will celebrate his First Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, the 19th of May, at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 406 Wilson Street, Philadelphia, his home church. It is a great honor for Holy Cross to have Tristan celebrate his first Mass in our church.

Congratulations to the Neshoba Central High School Lady Rocket Cheerleaders who placed 2nd in the nationwide National Cheerleaders Association Championship Competition! Their hard work and dedication paid off.

Philadelphia High School's girls basketball Player of the Week for Jan. 15 is senior Tornado Patience Chinn.

The boys basketball Player of the Week is sophomore Jamari "Poon" Hickman. Congratulations to both players!

Happy, Happy Birthday to Sue Wells who blew out the candles on her beautiful birthday cake as she celebrated her 92nd on Jan. 21 at her home with her family and friends! It was a good time for Grandma Sue who enjoyed the day.

Tyler Jordan Greer preached

his first sermon on Sunday, Jan. 21, at Old Hopewell Church in Collins. When he knew God was calling him to the ministry, he prayed for a spiritual mentor who was the real deal and willing to mentor him as he prepared for the ministry. Dr. Thomas McSwain was the answer to his prayers.

The Philadelphia/Neshoba County Career Technical Center Employee Spotlight was on welding instructor Joey Irby last week. He has been teaching welding for 24 years.

He has been married to Heather Cumberland Irby for 29 years. They have three sons, Taylor, John Robert, and Peyton, and two daughters-in-law, Madalyn and Gracy. In his spare time, Joey can be found doing something fun with his family or watching sports of some type.

PLEASE HELP! Connie Walters needs jelly jars-1/2 pint size! For the past 18 years, she has been making homemade jelly to build homes and churches for needy people in Honduras.

She supplies sugar, sure jell, and jar lids. She even picks muscadines, blueberries, crabapples, and blackberries in the Sandtown community where she lives. Her mission project has been written about in various magazines and newspapers through the years. Now she needs your help! Please consider donating 1/2 pint jars for her to use! Some people make donations of fruit and berries for the Sandtown missions. All of the money she gets goes to the Sandtown Missions.

If you would like to donate used jars, new jars (1/2 pint),

you're not using or new jars, lids, sugar, or sure jell to this mission project, you can drop them off at Valley View Barber-shop or Jerome Tank's store.

Four Rocket baseball players are moving on to more baseball after graduating this spring. With these four players, Rocket Baseball has contributed 11 to the next level under Coach Jonathan Jones. Younger players are already getting offers and committing and the future looks bright!

The four seniors are Ryan Hardin-ECCC; Sanders Griffis-EMCC; Jordan Davis-MGCC; Demarkez West-ECCC. Congratulations to each and every one of these seniors!

Neshoba Central Elementary School Parent of the Year, Lori Holley, was recognized at the monthly board meeting. The board members thanked Ms. Holley for her support and commitment to the NCES staff and students. Congratulations!

Neshoba Central High School's Parent of the Year Kim Jones was honored at the recent monthly meeting of the School Board. The board members thanked her for all of her support to the students and staff. Congratulations!

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Rea inducted into MRA Hall of Fame

By MARK STOWERS
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Madison-Ridgeland Academy inducted the late Sam Rea, a Philadelphia native, into its Athletic Hall of Fame last week.

Rea, a standout running back who wore #26, was a team favorite and took his talents to Delta State University where he excelled on special teams over his career there.

He was tragically killed in a farm accident in 1992 at age 29. His son, CJ, was only three months old at the time and never got to know his father but has learned of his legend and love for life from family and his dad's friends.

CJ and his grandfather, Jimmy Rea, were on hand to accept the award.

"He still holds a lot of records at MRA," CJ Rea said. "My daddy never met a stranger and didn't have an enemy in the world. I've been on this earth for 26 years and I've met random



Pictured, from left, are John Rea, Sam's brother; CJ Rea, Sam's son; Eric Prince, Sam's childhood best friend; and Steve Sharp.

people in random places and I've never heard one single bad thing from anybody. He was a remarkable man. I feel like I know him so well because of the stories and memories all his friends have told me. I still hear stories and I love it."

Rea was honored to introduce his late father to the crowd.

"I talked about his teammates and I told them we are here to celebrate my daddy's accomplishments and the cliché, there is no 'I' in team in reference to my daddy and his commitment to his Patriot teammates," Rea said.

"His accomplishments on the gridiron were great but he left a good impression on everyone he met. He died when he was 29 and my grandmother always said, 'he lived 80 years in those 29.' He was a salt of the earth person and people were the most important thing to him."

In his acceptance speech for his father, Rea pointed out that "all these accomplishments are worthy of being celebrated but in

the end, there's only one that's important. I encouraged everyone to go home and read The Gospels and try to live a little more like Jesus."

A plaque commemorating Sam Rea at the MRA football field includes a quote from his former coach, the now late Jack Carlisle.

"Sam's exploits on the football field are Legendary in the minds of all who knew him. It is only fitting that his creed for life be included here: ONE WORLD - ONE CHANCE."

During the banquet, MRA established the Distinguished Alumnus Award this year to honor MRA graduates whose commitment to their profession, community, and service to others sets them apart.

The 2024 Hall of Fame inductees were Suzy Kelty Bradley and Valerie Webb Henry - both from the class of 1982 - and Rea of the 1987 class.

Leake Academy basketball closes out regular season

By ROBBIE ROBERTSON
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The Leake Academy basketball teams each finished out the regular season this past week.

The Rebelettes had a big week as they beat rival Simpson 61-57 in double overtime on Tuesday. After a 66-40 win over Grace Christian on Senior Night on Thursday, the Rebelettes beat East Rankin 46-41.

The Leake boys started the week with a 59-46 loss to Simpson but rebounded to blow out Grace Christian 69-29 and East Rankin 61-30.

The Leake girls finish the regular season with a 26-4 record and will be the No. 2 seed in the District 2-5A Tournament this week at Simpson. Leake will get the winner of the Simpson and Park Place game on Thursday in a 6:30 p.m. contest. The championship game is set for Friday at 6:30 p.m.

The Leake boys finish the regular season with a 24-8 record and are also the No. 2 seed in this week's district tournament. Leake will take on the winner of Wayne and East Rankin on Thursday at 5:15 p.m. The boys championship game is set for Friday at 7:45 p.m.

Leake girls 61, Simpson 57

The Rebelettes needed two extra periods to take a four-point win over the Lady Cougars on Tuesday.

Each team scored nine points in the first period while Simpson outscored Leake 22-18 in the second to lead 31-27 at the half. Simpson then outscored Leake 12-4 in the third period to take a commanding 43-31 lead into the fourth period. But Leake outscored Simpson 17-5 in the fourth and send the game to overtime with a last-second shot by Katie Jones. Each team scored six in the first overtime as Simp-

son needed a buzzer-beater to extend the game. But Leake took the fourth period 7-3 to take the win.

Jones led Leake with 22 points and nine rebounds while senior Olivia Rudolph had 17 points and 11 rebounds. Anna Morgan Young had nine points while Sarah Prince and Marleigh Myers each had four points apiece.

Simpson boys 59, Leake 46

The Rebels struggled in the middle two periods as the Cougars took a 13-point win on Tuesday.

The game was tight early as Leake led 17-15 at the end of the first period. Simpson then outscored Leake 14-7 in the second to lead 29-24 at the half. The Cougars then pulled away and outscored the Rebels 19-5 in the second to lead 48-29 going to the fourth. Leake took the fourth period 17-11 for the final margin.

Samuel Prince led Leake with 15 points while Taite Edwards had 11 points. Jack Harkins also chipped in seven points.

Leake girls 66, Grace Christian 40

The Rebelettes pulled away in the second half as they celebrated senior night on Thursday.

Katie Jones led Leake with 14 points and six rebounds while Olivia Rudolph had 11 points and 10 rebounds for a second straight double-double. Marleigh Myers had 12 points and six rebounds while Hannah Clark had seven points and five rebounds. Jenna Allen also had six points and four rebounds.

Leake boys 69, Grace Christian 29

The Rebels dominated the first three periods and cruised to a 40-point win on Thursday.

Leake outscored Grace 22-9 in the first and 21-8 in the second

to lead 43-17 at the half. Leake then outscored Grace 23-5 in the third to lead 66-22 going to the fourth. Grace took the fourth period 7-3 to take the win.

Samuel Prince led Leake with 20 points while Gage Warren had 12 points. Taite Edwards had nine points while Jake Freeny and Trey Clark each had six points.

Leake girls 46, East Rankin 41

Needed to win by six to win the district championship, the Rebelettes won by five on Friday night in the regular-season finale.

Leake led 12-9 at the end of the first and then outscored East Rankin 21-15 in the second to lead 33-24 at the half. East Rankin outscored Leake 13-11 in the third and 4-2 in the fourth for the final margin of five.

Marleigh Myers had 10 points and four rebounds while Jenna Allen had 10 points. Katie Jones had eight points and 14 rebounds.

Olivia Rudolph had five points and seven rebounds while Sara Prince had five points. Caroline Cheatham also had four steals and four assists for Leake

Leake boys 61, East Rankin 30

The Rebels dominated the first period and cruised to a 31-point lead over the Patriots on Friday night.

Leake jumped out to a 28-4 lead in the first period and outscored East Rankin 14-10 in the second to lead 42-14 at the half. Leake then outscored ERA 17-9 in the third and led 59-23 going to the fourth. East Rankin took the period 7-2 for the final margin.

Samuel Prince led Leake with 12 points while Gage Warren had 11 points. Jake Freeny had eight points while Matthew Nowell and Jack Harkins each had seven points apiece.

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Davis signs with MS Gulf Coast Community College

Neshoba Central's Jordan Davis signed with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College to further his education and continue his baseball career. Davis will be a 2024 graduate of Neshoba Central where he has been a member of the Rocket's baseball team for 6 years. Jordan is the son of Tywon Davis & Rhea Thomas. Pictured seated, from left, are his mom, Rhea Thomas, Jordan Davis, and his dad, Tywon Davis. (Back) Assistant Coach Tanner Jones, Head Coach Jonathan Jones, and Assistant Coach Kip Fulton.



West signs with East Central Community College

Neshoba Central's Demarquez West signed with East Central Community College to further his education and continue his baseball career. West will be a 2024 graduate of Neshoba Central where he has been a member of the Rocket's baseball team for 6 years. Demarquez is the son of Mark and Felicia West. Pictured seated, from left, are his dad, Mark West, Demarquez West, and his mom, Felicia West. (Back) Assistant Coach Tanner Jones, Head Coach Jonathan Jones, and Assistant Coach Kip Fulton.