



SPORTS
NESHOBA CENTRAL ROCKETS
COMPETE IN CLOSE CONTESTS

Baseball — Page 10A

COOK OF THE WEEK
HUNTER'S COOKING
REFLECTS UPBRINGING

Darlene Hunter — Page 9A



THE NESHOBA DEMOCRAT

Established 1881 — Oldest Business Institution in Neshoba County Philadelphia, Mississippi Wednesday, April 3, 2024 143rd Year No. 14 **\$1.00

4 INJURED

Charges pending in Friday shootout

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

A dispute between two families led to a shootout Friday night near Madden with serious injuries.

Felony charges are pending, but three people were hospital-

ized with gunshot wounds in the incident that occurred off of Road 402 near the Leake County line, according to Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark.

A brother and sister, Dennis Loggins, 40, and Stephanie Robinson, 35, and a neighbor, 53-year-old Tyrone Collier,

have all been identified as the gunshot victims and face potential charges of aggravated assault and more, Clark said.

"There is a lot to wade through but we are working closely with the DA's office to ensure we make the right decisions here," Clark said.

The incident was reported at 7:15 p.m. when a female called 911 reporting she had been shot in the chest.

Clark said the call was brief and lots of other voices could be heard in the background. A subsequent call, this time a male caller, reported shots were fired

at 10270 Road 402.

Emergency responders on the way were told that a private vehicle was transporting two gunshot wound victims to Neshoba General.

Clark said Sheriff's deputies and EMS met a vehicle at the AT&T store in Philadelphia.

Loggins reportedly had a gunshot wound to his left shoulder and Robinson had a gunshot wound to her chest.

The two were transported to Neshoba General and later airlifted to The University of Mis-

See **SHOOTOUT**, page 3A



Connie Smith is set to sing Merle Haggard with Marty Stuart in a sold-out show on Saturday at the Ellis.

SOLD-OUT SHOW

Connie Smith to play Saturday concert with Marty Stuart

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

Marty Stuart's Congress of Country Music has an impressive lineup scheduled at the historic Ellis Theater this week.

Fourteen-year-old bluegrass musician Wyatt Ellis and his band will perform an educational show for local school students on Thursday, April 4, at

10 a.m. Neshoba Central, Philadelphia, and Choctaw Central schools are expected to attend.

"I think that it's very important to put bluegrass music in front of the younger generation so they can feel its energy and drive firsthand," Ellis said. "The first generation of bluegrass musicians, like Bill Monroe, Mac Wiseman, Bobby Osborne, and Lester Flatt, plant-

ed musical seeds that are still growing in musicians today. Those first notes that rang out from WSM in 1939 inspired so many young people like me to learn to pick and sing. Marty Stuart is the perfect example of where that journey of heroes and mentors can take you."

Bluegrass will reclaim the spotlight on Friday, April 5, at 8 p.m. with The

Del McCoury Band headlining, alongside special guest Wyatt Ellis.

"I am really honored to open for The Del McCoury Band in Marty's hometown because Del and Marty have been the ultimate heroes to me since my journey began," Ellis said.

Led by Del McCoury, a protege of bluegrass pioneer Bill Monroe, the

See **CONCERT**, page 2A

CRIME

Pot, pills result in 4 arrests

By **DUNCAN DENT**
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Four men were arrested in two separate incidents at a safety checkpoint at the intersection of Mississippi 488 and Mississippi 427 at Laurel Hill last month.

Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark said deputies encountered a trio in a gray Hyundai Elantra with a Leake County tag at about 3 p.m. on March 18, after they pulled into a driveway and exited the vehicle before a traffic checkpoint at the intersection.

Clark said one of the deputies knew the owners and went to investigate. Upon making contact, the deputy reported the smell of marijuana.

A search of the vehicle found more than 230 grams of marijuana on top of the motor under the hood of the car. Clark said the drugs were estimated to be worth close to \$1,500.

The three men arrested were:

- Quran Mattison, 28, 672 Chappel Road, Carthage, charged with possession of a controlled substance.

- Jeremiah Mann, 24, 829 Lewis Road, Walnut Grove, charged with possession of a controlled substance.

- Deanthony Markee Luckett, 23, 188 Canal Road, Carthage, charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Clark said a .45 caliber Springfield handgun was also found in the vehicle.

All three men received a bond of \$7,500 each and all three posted bond on March 20, according to Neshoba County Detention Center records.

The following day, Tuesday, March 19, deputies encountered Jo'Von Kymyatta Turner at a checkpoint at the same location.

Turner, 30, 1290 Stewart Road, Weir, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana in a vehicle, no insurance, and driving under a suspended license.

Deputies searched the vehicle he was driving after they determined he did not have a license.

Clark said deputies found a clear plastic bag with a leafy green substance believed to be marijuana and another bag containing 28 prescription pills that were sent to the state crime lab for testing.

Jail records show Turner was released on a \$12,600 in bond on March 21.

OPINION
 Rich Lowry

PAGE 4A

JUST AMONG FRIENDS
 Marianne Enochs

PAGE 9A

OPINION
 Cal Thomas

PAGE 4A



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Health Connect America holds grand opening

By JACE HENDERSON
jace@neshobademocrat.com

Health Connect America celebrated the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of their new office on Byrd Avenue across from the Courthouse.

Although Health Connect America has been serving clients from the Meridian office for the past two years, increased referrals from Philadelphia prompted them to establish a presence here. With 60 clients already in Philadelphia, the office officially opened on March 1.

Health Connect America is a private community mental health center catering to individuals of all ages, from children to adults.

Their team includes a psychiatric nurse practitioner and a registered nurse to address medication needs, as well as licensed master's level therapists, social workers, and bachelor's degree staff.

"We believe in a wrap-around service model," said Sheila Baker, executive director. "We put a lot of emphasis in home. We need



Health Connect America celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony last Thursday on the Square. Several community members and HCA staff gathered in support.

to go where they are, see how the family is broken, and what we need to do to step in and mend that gap."

Since its inception in 2006, Health Connect America has expanded to 11 states. In 2018, they launched operations in Mississippi and have since established 12

offices across the state.

In response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, Health Connect America introduced therapeutic day treatment programs for children, shifting from school-based to center-based services as an after-school alternative.

"Therapeutic day treatment is for kids who are at risk for out-of-home or if they have a lot of behavior problems in the school," Baker said. "We try to teach them conflict and social skills, and how to problem solve."

For adults, Health Con-

nect America offers psychosocial rehabilitation programs aimed at teaching essential life skills and managing mental health conditions. Additionally, they provide traditional case management, therapy sessions, and intensive alcohol and drug programs, complemented by peer support specialists.

"I see a need for mental health in Philadelphia," said Erica Peebles McElhenney, program director. "I want to make sure the people in this community have a safe place to go to get help with their problems whether it be mental health issues, alcohol and drug issues, their children, themselves, or their parents."

Health Connect America prioritizes understanding local community needs, tailoring their programs accordingly while adhering to Department of Mental Health (DMH) standards.

Their services for children include individual and family therapy, case management, peer support, and medical support, including prescriptions for conditions like ADHD.

Similarly, adults benefit

from a range of services, including outpatient programs focused on rehabilitation and intensive support, such as the ten-week outpatient program for drug court participants.

"Health Connect America serves as an opportunity to keep people in the community versus having them go outside to get those services," McElhenney said. "A lot of times mental health patients don't have access to transportation, so this is an opportunity to where we can go to them. We provide in-home services."

"We offer more personalized and high-quality services because we maintain smaller caseloads," said Julie Garner, state director of operations. "Our long-term goal is to be able to provide services for every Mississippi resident who needs it."

To learn more about Health Connect America or to schedule an appointment, visit their website at healthconnectamerica.com or call (601) 389-7256.

Taylor selected as STAR Student at Neshoba Central

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Margaret Elizabeth Taylor has been named Neshoba Central's STAR Student for the 2023-24 school year by the Mississippi Economic Council Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program.

The program will be held

April 4 at the Clyde Muse Center in Pearl.

STAR Students are selected on the basis of academic excellence.

Both American College Test scores and scholastic averages are compared to determine the school's STAR Student, explained Vickie Powell of Jackson, senior vice president of foundations.

"The STAR program encourages and promotes academic achievement among Mississippi's high school seniors," she said.



Maggie Taylor



Anne Fisackerly

Each STAR Student is asked to designate a STAR Teacher, the teacher who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic

achievement. Ms. Anne Fisackerly was designated as STAR Teacher.

More than 550 STAR Students and STAR Teachers will receive recognition from MEC's Education Celebration.

The top 20 STAR Students — The ALL-STAR Scholars — will receive scholarships and their STAR Teacher will

receive awards provided by the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation.

The highlight of the Education Celebration will be the naming of the Mississippi ALL-STAR Scholar for 2023-24 school year, winner of the coveted \$24,000 Cook Foundation Scholarship.

For more information, go to msmec.com/star-program.

Concert

Continued from page 1A

band, including Del's talented sons Ronnie and Rob, serves as a torchbearer for bluegrass history, earning them a devoted fan

base over the years.

The Ellis Theater eagerly welcomes back the legendary Connie Smith and Marty Stuart on Saturday, April 6, at 8 p.m. for "Connie Smith Sings Merle Haggard."

"Around here, we honor the legends. They're family," Stuart

said. "I can't think of a show that fulfills that statement any more than Connie coming to town to sing Merle's songs backed by Eddie Lange, the Superlatives and myself. That has the makings of a legendary night at the Ellis. The only thing that could possibly be better

than being on stage in the middle of the music would be to be in the audience watching it all go down."

This sold-out show marks a grand return for the couple and will feature a special celebration with sponsors and season ticket holders, setting the stage for an exciting evening.

"I love coming to Philadelphia. It's like coming home," Smith said. "What truly makes Philadelphia so special is its people. From the first time I came to town in 1970, everyone's made me feel welcome and treated me like family. That's just how Mississippi folks are."

She added, "I feel as though

the Ellis and the Congress of Country Music are a part of me as well. I've watched it from day one. I've done a lot of praying over this project, and I believe God has his hand on the matter. I'm honored to come back to the Ellis and sing some of Merle's songs. He was family to Marty and me. His songs are important and should never be forgotten."

Before the show, a special ceremony for the "Connie's Bouquet" mural, hosted by Shawn Byars in the Listening Room at the Peets building, will start at 2 p.m., featuring Connie and Marty debuting their newly composed song dedicated to the mural unveiling.

"What girl wouldn't like to see a wall of beautiful flowers painted for her," Smith said. "I can't wait."

The mural itself, skillfully crafted by artist Casey Byars, was generously sponsored by Dorette Sarachik. The mural painters will be in town from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for drawing and stenciling.

The mural will be placed on the side of the old Byars Building on Walnut Street, along with Pam Bam's Famous Soul Food Truck parked on Walnut Street as well for the crowd to enjoy.

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The Great Neshoba

clean

UP

month

APRIL 2024

Friends and neighbors it is that time of year to kick off "The Great Neshoba Cleanup." Cleanup days will be held every Saturday of April from 8AM-12PM. Kevin Baysinger has volunteered to coordinate efforts and can be contacted at 601-416-5587 or via email at Neshoba25@bellsouth.net. Be sure to follow The Great Neshoba Cleanup facebook page for updates. Together we can Keep Neshoba County, Mississippi and America Beautiful.

GET INVOLVED

Manzano selected as Philadelphia STAR Student

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Charmaine Manzano has been named STAR Student for the 2023-2024 school year by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program, sponsor of the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. This year will mark

the 59th Anniversary of the STAR program. Established by the Mississippi Economic Council in 1965, the purpose of the STAR program is to recognize outstanding students & teachers in Mississippi through its Education Celebration.

The Philadelphia High School senior will be listed with the 2024 STAR Students and STAR Teachers.

Star Students are selected

on the basis of academic excellence. Both American College Test scores and scholastic averages are compared to determine the Charmaine school's STAR Student, explained Vickie Powell of



Mary Kate Hollingsworth high school

Jackson, Senior Vice President of Foundations. "The STAR program encourages and promotes academic achievement among Mississippi's seniors," she

said. Each STAR Student is asked to designate a STAR Teacher, the teacher who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement.

Mary Kate Hollingsworth was designated as STAR Teacher.

Over 640 STAR Students and STAR Teachers will receive recognition from MEC's M.B. Swayze Foundation at the Celebration.

The top 20 STAR Students – The ALL-STAR Scholars – will receive scholarships and their STAR Teachers will receive awards provided by the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation. The highlight of the Education Celebration will be the naming of the Mississippi ALL-STAR Scholar for 2023 – 2024 school year, winner of the coveted \$24,000 Cook Foundation Scholarship.

4 arrested by deputies for meth

By DUNCAN DENT
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Four people were arrested with crystal methamphetamine during a traffic stop in town last week.

The driver, Harold Sockey, 39, 201 Tiak Chitto Circle, Choctaw, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance, according to Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark.

Also arrested, according to Clark, were three passengers:

- Denicia G. Shaffer, 38, 1006 Black Jack Road, Choctaw, charged with possession of a controlled substance.
- Michael D. Gibson, 46, 144 Rolling Hills, Choctaw,

charged with possession of a controlled substance.

• Delana Richelle Williams, 35, 134 Ball Park Road, charged with possession of a controlled substance.

The four were arrested during a traffic stop on Sunday, March 24, at about 7 p.m. on West Beacon Street while riding in a tan 1999 Mercury Marquis driven by Sockey.

Clark said a deputy made the stop in the Auto Zone parking lot after he saw the vehicle being driven in a manner described as "aggressive and careless."

According to Clark, the deputy reported the smell of alcohol coming from the vehicle.

During the traffic stop, the deputy noticed Gibson was reaching into his pocket. The deputy asked if he had anything in his pocket and Gibson responded "Not that I know of," according to Clark who said that answer was a "red flag."

A search revealed a small bag of methamphetamine in his pocket. Gibson reportedly claimed that he borrowed the pants.

A further search of the vehicle revealed a small black jewelry bag near the gear shift that contained more crystal methamphetamine, the authorities said.

Man charged after disturbance

By DUNCAN DENT
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A Neshoba County man was arrested and charged after he was found with meth when Neshoba County Sheriff's deputies responded to a disturbance call last week.

The man, Matthew A. Tubby, 42, 150 Pine Ridge Road, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance, disturbing the peace, and possession of paraphernalia.

Tubby remains in the Neshoba County Detention Center on a \$8,700 in bond, according to jail records.

Law enforcement encountered Tubby while responding to a disturbance call on Road 557 on March 21, at 9:25 a.m., according to Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark.

The initial call said a man had a knife and was threatening the people at the residence and threatening to destroy property, Clark said.

Upon arrival on the scene, deputies encountered Tubby sitting in a gray Chevy truck parked at the residence on Road 557. Clark said deputies report-



Matthew Tubby

ed he smelled of booze and after removing Tubby from the truck found the knife he had been holding and several bottles of alcohol inside.

A further search of the vehicle found drug paraphernalia including electronic scales in the vehicle. A pat down of Tubby revealed two bags of methamphetamine in his pockets.

The homeowners said they knew Tubby and they were friends with his parents.

Supervisors approve State Aid repairs

By JACE HENDERSON
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A State Aid roads resal project totaling about \$3 million was approved by the Board of Supervisors on Monday.

"The County Engineer will be working on putting the program together with final estimated costs and present an official program document for consideration at a later date," said County Administrator Jeff Mayo.

Additionally, the board is in the process of refining off-system work for this year in coordination with County Engineer Marty Crowder and Road Manager Eddie Posey. This effort will include reconstruction, base repairs, and leveling across various county roads.

In other action, supervisors voted to:

- Approve canceling a \$35,047 purchase order from Howard Technology Solutions for mounting components and installation of patrol car computers;
- Approve a requisition from Jackson Communications for mounting components and installation of patrol car computers at the cost of \$25,250;
- Approve hiring of Ethan Smith with the Sheriff's Department at \$16.50 an hour effective April 10 pending a drug screen;
- Accept the resignation of Ben McDaniel as correctional officer effective March 23, and approve hiring Suzette Mixon as correctional officer effective March 19 at \$13 an hour;

• Approve two work-off right-of-way easements on Road 240 and Road 373;

• Approve three permit requests from Central Water Association for road bores on 10951, 703 and 10200, 446 and a road crossings on 10890 and 814;

• Approve hiring Chance McDaniel with the Road Department at \$13 an hour, and approve \$0.50 pay increases for Wyatt McDaniel and Dalton Bond;

• Approve school bus turn-arounds for Steve Duncan at 15370 Hwy 19 South and James Rowell at 10370 Road 294;

• Accept retirement of Emergency Management Director Darrell Wilson effective March 29.

Shootout

Continued from page 1A

issippi Medical Center in Jackson.

Another group of deputies continued to Road 402 where they encountered Collier at a neighboring house "a couple of football fields away" and across the road from where the call originated.

Clark said Collier was "peppered badly" all along his left side with bird shot. He said Choctaw EMS transported Collier to Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

Based on the investigation so far, Clark said the incident happened when Collier heard a gunshot down the road near Loggins's residence while his daughter was out riding a four-wheel-

er. When she returned, Collier reportedly grabbed his handgun and drove his four-wheeler to Loggins' house.

"Things escalated from there," Clark said. "Multiple adults were reportedly in the roadway."

Clark said both families introduced firearms. Collier had his pistol and Loggins had a shotgun.

Collier reportedly shot Loggins and Robinson at close range and Loggins retreated before firing the shotgun at Collier.

Clark said the investigation is ongoing. He said they found numerous pieces of ammunition in the roadway and have been conducting interviews with both of those involved and witnesses.

Both Loggins and Collier were released from the hospital on Saturday. Clark said Robinson was not able to be interviewed until Tuesday.



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Opinion

FOUNDED 1881

THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

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

EDITORIALS

The Post Office problem

The Postal Service has always been a money-loser — but it doesn't have to be. Louis DeJoy had the right idea when he was appointed to head this 250-year-old institution in 2020.

His Delivering for America plan aspired to make USPS financially viable within few years. This was a reasonable, but also controversial strategy, tainted by unfounded charges that Mr. DeJoy was using his office to provide political assistance to the GOP.

That innovative road map now languishes in the dead letter office as the organization continues to lose cash at the rate of \$6 billion per year. The Postal Service has invested billions redesigning the postal network only to see service decline and complaints rise.

USPS can't use the economy as an excuse for the failure — especially with the 29% increase in postal rates over the past three years. Every business is struggling under Bidenflation, but most still manage to turn a profit.

Congress offered a lifeline in the form of the Postal Service Reform Act in 2022, relieving the organization of some unique, even unfair employee healthcare obligations many said were responsible for the magnitude of the Postal Service's operating loss.

Mr. DeJoy intended to slash costs by \$34 billion over ten years, but they continue skyward thanks to labor costs that comprise 75% of annual expenses. It takes an iron will to fix a problem at this scale, but it can be done.

When unionized full-time employees retire, that's the ideal time to skip filling those positions so the workforce is trimmed to match the steady decline in mail delivery volume, which dropped another 9% last year.

This was done successfully about a decade ago, but Mr. DeJoy chose a different path. He filled the vacancies by converting 125,000 part-time employees into full-time workers. He then went out and hired more part-timers.

That's a double whammy that, rather than allowing the total number of postal service slots to fade away peacefully, added 30,000 careerists to the employment rolls over three years.

Mr. DeJoy argued converting part-timers to career status reduced overtime costs. He even bragged about how USPS was fully staffed for the last Christmas shipping rush. That's a lousy deal, because permanent, unionized career employees are paid 50% more per hour and enjoy deluxe retirement benefits. Fully staffing for the busiest time means having excess employees for the remainder of the year.

The private sector deals with such needs by maintaining a flexible workforce that can be scaled down as demand declines. The proper response to a downturn in demand is not to scale up.

The worst anti-reform was the decision to terminate contracts with outside firms engaged in long-haul delivery. The private sector was handling the job efficiently and cost-effectively. Rather than allow that to continue, USPS is bringing that function back in-house.

Congress ordered the Postal Service to continue to maintain an integrated network that provides affordable, reliable service throughout the country. That's a tall order, especially if, as Mr. DeJoy now acknowledges, it may run out of money by 2028. Rather than reduce the role private contractors play, the USPS must look for ways to expand it.

— *The Washington Times*

CAL THOMAS

One more try at reducing the debt

"Neither a borrower nor a lender be."—Polonius to his son Laertes in "Hamlet"

It may be too late given the number of Americans who have willingly allowed themselves to become dependent on government more than themselves, but it's worth trying.

Our \$34 trillion debt is unsustainable, according to most economists. If we don't act soon, we will be worse off than we are now. Our economy could collapse. The economic future is not bright if we continue down our current path. According to Statista Research, "By 2034, the gross federal debt of the United States is projected to be about \$54.39 trillion."

President Biden wants to raise taxes again on "the rich" and corporations without cutting spending. Revenue is not in short supply. Fiscal discipline is. A change in spending will require a change in attitude about what government should and should not do.

The U.S. has experienced a fiscal year-end budget surplus five times in the last 50 years, most recently in 2001. Debt is bipartisan and it will take a bipartisan approach to reduce or eliminate it. During President Biden's term, national debt has increased by \$4.7 trillion (he wants to spend more), a rise of 16.67 percent as of last September. During Donald Trump's one-term presidency, the national debt increased by \$8.18 trillion, a 40.43 percent boost. Part of that was spending to fight Covid-19, part was the fallout from tax cuts for the wealthy. Still, this was less of an increase than Barack Obama

Our \$34 trillion debt is unsustainable, according to most economists. If we don't act soon, we will be worse off than we are now. Our economy could collapse.

(69.98%) and George W. Bush (105.8%), but each of them served two terms. Part of Bush's spending was on Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11.

Only 14 of 45 American presidents have overseen a decrease in debt. Calvin Coolidge was the last one. That was 15 presidents ago. Coolidge said: "... a good many proposals are made by people that have very excellent things that they would like to have the Government do, but they come from people that have no responsibility for providing ways and means by which their proposals can be carried out. I don't think in all my experience, which has been very large with people that come before me in and out of Government with proposals for spending money, I have ever had any proposal from anyone as to what could be done to save any money."

Why not form a group of consultants I would call a "what works coalition." Invite historians, scientists, economists, people of good character and others who love America and ask them to examine government spending, separating the "wheat from the chaff," the necessary from the unnecessary. They could issue a report

to the public and Congress ridiculing wasteful and needless spending and pressure our elected representatives to end those underperforming or non-performing programs, earmarks and agencies as a patriotic gesture. And yes, Social Security and Medicare must be reformed to save it for the future. The media could help if they would. Weaning people from addiction to government will take time, though some have been able to go "cold turkey" when it comes to other addictions.

Most importantly, what is needed is a change in attitude back to the view some previous presidents, the Founders and the public had toward government. Just as we don't see a doctor when we are having car trouble, neither should we look to government to solve problems best dealt with individually. Government can encourage good choices and penalize bad ones (lower taxes on the successful is one reward and allowing people to suffer the consequences of bad choices — within reason — is another). Government should not subsidize bad choices, as if good and bad are equal. That will ensure more bad choices and fewer good ones.

If we don't start making good choices now and seriously reduce our debt there may be no way back. History teaches us that lesson. Look it up.

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

RICH LOWRY

Colorblindness is our best idea

Writer Coleman Hughes went on "The View" and was greeted almost as though he had shown up wearing a white hood.

Hughes, a soft-spoken black intellectual who is a political independent, was talking about his new book, "The End of Race Politics: Arguments for a Colorblind America."

Once upon a time colorblindness was an uncontroversial idea. It was considered a core American ideal and worth aspiring to, even if we were failing to live up to it. In recent decades, though, it has run into a buzz-saw of opposition. It clashes with the Left's near-theological commitment to racial preferences, especially on college campuses, and with fashionable new forms of left-wing racialism.

So it is naive, out-of-date and, worse, even a tool of oppression used by sneaky racists to hide their malignant designs in lofty rhetoric.

This was the attitude of co-host Sunny Hostin when Hughes showed up on set. She declared that colorblindness has been "co-opted" by conservatives, and that the widely respected Hughes is a "charlatan." For the offense, mind you, of arguing that people should be treated equally regardless of their race.

Thoughtless even by the standards of a panelist of "The View," Hostin was easily out-matched by Hughes, who pushed back without getting flustered or raising his voice. He even won occasional applause from the studio audience for ideas that still, despite all that has been done to belittle them, have strong common-sense appeal in America.

As Coleman notes in his book, a devotion to color-

The neo-racist project is ascendant in America's elite institutions, and a narrative of racial conflict has gained more traction in recent years.

blindness runs through some of the most honored writers and activists in American history, the likes of Frederick Douglass, Wendell Phillips, Zora Neale Hurston, A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin and, of course, Martin Luther King Jr.

The Left always wants to retroactively enlist MLK for woke racial causes and thinking, but Hughes convincingly locates the great civil-rights leader firmly within the colorblind tradition.

In a statement that might now earn him an unfriendly reception on college campuses (or on the set of "The View"), King maintained, "Black supremacy is as dangerous as white supremacy, and God is not interested merely in the freedom of black men and brown men and yellow men. God is interested in the freedom of the whole human race."

Such a majestic, deeply felt belief in what unites us as persons and Americans can only scandalize today's so called "anti-racists," whom Hughes deems, more accurately, "neo-racists." They have much in common with the white supremacists that they array themselves against. "They both deny our common humanity," Hughes writes. "They both deny that all races are created equal. They both agree that some races are superior to others, and they

both agree that not all people deserve to be treated equally in society."

The neo-racist project is nonetheless ascendant in America's elite institutions, and a narrative of racial conflict has gained more traction in recent years. Hughes attributes the sense of worsening race relations since 2013 to the rise of social media and the accelerated spread of racially charged false stories and myths. We've talked, and clicked, our way into believing we are in a state of racial crisis.

The neo-racists fan the disension by attributing any racial disparity in America to racism, and ignoring the influence of demographics, geography and especially culture. They disregard, or disparage, all the indicators of racial progress, which are inconvenient to their simplistic condemnations of American society as fundamentally and irredeemably racist.

For Hughes, the alternatives are "a grim world in which whites and non-white eternally swap the roles of the oppressor and the oppressed," or a world where we "recommit ourselves to the principles that motivated the civil rights movement."

This wouldn't seem a difficult choice. Yet, the very notion of colorblindness is now anathema to much of progressive America. Sunny Hostin is sadly representative in her reflexive hostility to the belief that we should — and can — treat one another without regard to race. So much the worse for her.

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

FLASHBACKS

April 7, 1944

The Junior Class of the Philadelphia High School will present its annual play at the high school auditorium at eight o'clock this Friday. "Lady Spitfire" is the title of the play to be presented.

Philadelphia voters will be called upon to decide contests in only two places in the city government for which nominees will be named in the municipal Democratic primary May 9.

April 8, 1954

The Board of Supervisors are advertising the sale of \$150,000 in full faith and credit bonds for the purpose of repairing, remodeling of the courthouse and construction of a jail.

After five months of studying and voting on an equalization dual school system in Mississippi, the state Senate voted Tuesday to accept the House compromise bill and passed it by a good majority.

April 9, 1964

James Cook's Grocery, located about four miles east of the city on Highway 16, was burglarized last Sunday night.

The former lecturer for the Young Communist League of America, Buford Posey, a

Neshoba County, Miss.

native, was in Jackson this week, and is reported as being here to take part in coordinating the plans for a massive civil rights campaign.

April 11, 1974

Tony Crawford, a senior at Leake Academy, has been selected for the Mississippi Private School All-Star basketball team.

Diane Williams, a 17-year-old senior at Philadelphia High School has been named the top Star student in her geographic area.

April 11, 1984

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Holland celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently with friends and relatives at a reception in the family life center of First United Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Burt of Greenwood announce the birth of their first child, a son, Cory Wade.

April 6, 1994

Miss Jennifer L. Ellison has been named a Star Student for the 1993-94 school year at Neshoba Central High School.

Beer and whiskey from the vault in the Sheriff's office was dispatched down the

storm sewer in front of the courthouse early Tuesday. The beer and whiskey had accumulated over a period of time and had been held as evidence.

April 14, 2004

The mission of the newly formed veterans service organization is to assist veterans and their dependents in applying for entitlements and to provide updates on Veterans Administration issues which affect their livelihood.

April 9, 2014

A house and mobile home were destroyed in the Sandtown community and many other structures were damaged late Sunday by an apparent EF-1 tornado with estimated wind speeds of up to 95 mph, the National Weather Service said following its preliminary assessment on Tuesday.

More than 20 firefighters battled one of the largest house fires the Philadelphia Fire Department has ever fought early Monday after a lightning strike in the Airpark subdivision, as bolts of lightning continued to flash, thunder boomed, and heavy rains fell.

LETTERS

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

The Neshoba Democrat Publishing Co., Inc.
439 Beacon Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350

neshobademocrat.com

Telephone: 601.656.4000

BIBLE SELECTION

To the choirmaster. Of David. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. —Psalm 14:1 (ESV)

COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

Neshoba County Jail Docket from 3/25-4/1

- Stephen Amos Jr, 34, of 10700 Rd 604; possession of controlled substance
- Johnny Barrett, 64, of 11070 BIA 0241; possession of marijuana vehicle, possession of controlled substance
- Keewan Burnside, 23, of 1066 Frog Level Apt 1442; littering
- Keylon Cataijh Burnside, 28, of Philadelphia; contempt of court
- Larry James Comby, 67, of 151 Rolling Hills Rd; disorderly conduct, failure to obey police officer directing traffic
- Tristian Blake Cotton, 25, of 75 Indian Rd, Louisville; contempt of court
- Ross A Delap, 52, of 10590 Rd 460; possession of paraphernalia, possession of marijuana vehicle
- Michelle Denson, 22, of 117 Tiak Osi Cove, Walnut Grove; failure to appear X3
- Jaylen Blayne Dixon, 24, of 256 S Oswald Rd; public drunk
- Lacyntia Dixon, 42, of 120 Mable Jackson Rd; contempt of court
- Dustin Glenn, 41, of 19540 Hwy 21 S; possession of controlled substance
- Clifton R Jefferson, 51, of 125 Tiak Osi Lane, Walnut

- Grove; failure to appear X2
- April Johnson, 54, of 205 County Line St; simple assault
- Michael Scott Jones, 26, of 910 Rice Creek, Carthage; hold for investigations, grand larceny - more than \$1000 X2
- Erin Knight, 40, of 10191 Rd 266; hold for investigations
- Ashley L Ladd, 29, of 12651 Hwy 21 S; child neglect
- Elliott W Leach, 40, of 399 Clyde Ave; driving under the influence - 3rd offense - felony, contempt of court
- Katie Marie McDonald, 36, of 130807 Hwy 489, Decatur; driving under the influence other substance, possession of marijuana-vehicle
- Christopher S Nolan, 39, of 10131 Rd 1529; hold for other agency, possession of controlled substance
- Michael Parker, 63, of 425 Barham St; contempt of court
- Cody Latrell Roach, 22, of 101 Dogwood Dr; driving under the influence-1st offense, public profanity, disturbing the peace, improper lane usage, seat belt violation, expired driver's license, possession of marijuana vehicle
- Abraevon Robinson, 17, of 530 A 1700 Penninton Square; drive-by shooting X2
- Robert Robinson, 59, of

- 12140 Rd 101; disorderly conduct
- Alvin Lavon Rush, 28, of 15215 Hwy 39 N Apt 31, DeKalb; failure to appear X3
- Damari Rush, 16, of 1700 Pendleton Square Apt 41; drive-by shooting X2
- Rhonda Oneil, 34, of 165 Bogue Chitto Cir; failure to appear
- Enoch Scott, 48, of 5782 New Hope Rd; hold for other agency
- Kendrick Scott, 34, of 16330 Hwy 19 S; hold for investigations
- Cathy Elaine Stollby, 26, of 415 Goat Ranch Rd; contempt of court
- Sheldon B Tubby, 27, of Philadelphia; contempt of court
- Summer Ward, 33, of Union; burglary-dwelling house
- Keith Allen Willis, 41, of 1670 Rd 149; contempt of court, driving under the influence/refusal to take test, suspended driver's license, no insurance, seat belt violation
- Brita Lynn Wilson, 33, of 121 Cobblestone, Walnut Grove; failure to appear
- Charles Wilson, 55, of 201 134 Dixon Rd; contempt of court X2, failure to appear
- Mallory Lakaye Wilson, 40, of 181 Cemetary Rd; failure to

- appear
- Winston County Jail Docket for Philadelphia Police arrests from 3/25-3/31
- Brenda L Ben, 22, of 131 Bogue Chitto Pond Dr; child-child abuse-endangering the child's health, MV-violation not specified
- Joshtin Bennett, 28, of 211 W Mtrile St; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service
- Maurice Blackshear, 39, of 200 23rd St Apt B 142, Meridian; DUI-1st offense, MV-careless driving, MV-expired or no driver's license
- Malcolm N Comans, 50, of 13300 CR 298, Collinsville; warrant-arrest report
- Elliot Dan, 41, of 278 Lagoon Rd; contempt of court-default in payment of restitution, MV-no insurance, MV-driving while license revoked or suspended, MV-violation not specified
- Ramey T Dan, 49, of 115 Rolling Hills Cir; contempt of court-municipal court
- Maria Davis, 37, of 116 Ball Punk Core; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service
- Darius Davis, 25, of 204 Shelby Dr; warrant- circuit court

- bench warrant
- Jason L Goodin, 35, of 10120 Rd 2638; trespass-entering lands of another without permission
- Shanitra John, 26, of 130 Chitto Cove, Walnut Grove; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service
- Elliott W Leach, 40, of 399 Clyde Ave; DUI-3rd offense, assault-simple-on policeman in line of duty, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct-failure to comply with request or command of law enforcement officers, fleeing or eluding a law enforcement officer in a motor vehicle, disorderly conduct-disturbing the peace
- Shauntella L Marshall, 34, of 2704 Valley Rd Lot 91, Meridian; no charges listed
- Michael S McMillian, 29, of 114 Tucker Cut Off Rd; contempt of court-default in payment of restitution
- Kelly Peden, 63, of 259 Carver Ace; domestic violence-simple assault-1st or 2nd offense
- Kenneth M Rogers, 45, of 6970 Hwy 28 Lot 2, Columbiana; public drunk, hold-detainer for other agency
- Alvin L Rush, 28, of 15215 Hwy 39 B Apt 311, DeKalb; contempt of court - municipal court

- X3, contempt of court - justice court X3, hold-detainer for Neshoba County SO
- Stacey Sims, 55, of 10112 RD 157; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service
- Kenneth L Spears, 44, of 5544 Hopewell Rd; hold-detainer for other agency
- Jeffery Stokes, 43, of 1159 Hwy 482 Lot 24; warrant - arrest report
- Kenneth Thomas, 55, of 70 Campus Drive Ext, Conehatta; contempt of court-failure to appear or complete jury service
- Furious T Thompson, 30, of 107 Green Lane; warrant-arrest report
- Sharron L Wallace, 42, of 10481 Rd 773; warrant-arrest report
- Terry L Walls, 63, of 12590 Frank Larry Rd, Birmingham; DUI-1st offense, MV-driving on wrong side of roadway
- Chandra Wesley, 45, of 180 Big Spring Creek Rd; warrant-arrest report
- Janice A Williams, 65, of 12770 Rd 505; warrant- arrest report
- Jimmy R Williams, 40, of 131 Dancing Rabbit Ridge; MV-reckless driving-first offense, MV-no insurance, DUI-2nd offense

OBITUARIES

Betty Lou Rathbun

Betty McMichael Rathbun, born October 11, 1943, went to be with our Lord on March 24, 2024, at the age of 80. She passed away peacefully in Houston, TX with her children by her side.

Betty lived a wonderful and full life. She grew up in Philadelphia, Mississippi the only daughter of four children. After graduating high school in 1961, she completed her college degree in three years from The University of Southern Mississippi in 1964. Betty then moved to New Orleans to work for Humble Oil Company. From there she married and started a family. After New Orleans, Betty lived in numerous places, from the Highlands of Scotland to Anchorage, Alaska. Most of her life was spent in Texas, where she lived in Houston, Austin, and Corpus Christi. Her final years were spent on the bay in Galveston where she lived independently, enjoying her retirement days with many friends and family around her, prior to her passing of Leukemia. Betty had an entrepreneurial spirit having started several small businesses over her lifetime, and was most passionate about the medical recruiting business that she started in her mid-40's.

Betty had such an enduring love and loyalty for her Mississippi family. She never missed the annual Neshoba County Fair, which was one of the most special times of the year for her. She couldn't wait to reconnect and have quality time with her family and high school friends. She would spend weeks just getting ready for the trip and would talk about it with such excitement. Betty's children and the their families enjoyed many a Neshoba County Fair together.

Growing up with three brothers in the country made her one tough, young lady. Those who knew her were aware that she wasn't someone you could mess with or run over. Because of this, her brothers affectionately nicknamed her "Tiger".

Betty had a dedicated circle of friends she loved to be with in Houston and Galveston. She had such a good time with neighbors, her water aerobics gang and her Galveston Country Club golfing group. "Betty", as she was known by her Galveston buddies, started golfing in her early 70's and loved it! She had the amazing delight of making a 'hole in one' in 2019 on a par 3 with her golfing group in Burnett, Texas. She loved playing golf so much, she decided to be buried in her golf attire.

Betty was such fun you could not help but have a good time when you were around her. She loved spending time with family and playing a good joke on her beloved grandchildren and nieces. Nana's grandchildren had her full adoration and boy was it mutual! For many years of their youth, they referred to their time with her as "NaNa Camp" and frequently called her "Super NaNa". They would spend numerous hours at Moody Gardens, the beach, fishing off the bay house dock, Galveston's Pleasure Pier, making forts, playing Putt Putt and probably most of all, engaged in a good competitive game of Rummikub...Oh how she loved to play Rummikub!

Betty is preceded in death by

her dear parents, Audry and Elva McMichael, her beloved stepfather, Clyde White and nephew, David McMichael. She is survived by her daughter, Lisa Bandy and husband, Griff Bandy; her son, Jason Rathbun and wife, Shay Rathbun and six grandchildren; Preston Rathbun, Peyton Rathbun, Davis Bandy, Chap Bandy, Philip Bandy and Lila Bandy; her brothers, John McMichael and wife Peggy, Jack McMichael and wife, Jan and Bob McMichael, and her precious nieces; Melody, Jordan, Tiffany and Amy.

Betty will be laid to rest in Philadelphia, Mississippi. A memorial service and Celebration of Life will be held at the Hope United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, MS at 1:00pm Saturday April 6, 2024.

Tanner Miles Henry

Funeral services for Mr. Tanner Miles Henry were held at 10 AM Monday, April 1, 2024 at Pearl River CERF Building with Bro. Mark Patrick officiating. Interment was in Holy Rosary Cemetery. Visitation was at 10 AM Saturday, March 30, 2024 at Pearl River CERF Building. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Henry, 26, passed away on Monday, March 18, 2024 in Tulsa, OK. He enjoyed playing video games and sports.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Milton Ray Henry, Sr. and Malesia Polk.

Survivors include sisters, Lalyta Henry, Kennedy Henry, Melendez Steve, Taurean Willis; brothers, Milton Henry, Jr., Titan Edwards, Kamirez Steve, Sez Willis; 2 nieces and 2 nephews.

Dorothy Isola Fain

Funeral services for Ms. Dorothy Isola Fain were held at 2 PM Monday, April 1, 2024 at New Zion United Pentecostal Church with. Interment in Henry's Chapel Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Fain, 91, passed away Friday, March 29, 2024 at Neshoba Nursing Home. She lived in Neshoba County all of her life. She worked many years at Wells Lamont Glove Factory. Her hobby was sewing and she loved to witness for her Lord and visit with her family and friends. She was a member of New Zion United Pentecostal Church.

Ms. Fain was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas Ball Ward and Pearl Wilkerson Ward; Husband, Buddy Fain; Numerous brothers and sisters.

Survivors are daughters,

Brenda Wilson and husband, Jerry of Bruce, MS, Glenda Vowther of Sebastopol, Belinda Benson and husband, Ricky of Philadelphia; (8) Grandchildren; (25) Great-Grandchildren; (4) Great-Great-Grandchildren.

Betty McMichael Rathbun

Funeral services for Ms. Betty McMichael Rathbun will be held at 1 PM Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Hope Methodist Church with interment in Hope Cemetery. Visitation will be 12 PM - 1 PM Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Hope Methodist Church. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.



Betty Rathbun

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After New Orleans, Betty lived in numerous places, from the Highlands of Scotland to Anchorage, Alaska. Most of her life was spent in Texas, where she lived in Houston, Austin, and Corpus Christi. Her final years were spent on the bay in Galveston where she lived independently, enjoying her retirement days with many friends and family around her, prior to her passing of Leukemia. Betty had an entrepreneurial spirit having started several small businesses over her lifetime, and was most passionate about the medical recruiting business that she started in her mid-40's.

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Betty's children and their families enjoyed many a Neshoba County Fair together. Growing up with three brothers in the country made her one tough,

young lady. Those who knew her were aware that she wasn't someone you could mess with or run over.

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She had the amazing delight of making a 'hole in one' in 2019 on a par 3 with her golfing group in Burnett, Texas. She loved playing golf so much, she decided to be buried in her golf attire. Betty was such fun you could not help but have a good time when you were around her.

She loved spending time with family and playing a good joke on her beloved grandchildren and nieces. Nana's grandchildren had her full adoration and boy was it mutual! For many years of their youth, they referred to their time with her as "NaNa Camp" and frequently called her "Super NaNa".

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Betty is preceded in death by her dear parents, Audry and Elva McMichael, her beloved stepfather, Clyde White and nephew, David McMichael.

She is survived by her daughter, Lisa Bandy and husband, Griff Bandy; her son, Jason Rathbun and wife, Shay Rathbun and six grandchildren; Preston Rathbun, Peyton Rathbun, Davis Bandy, Chap Bandy, Philip Bandy and Lila Bandy; her brothers, John McMichael and wife Peggy, Jack McMichael and wife, Jan and Bob McMichael, and her precious nieces; Melody, Jordan, Tiffany and Amy.

Dr. Glen Savell

There will be a private family funeral service for Dr. Glen Savell, However, you may send flowers to the funeral home or make donations to his school in Africa. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Brother Glen passed away peacefully at his home in Houston, MS on Friday, March 29, 2024 at the age of 82.

Brother Glen was preceded in death by his father, Curtis, and his mother, Mavis Spears Savell

He is survived by his wife, Glenda, his daughters, Janae Savell, Kristi Pulmano, and Mitzi Winesette; his stepdaughter, Kristy Skelton, and his stepson, Kelly Harrell; children's spouses; his two brothers, Dwight Savell and Joey Savell; cousins, nieces, grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren.

William "Bill" S. Slayton

A graveside memorial service for Mr. William "Bill" S. Slayton will be held at 2 PM Friday, April 5, 2024, at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Slayton, 87, passed away Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at G. V. Sonny Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, MS. He was born and reared in AL, worked as an Electrician and lived in LA, and moved to Philadelphia, MS in 2012. He was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church, and his hobbies were golfing, shooting pool but he enjoyed all sports.

Preceded in death by his wife, Jean Slayton; parents, Oscar Miller Slayton, Gretchen Beene Slayton; son, Dale Slayton; sisters, Katherine Foss, Frankie Thompson; brothers, Dow "Bud" Slayton.

Survivors include his care giver, Monica Slayton; daughter, Pam De St. Germain; son, Scott Slayton (Amanda); brother, Wade Slayton (Jackie); (7) grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Ruth Esther Greer

Memorial service for Mrs. Ruth Esther Calloway-Greer will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 11 A.M. from Poplar Springs Missionary Baptist Church. Burial will be at W.C. Calloway Memorial Cemetery. Beck Funeral Home, Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Greer, 79, of Philadelphia, passed away on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in

Meridian. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Tommy C. Greer of Philadelphia, MS, seven children, Shirl Mays, Gwendolyn Bryant, Everett Sledge, Dion Sledge, Roderick Sledge, Catrina Sledge, and Sean Bye, three stepchildren, Tommy Greer, Jr., Kay Rush and Lorenzo Dexter Greer, seven grandchildren, four great grandchildren, two sisters, and one brother.

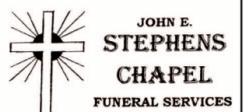
Clara Parker

Funeral service for Ms. Clara Bell Parker will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 11 A.M. from the chapel of Beck Funeral Home, with Minister Alene Parker officiating. Burial will be at Morrow Cemetery. Beck Funeral Home, Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Parker, 91, of Philadelphia, passed away on Sunday, March 31, 2024, at her residence.

She is survived by one daughter, Angela Elaine Parker of Anaheim, CA, one sister, Rose Ann Daniels of Jacksonville, FL, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Pallbearers are John Dotson, Craig Parker, Tim Wells, Donald Dotson, Arnold Dotson, and James McMichael.



MR. TANNER MILES HENRY
10 AM MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024
PEARL RIVER CERF BUILDING
HOLY ROSARY CEMETERY

MS. DOROTHY FAIN
2 PM MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024
NEW ZION UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
HENRY'S CHAPEL CEMETERY

MR. WALTER JIM
10 AM THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024
TUCKER CERF BUILDING
TUCKER COMMUNITY CEMETERY

MR. WILLIAM "BILL" S. SLAYTON
2 PM FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024
GRAVESIDE MEMORIAL SERVICE
HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CEMETERY

MS. BETTY MCMICHAEL RATHBUN
1 PM SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024
HOPE METHODIST CHURCH
HOPE CEMETERY

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MS. CLARA BELL PARKER
11 A.M. SAT., APRIL 6, 2024
BECK FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL
INTERMENT MORROW CEMETERY

MRS. RUTH ESTHER CALLOWAY-GREER
-MEMORIAL SERVICE-
11 A.M. SAT., APRIL 13, 2024
POPLAR SPRINGS M.B. CHURCH
INTERMENT W.C. CALLOWAY MEMORIAL CEMETERY

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Public Notices

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI ALBERT JOINER, ADMINISTRATOR PETITIONER CAUSE NO. 2024-36-KK VS.

THE HEIRS AT LAW OF DEBORAH SUE JOINER, DECEASED DEFENDANT(S)

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF NESHOPA

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO ALL KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF DEBORAH SUE JOINER, DECEASED, WHOSE POST OFFICE ADDRESS IS UNKNOWN, AND STREET ADDRESS IS UNKNOWN, AFTER DILIGENT SEARCH AND INQUIRY.

NOTICE

THIS NOTICE OF MOTION FOR PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are required to appear before the Chancery Courtroom of Kemper County, Mississippi on the 6th day of May, 2024, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the Chancery Courtroom located in DeKalb, Mississippi, to respond to the Petition to Determine Heirship and other relief filed herein, otherwise a judgment may be entered against you.

ISSUED under my hand and official seal of said Court, this the 28th day of March, 2024.

GIDGET STOVALL TATE, NESHOPA COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK BY: /s/ Kathy Greer, D.C.

CHOCTAW TRIBAL CIVIL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WILSON BILLIE, JR., DECEASED C. A. NO. 2023-914

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: The heirs at law of WILSON BILLIE, JR., deceased, and any and all other persons claiming any right, title or interest in and to the estate of WILSON BILLIE, JR., deceased, whose post office and street addresses are unknown to the Administrator/Petitioner after diligent search and inquiry, and upon whom service of process may be had by publication as prescribed by law.

YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are required to appear before the Chancery Courtroom of Neshoba County, Mississippi on the 6th day of August 2024, in the courtroom of the Choctaw Tribal Civil Court at Choctaw, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for things demanded in the petition. You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

ISSUED under my hand and seal of this Court, this the 27th day of March, 2024.

/s/ Alexis York CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT CLERK

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Bids will be received at the Procurement Office, 101 Industrial Rd., Procurement office Building, Choctaw, Mississippi 39350, until 10:00 A.M., on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, for the purchase of the following vehicles:

2024 Mid-Size SUV Police Units (QTY:10) BID FORM#: MBCI ITB24-01-04

Bid documents may be obtained from:

Attn: Jaric Anderson procurement@choctaw.org (601) 650-1616 (OFFICE) (601) 504-9269 (CELL)

Please mail bids to: Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Procurement Office P.O. Box 6277 Choctaw, MS 39350

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

By: Jaric Anderson

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2008, James W. Winstead and Gladys M. Winstead, Husband and Wife executed a certain deed of trust to Streamline Title Services, Trustee for the use and benefit of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as beneficiary, as nominee for The Mortgage Outlet, Inc., its successors and assigns which deed of trust is of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi, on September 19, 2008, in Book Deed of Trust 2008, Page 9284.

WHEREAS, U.S. Bank National Association, the current holder and/or assignee, substituted Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. as Trustee by instrument recorded in the Chancery Clerk's Office on June 5, 2023 in Book Deed of Trust 2023, in Page 3784; and WHEREAS, Default having been made in the terms and conditions of said deed of trust and the entire debt secured thereby having been declared to be due and payable in accordance with the terms of said deed of trust, U.S. Bank National Association, the legal holder of said indebtedness, having requested the undersigned Substitute Trustee in said deed of trust, will on April 17, 2024 offer for sale at public outcry and sell within legal hours (being between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.), at the main front door of the County Courthouse of Neshoba County in Decatur, Mississippi, to the highest and best bidder for cash the following described property situated in Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the wit:

Begin on the South line of the N 1/2 of NE 1/4 of SE 1/4, Section 10, Township 9 North, Range 12 East, where the same intersects the East right-of-way Line of the public road; thence run East 210 feet; thence run North 22 degrees West 210 feet; thence run West 210 feet to the East right-of-way line of said public road; thence run South 22 degrees East 210 feet along the Eastern line of said road to the point of beginning, containing one (1) acre more or less, and being in the N 1/2 of NE 1/4 of SE 1/4, Section 10, Township 9 North, Range 12 East, lying East of road, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

More commonly known as: 10480 Rd 515, Union, MS 39365

I will convey only such title as vested in me as Substituted Trustee. Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. Substituted Trustee Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. 244 Inverness Center Drive, Suite 200 Birmingham, AL 35242 (601) 355-2886

Public Notices

Publication dates: March 20, 2024, March 27, 2024, April 3, 2024, April 10, 2024

CHOCTAW TRIBAL CIVIL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BERNADINE FARVE, DECEASED C. A. NO. 2023-1221

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: The heirs at law of BERNADINE FARVE, deceased, and any and all other persons claiming any right, title or interest in and to the estate of BERNADINE FARVE, deceased, whose post office and street addresses are unknown to the Administrator/Petitioner after diligent search and inquiry, and upon whom service of process may be had by publication as prescribed by law. You have been made a Respondent in a Petition for Determination of Heirship filed in this court by the Administrator/Petitioner of the Estate of BERNADINE FARVE, deceased. You are summoned to appear and defend against the petition filed against you in this action at 1:00 o'clock P.M. on the 6th day of August, 2024, in the courtroom of the Choctaw Tribal Civil Court at Choctaw, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for things demanded in the petition. You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

ISSUED under my hand and seal of this Court, this the 27th day of March, 2024.

/s/ Alexis York CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT CLERK

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF TRAVIS DALE MCMURRY, DECEASED MELINDA M. BAKER, ADMINISTRATOR, PETITIONER VS THE HEIRS AT LAW OF TRAVIS DALE MCMURRY, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2003-309-JK

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO ALL KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF TRAVIS DALE MCMURRY, DECEASED, WHOSE POST OFFICE ADDRESS IS UNKNOWN, AND STREET ADDRESS IS UNKNOWN, AFTER DILIGENT SEARCH AND INQUIRY.

NOTICE

THIS NOTICE OF MOTION FOR PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are required to appear before the Chancery Courtroom of Neshoba County, Mississippi on the 6th day of June 2024, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the Courthouse located in Philadelphia, Mississippi, to respond to the Petition to Determine Heirship and other relief filed herein, otherwise a judgment may be entered against you.

ISSUED under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 28th day of March, 2024.

/s/ Gidget Stovall Tate, Neshoba County Chancery Clerk

Prepared By: Robert Lee Thomas ALFORD, THOMAS & THOMAS, PLLC Post Office Box 96 Philadelphia, MS 39350 601-656-1871 Telephone rthomasatty@gmail.com

04/3/24, 04/10/24, 04/17/24 04/03/24

NOTICE OF SALE

Whereas, Philadelphia Gun & Pawn Mini-Storage, Landlord, 910 Posey Ave. Philadelphia, MS 39350 Gives Notice That Goods Description: Household Items Held in the account of: Danita Willis Address:423 Boguse Chitto Circle, Philadelphia, MS 39350 WILL, on the first legal date more than fifteen (15) days after the first publication hereof April 3rd, 2024 will go for sale at 8:30 am on the date of April 23rd, 2024, at the foregoing address of Landlord, sell to highest bidder for cash, the foregoing description of goods to satisfy rent & all other expenses, with Philadelphia Gun & Pawn having the right to reject any and all bids.

WITNESS My signature this 2nd day of April 2024. PHILADELPHIA GUN & PAWN MINI STORAGE LANDLORD Stephanie Bishop, secretary

CHOCTAW TRIBAL CIVIL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARGUERITE BEN, DECEASED C. A. NO. 2024-162

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 19th day of March, 2024, by the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to the undersigned upon the Estate of Marguerite Ben, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to probate and register the same, as provided by law, with the clerk of the court, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice. Failure to probate and register any such claim within said ninety (90) day period will forever bar the claim.

WITNESS THE SIGNATURE OF THE Administrator, this 19th day of March, 2024,

/s/ Juana Ben Juana Ben, Administrator of the Estate of Marguerite Ben, deceased

SUBMITTED BY: Kevin W. Brady, MSB 100753 Choctaw Legal Defense P.O. Box 6255 Choctaw, Mississippi 39350 Phone: (601) 650-7449 Attorney for Administrator

NOTICE OF SALE

Whereas, Philadelphia Gun & Pawn Mini-Storage, Landlord, 910 Posey Ave. Philadelphia, MS 39350 Gives Notice That: Goods Description: Household Items Held in the Account of: Annie Carter Address :324 Front Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350 WILL, on the first legal date more than fifteen (15) days after the first publication hereof April 3rd, 2024, will go for sale at 8:30 am on the date of April 23rd, 2024, at the foregoing address of Landlord, sell to highest bidder for cash, the foregoing description of goods to satisfy rent and all other expenses, with Philadelphia Gun & Pawn having the right to reject any and all bids.

WITNESS My signature this 2nd day of April 2024. PHILADELPHIA GUN & PAWN MINI STORAGE LANDLORD Stephanie Bishop, secretary

INVITATION FOR BIDS BIDDING AND FISHING RIGHTS

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Trustees, Neshoba County

Public Notices

School District, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi, up to and not later than 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 12, 2024 for hunting and fishing rights for a ten year period on the following parcel of land in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

Section 16, Township 9N, Range 13E

All the land lying South of County Road 298 located in the SW 1/4, LESS AND EXCEPT a 5.0 acre parcel described as the South right-of-way of Road 298 and a fence line on the half section line intersect, this being the Point of Beginning; thence run in a Northwesterly direction along said South right-of-way a distance of 400.0 feet more or less; thence run South 544.0 feet more or less; thence run Southeasterly parallel to said right-of-way a distance of 400.0 feet more or less to the fence and half section line; thence run North along said fence and half section line a distance of 544.0 feet more or less to the Point of Beginning, being 5.0 acres more or less located in the NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 16, Township 9 North, Range 13 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi, and further described as Parcel 4.02 on Map 140 of the Neshoba County Tax Assessor plat maps. The total acreage described contains 140.0 acres and also described as Parcel 5.02 on Map 140 of the Neshoba County Tax Assessor plat maps.

Bids will be opened and read at the date and time specified for acceptance. Complete information concerning the lease and the lease bid form can be obtained from the office of the Superintendent, 580 East Main Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi, 39350. The minimum bid that will be considered is \$7.00 per acre per year. A bid form and a check for the bid amount will be required at opening.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Neshoba County School District Josh Perkins Superintendent

Publish on: March 27, April 3, 2024

TS #2023-07724-MS Substituted Trustee's Notice Of Sale

Whereas, on 2/11/2016, Warren Jenkins and Michele Jenkins, husband and wife, executed a certain deed of trust to Nations Direct Title Agency, Trustee for the benefit of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Beneficiary, as nominee for Platinum Mortgage, Inc, its successors and assigns, which Deed of Trust is of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, State of Mississippi in Book 2016, Page 3553; and that Scrivener's Affidavit recorded on 2/20/2024 in Book 2024, Page 1039, and Whereas, said Deed of Trust was transferred and assigned Freedom Mortgage Corporation and recorded 2/13/2023 in Book 2023, Page 626; and Whereas, Freedom Mortgage Corporation has heretofore substituted Nestor Solutions, LLC, as Trustee by Instrument recorded on 3/18/2024 in the aforesaid Chancery Clerk's Office in Book 2024, Page 1595 and Whereas, default having been made in the terms and conditions of said Deed of Trust and the entire debt secured thereby having been declared to be due and payable in accordance with the terms of said Deed of Trust, Freedom Mortgage Corporation, the legal holder of said indebtedness, having requested the undersigned Substituted Trustee to execute the trust and sell said land and property in accordance with the terms of said Deed of Trust and for the purpose of raising the sums due thereunder, together with attorney's fees, trustee's fees and expense of sale. Now, Therefore, Nestor Solutions, LLC, Substituted Trustee in said Deed of Trust, will on 5/15/2024 offer for sale at public outcry and sell within legal hours (being between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.), at the County Courthouse of Neshoba County, Mississippi, located at Main Door of the Neshoba County Courthouse, 401 East Beacon Street Philadelphia, MS 39350, to the highest and best bidder for cash the following described property situated in Neshoba County, State of Mississippi, to-wit: Being at the SE Corner of NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 31, Township 11 North, Range 13 East, for the point of beginning; the same being the North right of way line of State Highway No. 16, thence run North 1 degree East 292 feet; thence run South 73 degrees West 210 feet; thence North 210 feet; thence run South 73 degrees West 215 feet; thence run South 4 degrees East 388 feet to the North right of way line of said Highway no. 16; thence run North 85 degrees East 345 feet along the Northern line of said Highway no. 16 to the point of beginning, containing 2.8 acres, more or less, and being in the 1/2 of SE 1/4 of Section 31, Township 11 North, Range 13 East, Neshoba County, Mississippi. We Will Convey only such title as vested in us as Substituted Trustee. Witness My Signature on this 29th day of March, 2024. /s/ Sylvia Weiss, its Sr. Trustee Sale Officer Nestor Solutions, LLC, Substituted Trustee 214 5th Street, Suite 205 Huntington Beach, CA 92648 TS #2023-07724-MS Publication Dates: 4/3/2024 4/10/2024 4/17/2024 4/24/2024 5/1/2024 5/8/2024

ISSUED under my hand and seal of said Court, this 15th day of February, 2024.

NESHOPA COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK

BY: Gidget S. Tate Clerk K. Greer Deputy Clerk

PREPARED BY: Kathleen Cook, MSB#102398 Special Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General Post Office Box 220 Jackson, Mississippi 39205 Telephone No. (601)359-4483 Email: Kathleen.Cook@ago.ms.gov

INVITATION FOR BIDS Open to All Bidders & Indian Owned Companies

DATE ISSUED: March 27, 2024 BY: Choctaw Housing Authority Post Office Box 6255 Choctaw, MS 39350 PROJECT: #1175 Construction/Earthwork 1 Unit

LOCATION: Pearl River Community Neshoba County

CONTRACTING OFFICER: Gary Ben, Executive Director DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES: The contractor shall provide project administration, job supervision, skilled and common labor, equipment, adhere to the Davis-Bacon Labor Law, provide Indian preference, provide insurance as required by Choctaw Housing Authority, perform and complete all requirements as specified in the plans/specifications. The Contractor will be given ninety (90) calendar days to complete the job.

Bid forms and specifications may be picked up at the Choctaw Housing Authority Procurement Office for a fee of \$100.00 (Non-Refundable) made payable to Choctaw Housing Authority. There will be a Pre-Bid Conference on April 10, 2024 @ 10:00 am at the Development Conference Room. For more information call Mignon Henry, Procurement Manager at (601) 656-6617, ext. 247.

Sealed bids are due no later than ; 10:00 a.m., ON April 24, 2024 - BID OPENING.

The Procurement Manager, ATTN: Mignon Henry, Sealed bids must be accompanied by a 5% Bid Guarantee. At the set time, bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Procurement Office. No late bids will be accepted.

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

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

The City of Philadelphia requests proposals from qualified firms or individuals to provide engineering services for work related to the implementation of approved FY 2024 CDBG project(s). You are invited to submit five (5) copies of a proposal, in accordance with this request, to the Office of the City Clerk, City of Philadelphia, 525 Main Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350, no later than 10 a.m. on April 15, 2024. The Engineer will be responsible for preparing project cost estimates for application preparation and if awarded, the selected Engineer will provide all engineering services through project close-out in accordance with federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies. The scope of work includes but is not limited to the following: 1) prepare plans and specifications, 2) distribute bid documents, 3) assist in bid opening and prepare bid tabulation, 4) assist in the execution of construction contracts, 5)

Mississippi Code of 2013 025-0014-0 013 Senate Bill 2070

Thank you, Executive Director Ashiya Hawkins

Run Dates: March 13, - April 26, 2024

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF CHARLES A. HARDY, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2024-41-JK

TRACY MICHELL HARDY, EXECUTOR NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 12 th day of March, 2024 by the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon the Estate of Charles A. Hardy, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the date of the first publication of this Notice or they will be forever barred.

This the 13th day of March, 2024. /s/TRACY MICHELL HARDY, EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLES A. HARDY, DECEASED

Prepared by: Robert Lee Thomas, MSBN 105358 ALFORD, THOMAS & THOMAS, PLLC Post Office Box 96 Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350 601-616-1871 Telephone 601-656-0189 Facsimile rthomasatty@gmail.com

Publish 03/20/24; 03/27/24; 04/03/24

CHOCTAW TRIBAL CIVIL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Public Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MAZELL JOHN, DECEASED C. A. NO. 2024-0164

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 19th day of March, 2024, by the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to the undersigned upon the Estate of Mazell John, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to probate and register the same, as provided by law, with the clerk of the court, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice. Failure to probate and register any such claim within said ninety (90) day period will forever bar the claim.

WITNESS THE SIGNATURE OF THE Administrator, this 19th day of March, 2024,

/s/ Linda Clemons Linda Clemons, Administrator of the Estate of Mazell John, deceased

SUBMITTED BY: Kevin W. Brady, MSB 100753 Choctaw Legal Defense P.O. Box 6255 Choctaw, Mississippi 39350 Phone: (601) 650-7449 Attorney for Administrator

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NESHOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES, BY ANDREA A. SANDERS, AND JBH AND KNH, MINORS, BY AND THROUGH THEIR NEXT FRIEND, ANDREA A. SANDERS PETITIONERS VS. CAUSE NO. 2023-CV-00329 MACY ELIZABETH HOLLEY, CLATARIUS CLEMONS, JONATHAN T. ANDERSON, AND UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHERS RESPONDENTS

CHANCERY COURT SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF NESHOPA

TO: UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATHER who is not to be found in the State of Mississippi and whose address is unknown to the Petitioners after diligent inquiry made by said Petitioners.

You have been made a Respondent in the suit filed in this Court by the Neshoba County Department of Child Protection Services by Andrea A. Sanders, Commissioner, and JBH, a Minor, seeking to terminate your parental rights as those rights relate to said Minor and demanding that the full custody, control and authority to act on behalf of said Minor be placed with the Neshoba County Department of Child Protection Services.

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO APPEAR AND DEFEND AGAINST THE PETITION FILED AGAINST YOU IN THIS ACTION AT 9:00 O'CLOCK A.M. ON THE 2nd DAY OF MAY, 2024 AT THE NESHOPA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 401 EAST BEACON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI, AND IN CASE OF YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AND DEFEND, A JUDGMENT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE PETITION.

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 19th day of March, 2024, by the Choctaw Tribal Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to the undersigned upon the Estate of Chester Morris, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to probate and register the same, as provided by law, with the clerk of the court, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice. Failure to probate and register any such claim within said ninety (90) day period will forever bar the claim.

WITNESS THE SIGNATURE OF THE Administrator, this 19th day of March, 2024,

/s/ Linda Clemons Linda Clemons, Administrator of the Estate of Chester Morris, deceased

SUBMITTED BY: Kevin W. Brady, MSB 100753 Choctaw Legal Defense P.O. Box 6255 Choctaw, Mississippi 39350 Phone: (601) 650-7449 Attorney for Administrator

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF NESHOPA

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, on the 26th day of October, 2018, Charles F. Rushing, Jr., a single man, executed a Deed of Trust in favor of Don O. Rogers, III, Trustee, to secure an indebtedness therein described in favor of The Citizens National Bank of Meridian, which Deed of Trust is recorded in Deed of Trust Book 2018 at page 8916 among the records in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Neshoba County, Mississippi; and, WHEREAS, default has been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust and the holder of the Note and Deed of Trust has requested the undersigned Trustee so to do, I will, on the 5th day of April, 2024, offer for sale at public outcry and sell during legal hours, being between the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., at the front door of the Neshoba County Courthouse in Philadelphia, Mississippi, for cash to the highest bidder, the following-described property lying and being situated in the County of Neshoba, State of Mississippi, being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, Section 24, Township 11 North, Range 11 East, and running West 630 feet to the West side of Philadelphia and Kosciusko Road to the point of beginning; thence run West 846 feet; thence run North 162 feet; thence run East 728 feet; thence run Southeast along West side of said highway 192 feet to the point of beginning, being in the North one-half (½) of the Southeast 1/4, Section 24, Township 11 North, Range 11 East, lands not mapped, City of Philadelphia, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

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

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE on this the 7th day of March, 2024.

Don O. Rogers, Trustee

Don O. Rogers, MSBN 5636 P.O. Drawer 1389 Meridian, MS 39302 601-693-2411

IN THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF INA MAE THOMAS ISAAC, DECEASED CAUSE NO 2023-1086896 GWENDOLYN HICKMAN PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 26th day of January, 2024, by the Tribal Court Clerk, to the undersigned upon the Estate of Ina Mae Thomas Isaac, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from this date or they will be forever barred.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE this the 12th day of March, 2024. /s/ Gwendolyn Hickman GWENDOLYN HICKMAN ADMINISTRATRIX

Prepared by: Douglas J. Graham Settlements & Law, PLLC ATTORNEYS AT LAW 410 EAST BEACON STREET

Public Notices

hold pre-construction conference, and 6) perform construction inspection including periodic reports to the City and approve all payment requests.

The City of Philadelphia is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City encourages Minority-owned Business Enterprises (MBEs) and Woman-owned Business Enterprises (WBEs) to submit proposals. The City also encourages Section 3 eligible businesses to submit proposals. Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended (12 U.S.C. 17010) requires, to the greatest extent feasible, that the City and its contractors that participate in the above referenced Program give opportunities for job training and employment to lower incomes residents of the City of Philadelphia. Section 3 also requires that contracts for work in connection with Section 3 area be awarded to Section 3 eligible business concerns.

All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope and marked with the following language: "Proposal for CDBG Engineering Services." Proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: Qualifications (40 points), Experience (40 points) and Capacity for Performance (20 points). To be evaluated properly, the following must be addressed in detail: Qualifications – List of qualifications of persons to be assigned to project; Experience – Information regarding the firm's experience and the projects previously undertaken, including the type and amount of grant awarded, the projects activities, and the status of the projects; Capacity for Performance – Identify the number and title of staff assigned to provide services.

Students receive \$6K Yates scholarships

By STAFF REPORTS
news@neshobademocrat.com

Three local students have been awarded scholarships from Yates Companies, Inc.

Elijah Kilpatrick, Maddox Madison and Adrian Luke have been awarded a \$6,000 Yates Companies, Inc. Scholarship for the first two years of college. They were selected by a scholarship committee at The Yates Companies, Inc. based upon academics, extracurricular activities, and two short essays.

Carolyn Voyles, Chairperson of The Yates Companies, Inc. Scholarship Committee said, "We set up the scholarship program to recognize and reward high school seniors of our employees who meet certain criteria and wish to further education at the post-secondary level. This allows us to be a part of preparing young people for the future."



Kilpatrick will graduate from Union High School this spring and plans to major in music education and welding. Elijah is the son of Chris and Nicole Kilpatrick. Chris works for Edwards Electric Service, LLC, which is a part of The Yates Companies, Inc. Madison will graduate from Neshoba Central High School this spring and plans to major in electrical engineering. Maddox is the son of Jenna Beason and James

Madison. Jenna works for W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Company, which is a part of The Yates Companies, Inc.

Luke will graduate from Philadelphia High School this spring and plans to major in engineering. Adrian is the son of Chris and Kimberly Luke. Kimberly works for W.G. Yates & Sons Construction, which is a part of The Yates Companies, Inc.



Sheriff receives donation

The Neshoba County Sheriff's Office recently received a generous donation of a FLIR device from the United States Deputy Sheriff's Association. A FLIR device is a handheld thermal imaging device that will assist deputies in seeing low light environments. This device will be useful in situations such as locating a missing person or finding a fugitive that is hiding. Officers pictured, from left, are Gordon Adkins, Trent Rickles, and Mark Flake.

Registration ongoing for Westside Park summer leagues

By JACE HENDERSON
jace@neshobademocrat.com

The Community In Action group of Philadelphia-Neshoba County is bringing softball and baseball back to Westside Park for the upcoming summer league season.

"A lot of kids may have a harder time getting across town to Northside, so since we got the park baseball field

on this side, it doesn't make sense for it to go to waste," said Johnny Beckwith of the group. "Hopefully we will draw the kids to participate when they can walk back and forth to practice and games."

The league is scheduled to begin on May 20, with the season extending for a duration of four to six weeks.

"We don't want the kids to have nothing to do when they are out of school for the

summer," Beckwith said. "We are hoping it will keep at least one kid out of trouble and give them the opportunity to have something to do, not only on the Westside but for anybody who wants to register."

Registration began on Saturday, March 30, with additional registration dates scheduled for Saturdays, April 6 and April 13, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Registration

will take place at both the Senior Citizens building and Westside Park.

For those unable to register during the specified times, alternative arrangements can be made by contacting the numbers provided below.

Participation requires a fee of \$60, covering the cost of a jersey and hat for baseball players and a jersey and socks for softball players.

The league is provided to kids ages 6-13 and is divided into three categories: 6-8 years old (Coach Pitch), 9-10 years old (Kid Pitch), and 11-13 years old (Kid Pitch).

Player selection for each age bracket will be conducted through a draft process, during which coaches observe the children participating in drills.

"I'm excited to give these kids the chance to play and

learn the game, so they have a better chance at playing in high school," Beckwith said. "They will have the chance to get mentored by a coach during the season, and hopefully it will help them become better young men and ladies."

For more information or registration assistance, contact Johnny Beckwith at (601) 416-4450 or Eddie Willis at (601) 728-0311.

Of Local Interest

4-H HORSE CLUB

If you are interested in joining the Neshoba County 4-H Horse Club, join us on April 11th at 5:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room located at the Neshoba County Coliseum. This will include information regarding riding events as well as horse art opportunities. This program will be available to youth ages 8-18. If you plan to attend or need any additional information, please call the Neshoba County Extension Office at 601-656-4011!

NOWELL FAMILY REUNION

Please join us for our annual Family Reunion to begin at 10:00am on Saturday, April 13, 2024, in Memory of Chester and Gladys Nowell. We look forward to fellowship with all family members; and especially the good food. Please attend at Northside Park Senior Citizens Center: 100 Burt Drive, Philadelphia, MS 39350

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

All hunters and wildlife managers, foresters and loggers, private landowners, wildlife enthusiasts, and industry representatives, join us on April 18th, 2024, at the Coastal Plains Branch Experiment Station located at 51 Costal Plains Road Newton, MS from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. for a Wildlife Management Field Day. Pre-register by calling 601-683-2084 by April 11. On-site registration begins at 8:30. The program begins at 9:00. Lunch will be provided.

Continuing Education Opportunities Below:
Continuing Forestry Education (CFE)
Category A
4 hours credit
Professional Logging Manager (PLM)
Category 1
4 hours credit

GROWERS ASSOCIATION

It is that time of the year again! The Neshoba County Vegetable Growers Association is beginning to prepare for the upcoming Farmers' Market season. I would like to cordially invite everyone to our Vegetable Growers Meeting on May 8th at 12:00 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Conference Room at 704 E Main St. Philadelphia, MS 39350. If you are interested in becoming a vendor for the 2024 Farmers' Market, please plan to attend the Vegetable Growers Meeting. Lunch will be provided, so please call the Neshoba County Extension office at 601-656-4011 by May 3rd to RSVP. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

BUSY HANDS QUILT GUILD

Busy Hands Quilt Guild will meet April 9th, 9:30am, in the Fellowship Hall of United Methodist Church, Decatur, MS. Members will continue working on Good Samaritan projects. Feel free to join us for a few hours.

PRE-K REGISTRATION

The Pre-Kindergarten Program is located at the Neshoba County School District, Office

of Federal Programs/Pre-K building at 1125 Golf Course Road. Students are screened for enrollment by a pre-kindergarten test. The program is designed to serve those children with the most academic/developmental needs, and will be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2024. The classes will begin and end to coincide with the regular school term at Neshoba County Schools. Participating students' parents will be required to provide transportation to and from the center. As other students in the school district, pre-k students will be offered breakfast and lunch by the Neshoba County School District Food Services.

Registration and testing will be conducted from 8:30 am - 2:00 pm, on May 20 - 22. We ask that one parent attend with the child being tested. Registration documents can be printed at www.neshobacentral.com, select "Departments," "Federal Programs/Pre-K," and then select "Pre-K Program Registration."

For more information, call the office of Federal Programs/Pre-K @ 601-656-4484 or email Jennifer Rawson at jrawson@neshobacentral.com or Sheila Goss at sgoss@neshobacentral.com.

SPRING REVIVAL

The Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church Family of Louisville cordially invites you to attend their 2024 Spring Revival Services which will begin Sunday, April 7, 2024, and end Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Sunday revival service will

begin at six o'clock in the evening. Monday through Tuesday revival services will begin at seven o'clock in the evening. The evangelist is Rev. Durward L. Minor, Sr., pastor of the New Beginning Baptist Church of Starkville, Mississippi. Please come and be blessed by the Word of God. Invite your family and friends to join you.

ARTS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The PNC Arts Council will hold its annual membership drive in the Ellis Theater on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

FORESTRY SPRING MEETING

The Neshoba County Forestry Association is having its Spring Meeting on April 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Neshoba County Coliseum. Mississippi State Extension Hardwood Silviculture Forest Herbicide Specialist, Dr. Brady Self will be presenting on the topic of Herbicide Forest Management. Members will be eligible to receive up to 1 Hour of CFE's and PLLM's credit for attending. All NCFCA members are encouraged to attend and invite their friends and neighbors to join our association. Please note that if you have not already paid your annual NCFCA \$20 dues, make plans to do so at the upcoming meeting. Dues can be paid with cash or a check payable to the Neshoba County Forestry Association. We greatly appreciate all our generous sponsors for the NCFCA who have so kindly sponsored our meal that will be

hosted by Penn's. Please call the MSU Extension Office at 601-656-4011 to RSVP by April 12th. I look forward to seeing you all the April 16th.

SMALL RUMINANTS MANAGEMENT

The Neshoba County Extension Office would like to invite you to the Multi-County Small Ruminants Management Workshop on May 16th in the Multi-Purpose at the Neshoba County Coliseum from 3-7 p.m.. A meal will be provided. Small Ruminant Specialist, Dr. Leyla Rios de Alvarez and Forage Specialist, Dr. Rocky Lemus, will be speaking on the topic of Best Management Practices for Small Ruminant Operations which will include Suitable Forage Practices, Reproduction Practices, and Pesticide Management. Please call the Neshoba County Extension Office at 601-656-4011 to RSVP by May 9th.

ARCHERY EVENT

April 20, 2024 Pearl River Archery will be hosting a Mississippi Archery Association and ASA Event. Registration between 9:00-9:45 a.m. Tournament begins at 10 a.m. Range is located at McMillian Park, 515 MS-16, Carthage, MS. \$30 entry fee for K50, K40, Women's K40, Open, Senior Known. \$25 entry fee for Barebow, Bowhunter, Traditional,

High School, Women's Bowhunter. \$10 entry fee Middle School \$5 entry fee Elementary

SPRING REVIVAL

The Mt. Enon M.B. Church family in the Dixon Community invite all area church families to their Spring Revival scheduled for April 22-24th at 7:00 nightly. Rev. Boris Griffin of Philadelphia, MS will be the evangelist for this occasion. Rev. James Pinkston is the pastor.

THE LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.

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

Wednesday Evening Activities

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6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

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7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

In Christ, you are rich indeed

Revelation 2:8-11 is the letter to the church in Smyrna from the Lord Jesus. He tells the church he knows what they are going through: “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”

Economic prosperity came from Rome, and Smyrna was known for honoring the Emperor of Rome. Rome allowed regions under its reign to worship their own gods so long as they didn't rebel against Rome. Judaism was an acceptable religion to Rome. For a time, Christians were seen as connected to Judaism, but in Smyrna it is apparent the Jews had accused Christians of being opposed to Rome.

This happened in other cities as well (see Acts 17 and events in Thessalonica). The effect of this slander in Smyrna was to cause Christians to suffer economic hardship. They might have lost their job or business, been fined, or endured other hardships. They suffered for belonging to Christ.

The Lord tells the church that though they are poor in this world, they are rich spiritually. The apostle Paul said of his own poverty, “As having nothing yet possessing all things.” If we have Christ as our portion, we can never be impoverished in what matters the most. Our chief good will be in the infinite God.

Earthly goods or portions are perishing and left behind when we die. At Christ's right hand are eternal riches. Patrick Henry, the famous patriot in the founding of America, ends his will with a statement about his worldly goods: “This is the poor inheritance I leave to my dear family. But the religion of Christ can give you an inheritance that will make you rich indeed.”

In verse 10, we see that the Lord tells his people in Smyrna that they are going to go through more suffering: “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life.”

When you hear, “Do not fear,” and then an alert that prison and death may be around the next bend, it isn't easy to

not be nervous. The encouragement “Do not fear” is connected to the sovereignty of Christ over the tribulation. He says it is a test, which means it will show the validity of their faith and assure them that they will receive the crown of life, meaning eternal life.

Throughout the New Testament, Christians are taught to value eternity over the present world. Paul described the great afflictions he suffered as “light and momentary in comparison to the eternal weight of glory.”

James said to Christians facing tribulation, “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life.” Peter says something similar in his first epistle when he tells Christians that their trials are proving the genuineness of their faith which is of more worth than gold which perishes.

To the Christian, genuine faith in Christ and an inheritance of eternal life with Christ is of more worth than the whole world if we could have it. We have a better possession and one that abides forever. If you have forgiveness of your sins in Christ, you are rich indeed.

George Swinnock, a 17th century Christian, knew what it was to face suffering and death for his faith. He writes to other Christians who are facing tribulation, “Make Christ your chief portion. You may receive comfort from this portion in the most afflicted condition. Do men steal your possessions? You have a more enduring substance and are rich toward Christ.

“Do they cast you into prison? Though your body is in chains, you may fly to heaven in meditation and prayer. Do they take away your food? You have food to eat they know not of. Is your body sick? Your soul is sound, so all is well. If your enemies kill you, they cannot hurt you. They do you a kindness by freeing you from your corruptions and sending you to heaven. Blessed are they who die in the Lord. God is our portion - O think of it and take comfort in it.”

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

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SOCIETY

Hunter's cooking reflects upbringing

By JACE HENDERSON
jace@neshobademocrat.com

Darlene Hunter grew up in a lively household with eight siblings, where cooking was a family affair guided by her mother, Betty Moore.

Many memories were made in their kitchen, where squabbles often began over who got to lick the bowl clean after Moore finished baking cakes or sweet potato pies.

"She always made sure there was food for us to eat," Hunter said. "She cooked so much and never used a recipe. She always knew how to measure her food without a measuring spoon. Everything was seasoned well."

Hunter's cooking reflects her upbringing, with chicken and dumplings, passed down from her mother and homemade fried apple pies topping her list of favorite dishes that she shares with family and friends.

"As long as I'm cooking food, my family is alright," Hunter said with a laugh. "They love my chicken and dumplings, greens, apple pies, and strawberry cream cheese pies."

While Hunter's apple and strawberry pies hold a special place in her heart, her culinary talents extend beyond desserts.

"Whatever I feel like I want to cook or want to try that's what I do," she said.

Family gatherings and holidays for Hunter and her family are marked by an abundance of homemade dishes, including hamburger casserole, cream cheese pies, greens, barbecue chicken, rolls, homemade ice cream, and more.

Married to E.J. Hunter, she is blessed with three children, Kaski, Derek, and Bria, along with five grandchildren, Kahlil, Breelan, Kenadee, Amari, and Nylah.

Hunter said she finds joy beyond the kitchen as a career coach at Philadelphia High School, guiding seniors through the transition to college or the workforce.

Her dedication to education also shines through her 18-year tenure at the Pearl River Head Start Center and her active involvement at Goodway Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves over the youth group and lends her voice in the choir.

Hunter's kitchen essentials include her trusty spatula, mixer, measuring cup, chopper, and casserole dishes, and her advice to aspiring cooks is to use your own judgment and experiment with different seasons and flavors.

"Sometimes you can put more than one seasoning or add more to it," she said. "You have your own taste of how you want your food to taste."

For Hunter, the true joy of cooking lies in sitting down at the dinner table and sharing meals with loved ones.

"As long as my family is happy on eating, everything is fine with me," she said.



Darlene Hunter

COOK OF THE WEEK

OLD FASHION CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS
1 large pk. boneless chicken breast
3 cups self-rising flour
Garlic salt
Black pepper
1 stick butter
1 ½ cup milk

In a large saucepan, boil

chicken breast until done. Add garlic salt as you cook it. Add butter and pepper also. When chicken is done, cook slowly on low heat while making the dumplings.

In a large bowl, mix flour, butter, and milk to make dough batter. Form into ball and dust counter with flour to roll dough.

Using a rolling pin roll dough thin and cut using pizza cutter to make rectangular strips. Then cut the strips again to make small squares. Take dough and add the chicken and cook until

dough is done. Turn off dumplings and serve.

POTATO CASSEROLE
6 large red potatoes
1 lb. ground beef
2 large onions
2 cans cream of mushroom
2 cups of whole milk
1 lb. of shredded cheese
Salt

Pepper

Wash and slice potato in medium saucepan, broil potatoes until almost done. While potatoes are cooking, brown ground beef in skillet and then drain. Pour ground beef into casserole dish and layer potatoes over it.

Once potato is layered,

slice onions thin and layer on top of potatoes. In a bowl, pour your cream of mushroom and milk and stir together.

Once mixed, pour on top of the onions. Add shredded cheese on top and place in oven for 45 minutes. Now you are ready to serve.

FRIED APPLE PIES
5 large apples, peeled, cored, & sliced (Granny Red Apples)
1 cup sugar
2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
2 cups White Lily self-rising flour
1 cup whole milk
2 sticks butter
Crisco oil

In medium saucepan, combine apples, sugar, ½ stick butter and vanilla extract. Cook until tender, stirring consistently to prevent from sticking or burning. After cooked, cool.

In large bowl, combine flour and 3 tbs. of butter. Using fork mix butter and flour together. Pour in whole milk to form dough, add little at a time to bind flour together. After dough is formed, make into a ball. Sprinkle counter with flour and use rolling pin and roll thin. Use bottom of your sifter and press on dough to make circles.

Preheat oil and butter in iron skillet. Place apple mixture in center of circle dough. Overlap the dough and use fork to and press around edges to seal. Fry pies in skillet, flip on each side until brown. Place on tray and ready to serve.

STRAWBERRY CREAM CHEESE PIE
1 Philadelphia cream cheese
1 large container Cool Whip
Powdered sugar
2 graham cracker crust
1 strawberry pie filling
Fresh strawberries
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Soften cream cheese at room temperature. In large bowl, mix cream cheese and powdered sugar together. Once mixed, fold in Cool Whip and add vanilla extract.

Pour into graham cracker crust. Slice fresh strawberries and mix with strawberry pie filling. Spread on top of mixture and cover with lid. Chill in refrigerator for 3-6 hours. For better results, make overnight.

■ Know someone who should be featured as Cook of the Week? Nominate them by emailing the Democrat at jace@neshobademocrat.com.

Just Among Friends

By MARIANNE ENOCHS
friends@neshobademocrat.com

Recently, Roxanna McCarty, Dori Peden, and Pat Thomason attended the WBENC conference in Denver, Colorado. At the conference, Pat was recognized along with 13 others as a WBENC Star, the nation's premier award for excellence among women's business enterprises.

This was given to 14 women from the entire United States which is not an easy award to obtain. It is a great honor for Pat and Mississippi to have an individual of such a high caliber recognized for owning and running a lumber business. She is an intelligent, capable, and charming woman who deserves this honor! Congratulations!

The Neshoba Central High School Lady Rockets basketball team members were the guests of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben and the Tribal Administration at a championship dinner in the VIP Room at the Golden Moon Hotel and Casino on March 20. The Lady Rockets are the 2024 MHSAA Girls State Basketball Champions.

Former Lady Rocket and 5A State Champion Taylor Ben served as mistress of ceremonies. The 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess and Lady Rocket team member Nalani Luz Maria Thompson gave the invocation. A luscious dinner was provided by the Pearl

River Resort.

After dinner, a special video montage was presented, and remarks were given by Coach Jason Broom, Coach Shannon Ruffin, and Chief Ben. Vice Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr. who attended and was recognized. After the speakers, the Championship Banner was presented and Miss Ben closed the ceremony.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center recently announced the matches for students who will be completing their last three years of medical school. Among those students is Brooke Winstead who felt blessed to be staying at UMMC for her last three years of medical school in Internal Medicine. She and her husband, Tanner, are both excited to continue residing in their home area.

Congratulations to Miriam Prince who was named Freshman of the Year at ECCC where she is a tremendously talented member of the women's basketball team. This is a huge honor for her in a very tough league. She is the daughter of Phillip and Valeria Prince and a graduate of Leake Academy.

After completing basic training for the United States Air Force in Texas, Blake Sanders came home for a three-week visit before leaving for his first deployment. He got in a little hunting, fishing, softball, venue-

looking, river sitting, photo shoot, and lots of home-cooked meals. He is the son of Zac and Wendee Wells Sanders and a graduate of Neshoba Central High School.

Congratulations to Leake Academy's 4 varsity position wins over East Rankin Academy! The winners are #1 Singles-Taylor Allen; #2 Singles-Shelby Rudolph; #1 Singles-William Warner; #1 Doubles-Aubrey Rudolph. Congratulations to B Team Win for Elizabeth Smith and Mason Lawrence at Mixed Doubles.

Hallie Grace Stribling received wonderful news last Friday! She has been accepted into the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Health Related Professions Radiologic Sciences (BS) program for the 2024-2025 Fall Term. Her Philadelphia grandparents are Dr. Kent and Mitzi Stribling and her father is Philadelphia native Taylor Stribling of New Orleans. Her mother is Andrea Stribling of Newton. Congratulations and best wishes!

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

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Rockets ready to rebound against Ridgeland

By **BILL GRIFFIS**
sports@neshobademocrat.com

The Neshoba Rockets went 1-2 last week on the diamond in very close contests as the baseball squad continues to find its groove this season.

After losing to Warren Central in extra innings early last week, the Rockets rebounded Friday night to defeat the Vikings 3-2 in

another extra-inning contest.

The Rockets pitching combined for 19 strikeouts in the district contest that went 11 innings.

Sanders Griffis took the mound first for the Rockets, going 6 2/3 innings while giving up two runs on four hits and 14 strike outs. J.P. Hancock went 4 1/3 innings, giving up two hits, one base on balls and 5 strikeouts

holding the Vikings scoreless for the remainder of the game to pick up the win.

The Vikings picked up two runs in the first to take the lead and held the Rockets in check until the 5th inning. The Rockets picked up two runs beginning with a hard single by J.P. Hancock and a double by Ryder White. Then, Jordan Davis tripled

to score the pair and tie the game. In the bottom of the 11th, R.B. Hardin made it to first base after being hit by a pitch. He stole second and made his way around to home plate for the scoring run on a pass ball.

On Saturday, the Rockets lost to Southeast Lauderdale 3-2 after giving up a walk with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 8th.

Both teams pitched very good and the fielding defense was strong for both teams. Each team had one error. The Rockets got their runs on 10 hits while Southeast got their runs on four hits and six walks.

Sam Killens took the mound first for the Rockets, going five innings while giving up two runs on two hits, one walk and two

strike outs. Jordan Davis went 2 1/3 innings, giving up no runs on two hits, four walks and one strikeout. Will Williams came on in the bottom of the eighth inning with the bases loaded and walked in the game-scoring run.

The Rockets faced district rival Ridgeland Tuesday night, and will face them again at 7 p.m. Friday on home turf.

Leake Academy baseball team continues to struggle

By **ROBBIE ROBERTSON**
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It was a rough week for the Leake Academy baseball team.

The Rebels dropped a three-game series to rival Simpson Academy last week, falling 5-4 in 11 innings on Thursday.

The Cougars then took both games of a doubleheader on Friday, winning 3-1 and 11-5 to take the series sweep.

Leake falls to 6-10-1 on the season and 1-5 in district play. The Rebels will try to get back into playoff contention as they play Lamar in a three-game series this

week Game 1 is scheduled for Tuesday in Madden while game 2 is set for Thursday in Meridian. Game 3 will be Friday in Madden.

Simpson 5, Leake 4

The Cougars needed 11 innings to take a walk-off win over the Rebels on Thursday in game 1 of the series.

Simpson scored three runs in the second inning while Leake scored all four of its runs in the fourth inning. Simpson scored a single run in the bottom of the fourth to tie the game at 4-4. The game stayed scoreless the next six

innings before Simpson scored in the bottom of the 11th.

Simpson outthit Leake 7-5 in the contest and the Rebels struck out 20 times. Reece Atkinson singled and drove in a run while Gage Warren had Leake's other hit. Matthew Nowell also walked three times and scored a run.

Atkinson started on the mound and pitched five innings, giving up four runs on three hits and three walks. Nowell pitched the last 5 1/3 innings and gave up one run on four hits and seven walks while striking out three.

Simpson 3, Leake 1

The Rebels struggled at the plate and dropped a two-run decision on Friday in the first game of a doubleheader.

Simpson scored two in the fourth and one in the fifth while Leake scored its lone run in the bottom of the fourth.

Leake had four hits as Mathan Weaver was 2-for-3 while Jack Harkins singled and scored run.

Rhett Stovall started on the mound and pitched five solid innings, giving up three runs on five hits and a walk while striking out two. John Donovan pitched

the last two innings and gave up just one hit and one walk.

Simpson 11, Leake 5

The Rebels fell behind early and dropped a six-run decision to the Cougars in the second game of the doubleheader on Friday.

Simpson scored three in the first and four in the second and led 7-1 after two innings. Simpson added one in the thirdhand three in the fourth and led 11-1 after four. Leake scored two runs in the bottom of the fifth and three in the seventh for the final margin.

Leake actually outthit Simpson

10-9. Tyler Winstead was 2-for-4 with a double while Jack Harkins was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Camden Marble was 2-for-3 while Charlie Brantley also had a double. Reece Atkinson also singled and drove in two runs.

Caden Stovall started on the mound and took the loss, giving up eight runs with only four being earned on six hits and two walks while striking out 10. Harkins pitched the next three innings and gave up three runs on three hits. Coby Kemp pitched the last inning and struck out one.

Yellowjackets sweep McLaurin to improve to 10-7

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

The Union baseball team took a week off from division play and swept a two-game series from McLaurin.

Union took both games of a doubleheader on Thursday, winning 14-8 in the first game and 9-6 in the nightcap.

Union improves to 10-7 on the season and will return to play this week with a two-game series against Philadelphia. Game 1 is set

for Tuesday at Union while game 2 is scheduled for Friday at Philadelphia. Union will then host Noxapater on Saturday in a 1 p.m. contest.

Union 14, McLaurin 8

The Yellowjackets used a pair of four-run innings and took a six-run win over the Tigers in the first game of a doubleheader on Thursday.

McLaurin scored three runs in the top of the first but Union responded with four in the bottom

of the first and one in the second and led 5-3. Each team scored two runs in the third inning while Union added four more runs in the fifth and led 11-5. Each team scored three runs in the sixth for the final margin.

The Yellowjackets had 13 hits as they took a six-run win over the Tigers. Kooper Fultz was 4-for-4 with a double and two RBIs while Hayden Dolan was 2-for-3 with a double and two runs scored. Mason Tucker was 2-for-4 with a home run and five RBIs. Turner

Johnson was 2-for-4 with three RBIs. Jacob Freeman singled, walked twice and scored two runs while Austin Lee and Samuel Alawine singled and scored two runs.

Fultz started on the mound and pitched 5 2/3 innings to pick up the win. He gave up eight runs, with only three earned, on six hits and four walks while striking out four. Tanner Watkins pitched 1 1/3 innings and gave up one hit and one hit while striking out two.

Union 9, McLaurin 6

The Yellowjackets used big fifth inning and took a three-run win despite being outthit by the Tigers.

McLaurin led 5-2 after two innings before Union scored five in the fifth and two in the sixth to take the win.

Union was outthit 10-5 in the contest but took advantage of nine walks, three errors and three hit batters. Jacob Freeman was 3-for-4 with a double and two RBIs while Turner Johnson also singled. Hay-

den Dolan also singled and walked twice. Rafe Manning walked three times, had four stolen bases and scored three runs.

Pitching: Freeman started on the mound and pitched four innings, giving up five runs on eight hits and one walk while striking out five. Samuel Alawine pitched three innings and gave up one run on two hits and a walk while striking out seven.

Lady Yellowjackets pick up much-needed softball wins

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

After losing four straight games, the Union Lady Yellowjackets desperately needed something good to happen.

What Union got was a pair of strong pitching performances from Alanee Wheeler as she gave up just six hits in two games as the Lady Yellowjackets beat Eupora 6-1on Tuesday and 6-0

on Thursday.

Union improves to 7-7 on the season and will play Philadelphia this week in a key division series. Game 1 is scheduled for Tuesday at Union while game 2 is set for

Thursday at Philadelphia.

Union 6, Eupora 1

The Lady Yellowjackets scored all of their runs in the fifth inning and took a five-run win over the Lady Eagles on Tuesday.

Eupora scored its lone run in the bottom of the first and led 1-0 after four innings. But Union scored six runs in the fifth inning to take the win

The Yellowjackets scored all of its runs in one innings. Union outthit Eupora 13-4 in the contest. Abigail Cleveland led Union at the plate, going 4-for-4 with a run scored. Marquisha Davis was

3-for-4 with an RBI while Elle Killen and Lacey Bishop were each 2-for-3 with a run scored an an RBI. Tiara Campbell singled and scored while Alanee Wheeler singled and walked twice. Landry Hanna also walked twice for Union.

Wheeler pitched all seven innings for Union and gave up one run on four hits and four walks while striking out seven to pick up the win.

Union 6, Eupora 0

The Lady Yellowjackets got a shutout performance from Alanee Wheeler to sweep a two-game series from the Lady

Eagles on Thursday.

Union scored one in the first and fifth before scoring four runs in the sixth to take the win.

Union had just four hits but drew four walks and had two hit batters. Elle Killen was 2-for-3 with three RBIs while Lauryn Roebuck had a solo home run. Lacey Bishop also doubled and scored while Abigail Cleveland scored two runs.

Alanee Wheeler started in the circle and pitched all seven innings and gave up just two hits while striking out 14 to take the win.

Lady Rockets continue to dominate

By **STAFF REPORTS**
sports@neshobademocrat.com

The Neshoba Central Lady Rockets softball team picked up a handful of wins last week before falling to West Lauderdale on Monday.

Last Monday, the Lady Rockets blanked the Choctaw Central Warriors 10-0. They followed up that win with a 20-11 thrashing of Warren Central on Wednesday, and an 8-1 victory over Lake on Thursday. On Monday, the Lady Rockets fell to West Lauderdale 6-

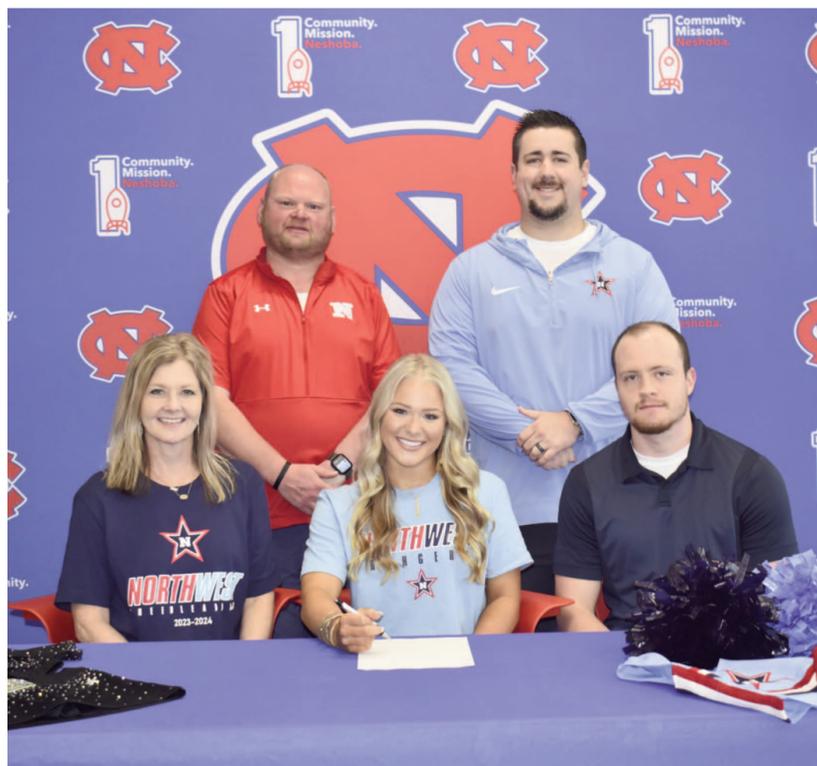
2. Neshoba Central has won 9 state championships in 11 seasons and had won 7 in a row before losing on Monday.

They are set to play at Columbus at 6 p.m. on Thursday, and at Union at 4 p.m. on Friday.

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Flint wigs with Northwest Community College

Neshoba Central's Jenna Flint signed with Northwest Community College to further her education where she will be a member of the Ranger's cheer squad. Jenna will be a 2024 graduate of Neshoba Central High School. Jenna is the daughter of Melissa Upton. Pictured are seated, from left, her mom Melissa Upton, Jenna, and her brother Will McElhenney (Back) Assistant Principal Brent Pouncey and Northwest's Coach Brandon Casey.