



THE WEEKLY

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ABC Woes

Lawmakers addressing getting state out of liquor business

By STEVE WILSON
Sun Staff Writer

MISSISSIPPI COULD soon be out of the wine and spirits distribution business.

After months of hearings, lawmakers could've reached a consensus that the state needs to get out of the business and let private industry handle the wholesale distribution of wine and spirits as it does for beer.

After a buying alcohol spree during the COVID-19 lockdown filled state coffers, but put the warehouse months behind in satisfying orders, the political will might be there to switch the state to a free market distribution model.

The other options — such as spending

bond money on the existing liquor warehouse and outsourcing the warehouse's operation to an outside vendor — have downsides that argue against them being adopted.

House Bill 997, authored state Rep. Trey Lamar, R-Senatobia, would get the state out of the liquor and wine distribution business by 2022. The bill also would lower the tax assessed on wine and spirits from 27.5 percent to 18 percent.

This tax would be assessed differently, as the tax is simply a markup on each bottle sold from the warehouse. Instead, the tax would be assessed on wholesalers on their gross proceeds from the whole-

sale sale.

"Any time you put a government in charge of a private business sector, you're going to inject politics into an area where it really doesn't belong," Lamar said. "I think it's (privatization) a much better option than what we have now. When we've got an extra \$10 million or whatever, that money is going to go to the core functions of government, infrastructure, roads, bridges or education or something along those lines.

"We can throw \$30 million or \$40 million at the warehouse now, but I don't think the taxpayers will really get their money's worth, especially when we'll be

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Downtown Jackson enjoying residential renaissance

By NELL LUTER FLOYD
Sun Staff Writer

ONCE HOME TO A POST office, U.S. District Court and federal offices, the Courthouse at The Walthall Lofts is the latest building in downtown Jackson to be converted into residential space.

The rehab of the Art Deco-style building, constructed with terrazzo floors, marble walls and wood paneling, into one-bedroom and studio units fits with the nationwide trend of millennials, individuals ages 25-40, embracing downtown living, said John Gomez, president of Downtown Jackson Partners.

"One-bedroom apartments and studios that have cool common spaces are what we see millennials across the country looking for," he said.

Pre-leasing is under way for the 101 units at the Courthouse at The Walthall Lofts, located at 245 E. Capitol St. Monthly rent ranges from \$900 for a 243-square-foot studio to \$3,500 for a 1,103-square-foot loft.

Amenities include hardwood floors in the living area, stainless steel appliances, a washer and dryer in the unit, controlled access security and a manager on site.

"A number of units have integrated existing components of either the courthouse or law library," said Scott Sledge, vice president of Certified Hospitality Management, which manages both the Courthouse at The Walthall Lofts and its sister property, the Walthall Lofts.

Gun safes left from the days when they served federal marshals can still be found in the building and so can vintage post office boxes.

Residents of the Courthouse at The Walthall Lofts will have access to the swimming pool, business center and billiards room at the Walthall Lofts via a sky bridge to the pool deck, and residents of the Walthall Lofts will have use of the fitness center at the Courthouse at The Walthall Lofts.

"We have high expectations that based on the historical nature of the building, the fantastic views of Capitol Street and the skyline of Jackson, the Courthouse at The Walthall Lofts will be attractive to prospective tenants," he said.

SLEDGE SAID THE Walthall Lofts are 60 percent leased by tenants of all ages, and he expects the tenant mix at the Courthouse at The Walthall Lofts to be just as varied.

A food hall with six to eight vendors is planned for the first floor of the Courthouse at The Walthall Lofts in the space once occupied

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IGNITE THE NIGHT



Museum partners planning virtual fundraisers

Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) Partners will celebrate the Mississippi Children's Museum through a virtual fundraiser, Ignite the Night: Celebrating the Years! on February 20.

Building on a night of imaginative entertainment and themed around celebrating Ignite the Night, a specially crafted "Party in a Box" will provide participants everything needed to throw the ultimate Ignite the Night celebration. Highlighting years past, and featuring favors, party games, and a curated playlist and more, the party box will be a journey through the years.

Proceeds from the event provide critical funding for the museum's operations, including meeting ongoing exhibit and program needs. To purchase tickets, visit one.bidpal.net/ignitethenight. Planning the event are (from left) Dana Wilson, promotions; Lindsey Armstrong, celebration box; Kim Ferguson, hosts; Amberly Collins, chair; Jill Cheney, silent Auction; India Torrey, co-chair; Kelly Meeks, corporate Sponsors; Molly Parks, silent auction. Not pictured: Alicen Blanchard, advisor.

GENEREROUS HEARTS

NORTHSIDERS DONATE \$1.5 MILLION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO CHILDREN'S OF MISSISSIPPI CANCER CENTER

By ANNIE OETH
Special to the Sun

A MORE ACCOMMODATING SPACE for patients and their families will be coming to the Children's of Mississippi Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders along with additional exam rooms and pharmacy upgrades.

"This much-needed renovation will add space needed for the care of the state's pediatric cancer patients and will make the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders a more comfortable place for our families," said Dr. Anderson Collier, director of the center and chief of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The \$2.5 million project will be fueled by a fund started with a \$1.5 million donation from Jim and Pat Coggin of Jackson.

"We were looking for a way to give to our community," Jim Coggin said, "and when we were presented with this opportunity, it just felt like the right thing to do."

Collier said the gift will help children coping with cancer

or blood disorders such as sickle cell disease now and for years to come.

"We are grateful for the support of the Coggin family," Collier said. "Their gift and the fund it started will improve the care and the experience of our patients and their families at a time when they need it most."

Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of Pediatrics, said the updates to the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders will improve the patient experience for thousands of children and will closely mirror the improvements offered at the newly opened Sanderson Tower at Children's of Mississippi.

"The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders is the state's only center for the treatment of pediatric cancer and blood disorders in Mississippi, so we have children from throughout the state who come here for treatment and follow-up care," she said. "This gift will make a huge difference for children and families."

The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders includes one of the largest pediatric clinics for sickle cell disease in the

country as well as care for other disorders including iron deficiency anemia, and disorders involving platelets, clotting or bleeding.

Children's of Mississippi is the Medical Center's pediatric arm that includes Mississippi's only children's hospital as well as specialty clinics throughout the state.

THE PLAN INCLUDES EXPANSION of the infusion room where children receive chemotherapy and blood transfusions to allow for social distancing and to make space for semi-private areas. Currently, eight patients at a time can receive treatment there, while social distancing. The room offers no privacy for families.

Additional clinic rooms would allow for additional hematologists and oncologists to see patients and for multidisciplinary clinics.

Also in the plans are pharmacy upgrades, allowing for an on-site pharmacist, additional clinical trials, and an administrative space for faculty and staff. This will enhance collaboration

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LIQUOR SALES

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in the same situation in a matter of years and we'll be right back where we are now."

MISSISSIPPI IS ONE OF 17 states that are known as control states, where government acts as the wholesale distributor for at least one of the three tiers of alcoholic beverages — wine, spirits and beer and possibly acts as the retailer (like in the case of Alabama) as well.

The last state to switch from a control state to a license state was Washington. The Mississippi Department of Revenue (DOR), through ABC, licenses retailers, collects taxes at both the wholesale and retail levels and manages a warehouse located in Gluckstadt that contracts with a trucking firm to ship product to retailers statewide.

The bill passed the House of Representatives by a 104-3 margin on February 3 and is now in the hands of the Senate, which has a bill of its own.

State Sen. Josh Harkins, R-Flowood, has authored Senate Bill 2806 that would bring forward code sections related to the Alcoholic Beverage Control division and possibly give them the ability to contract for services.

According to legislative rules, legislation can't be drafted without all of the relevant code sections and bringing forward a placeholder bill gives lawmakers the ability to craft legislation later in the process.

Lamar says the problem with using a concessionaire to run the warehouse as Ohio and New Hampshire do is the state's contracting law, which allows only four-year pacts with vendors.

He says switching from one sole-source vendor to another would create a lot of dis-

ruption already experienced by liquor stores and other retail outlets due to COVID-19.

"What kind of disruption is that going to cause?" Lamar said. "Is a company going to be willing to invest the money needed in a situation for only a four-year contract?"

DISRUPTION WAS exactly what happened with COVID-19. In March, sales as measured by liquor tax collections were only slightly increased compared to the year prior. Then in April, collections were up 21.5 percent from the same time the year before, plateauing in May with a 12 percent increase before a massive 32.6 percent increase in July.

The warehouse couldn't handle the increased volume and the DOR decided to end order-taking for a two-week period to allow it to catch up with demand in July before walking the policy back under public outcry.

Also COVID-19 related, both houses of the Legislature that have bills that would allow firms to make home deliveries of alcohol from licensed retailers such as package stores. HB 1135, authored by state Rep. Lamar, has already passed the House, while SB 2804 by state Sen. Harkins has passed out of the Finance Committee he chairs. Both bills are similar and would levy a tax of \$500 annually for each delivery service permittee.

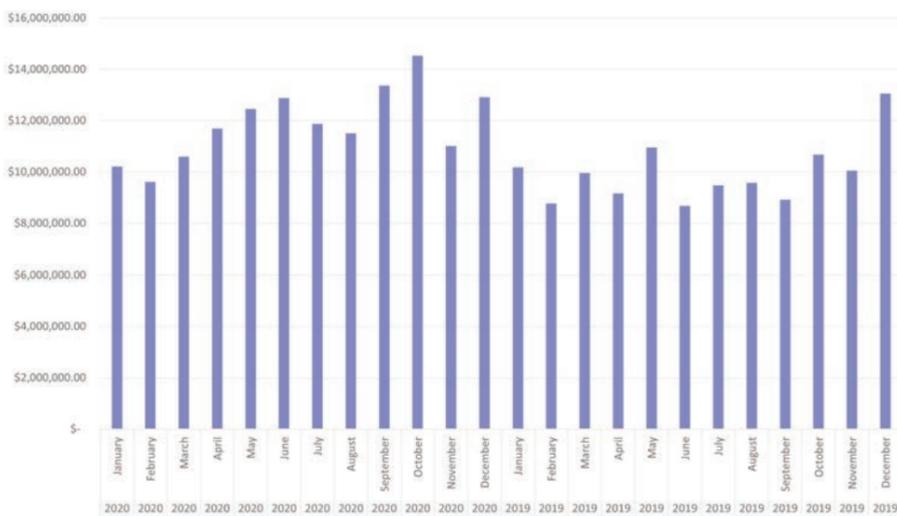
For the fiscal year that ended June 30, the DOR transferred \$88.62 million in ABC collections to the general fund. That represents an increase of 9 percent compared with fiscal 2019, when \$81.3 million was transferred to the general fund.

For the upcoming fiscal year (2022), the DOR is requesting \$535,000 to fund opera-

tions at the warehouse.

The Legislature voted to spend \$4 million in 2019 in warehouse improvements, but the bonds were never authorized. In 2013 and

2014, \$1 million was appropriated for repairs and renovation at the warehouse. The last expansion was 2003, when a climate-controlled wine room was added.



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from the publisher



By
WYATT
EMMERICH

Debtors' prisons alive and well in Mississippi

THERE IS INCREASING political movement toward introducing less punishment and more rehabilitation into the Mississippi criminal justice system.

In Deuteronomy 25:2 God says: "If the guilty person deserves to be beaten, the judge shall make them lie down and have him flogged in his presence with the number of lashes the crime deserves, but the judge must not impose more than 40 lashes. If the guilty party is flogged more than that, your fellow Israelite will be degraded in your eyes."

We've come a long way from flogging, thank goodness, but there are two key concepts here: 1) The punishment must be proportionate to the crime, and 2) The punishment must not be excessive or degrading.

Back in the days of Moses, there was a reason for not making criminal punishment degrading: The Israelites had much work to do in populating and developing their nation in the promised land. God needed all hands on deck to make way for the Savior's coming. Lesser crimes should be punished, but not to the extent that Israelites were degraded, alienated and outcast from the tribe. That was counterproductive to God's plan.

As my grandfather editor Oliver Emmerich said many times, "Mississippi's too poor and underdeveloped to leave anyone behind. Everyone should be treated with respect and dignity."

There is a growing sense that we have created a permanent criminal underclass that is degraded, alienated and outcast from our society and economy. This is hurting our economy, undermining development and being disobedient to God.

As if that's not enough, we only have to look at neighboring Alabama where the federal government is forcing Alabama to spend hundreds of millions of dollars upgrading their prisons and criminal justice system. If we don't do it voluntarily, the feds will force us to.

No doubt there are evil people who need to be behind bars. These are calculating, competent sociopaths who know what they are doing is wrong, but don't care because it suits their selfish needs.

But a huge number of people enmeshed in our criminal justice system are not evil. They are simply organizationally challenged or mentally ill. Criminalizing these people makes no sense.

Here's what I mean: Take a person who struggles just to get through the day because they were born with fewer gifts than many of us. They may have ADHD. They may be battling poverty. They may live in a dysfunctional family situation. The list is endless.

Then they get a parking ticket in the mail. They intend to pay it but forget. Then they get another fine for not paying. Eventually they get a court summons. But they have no transportation to the court or get scared and intimidated by the process. Now a warrant goes out for their arrest. A year goes by, they are pulled over for speeding and hauled off to jail. They have no money for bail. They then become stuck in the criminal justice system with no way out.

Remember, these are people and families barely hanging on. Now a bread earner is in jail. The family has no income. Disaster strikes. More stress. More dysfunction. The repercussions magnify leading to more crime, more dysfunction, more imprisonment. And it all started with an unpaid parking ticket.

As a reporter, I have spent hours upon hours in courtrooms listening to judges deal with cases like these. It is real. Indeed, the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) admits that about a third of its prisoners suffer from some form of mental illness.

Many readers may be parents. As parents, you know that children vary widely in their social and coping skills. For some, it's a piece of cake. Others struggle just to pay attention in class and do their assignments. That's life. We're not all the same. As loving parents, we do the best we can to encourage our less gifted children, show patience and help them learn and find a way. That's the hallmark of a good parent.

That should also be the hallmark of a good society, the one God envisioned for his chosen people, a society that punishes justly but does not degrade or humiliate. This is what we need to work on in Mississippi.

A good start would be to end the noxious practice of fining poor people huge amounts to fund local governments. Over the last 20 years, state Republican leaders have cut taxes, which is politically popular. Unfortunately, cities and counties still need money to run their governments, so they just increased the fines for just about everything. Who pays these fines? Not the people who have their acts together. These people know how to be punctual and precise and avoid that trap.

THE PEOPLE WHO end up getting fined to death are the less organized and incompetent. They fall into the trap and eventually become like the indentured servants of yesterday. Their eventual jailing is the modern day equivalent of debtors' prison.

Here's a perfect example. A temporary house arrest would be a much better way of dealing with punishment in many cases, allowing the accused to continue working and be productive. But guess what? The accused must foot the \$350 a month bill for the ankle bracelet. Very few Mississippians have access to that much extra cash.

We don't make criminals pay for their room and board in jail. Why should we force poor people to pay for their own house arrest? It just puts them further into the hole,

leading to their arrest, more incarceration and even more cost to the taxpayers as these people eventually become permanent wards of the state.

I have witnessed dozens of poor people getting fined tens of thousands of dollars in court by judges when it was clearly evident they could not possibly pay those fines. A 10 minute appearance in court usually comes with a \$1,500 bill. It's nuts.

A recent study by the Hope Institute put a number on it. In 2019, Mississippians owed \$507 million in criminal justice system debt caused by court fines. That's double from a decade earlier.

You could call this kicking a person when they are down. It's degrading.

Locking people up and throwing away the key is the easy way out. But it's not what God calls us to do. MDOC needs to live up to the "corrections" part of its name.

Change is coming. The new head of MDOC Burl Cain preaches rehabilitation and spiritual rejuvenation. Northside state representative Shanda Yates lists reform of our prison system as one of her top priorities. Americans for Prosperity, one of the most powerful right wing political action groups, is pushing state Republicans hard to reduce Mississippi's incarceration rate, one of the highest in the world.

Republican Rep. Jansen Owen of Poplarville has introduced new legislation allowing easier expungement of non-violent crimes. Computerization of our society has made it almost impossible to get a fresh start. Minor crimes follow people forever, marring them for life and making it hard to get a job.

Decriminalization of drugs is a step in the right direction. We need to look at drug abuse as an illness, not a crime. Same with mental illness. And same with ADHD.

Wouldn't it be great if we were all successful, easy-going, high-functioning individuals who glide through all the economic, personal and social obstacles thrown in our paths. Wouldn't it be great to be free from sin.

But we're not. In fact, most of us are not. So let's start approaching criminal justice the way God told us to: Reasonable, not degrading, punishment with rehabilitation and reintegration as the fundamental goal.

editorials

Procurement reform

The state of Mississippi contracts billions of dollars to private companies for goods and services. Over the last two decades, bidding practices have continued to loosen to the detriment of taxpayers. Sealed bids have been replaced by "Requests for Proposals" (RFP), which give too much discretion to government officials. Every year, special interest groups weaken our state's bidding laws, allowing special deals and favoritism.

In recent years, led by state Sen. John Polk and Rep. Jerry Turner, some progress has been made. Now we have some centralization of regulation with the Procurement Review Board (PRB). Unfortunately, one of the most popular meetings in the state is the PRB's monthly meetings, where businesses and governmental agencies line up for exemptions from our procurement laws. The Northside Sun published a recent article by Steve Wilson detailing more than 209 exemptions worth \$156 million over the last two years. Rankin County alone requested 15 exemptions worth \$25.4 million. Computer company Apple was one of the biggest beneficiaries of the exemptions with \$42.5 million in estimated value.

It's bad enough that our state's procurement laws have as many holes in them as good Swiss cheese. Adding millions of exemptions on top of that creates huge inefficiencies that lower our standard of living. Taxpayers should demand better.

The granddaddy of all our weak procurement laws still remains our "lowest and best" standard. The "best" part makes our bidding statutes weak, vague and subjective. Progressive states have long since replaced that language with "lowest responsive bidder." With these standards, governmental entities are required to clearly specify what they want and then go with the lowest bidder that meets those specifications. That's the standard our state needs to adopt.

In addition, our bidding laws lack a basic statement that all governmental entities are required as fiduciaries to ensure taxpayers get the best quality at the lowest price. Even a general statement such as this would put a legal dampener on many of the bidding shenanigans running rampant at all levels of government.

EITC versus minimum wage

It looks like our new Democrat Congress and President is dead set on doubling the minimum wage to \$15. This is by far the largest increase in the minimum wage in American history. Such huge sudden changes can pro-

duce detrimental unintended consequences. We recommend that Congress slow down and raise the rate gradually over a period of years.

There is a fundamental paradox to the concept of raising the minimum wage. If doubling the minimum wage to \$15 an hour is good policy, then why stop there? Why not \$50 an hour? Or \$100 an hour. Then we will eliminate poverty.

The reason we don't raise the minimum wage to \$100 is because it wouldn't work. It would cause massive unemployment. You can't just pass a law and make people richer. The only thing that makes a person richer is to have valuable skills that make their labor worth more money in a free economy. Passing a law will never change that.

There is no doubt that if you raise the price of something, people buy less of it. If you raise the minimum wage, employers will hire fewer minimum wage employees. They will turn to automation instead and people will lose jobs. Perhaps that is the hidden goal of those who support it.

If your goal is to reduce income disparity and raise those on the lower end, there are better ways. For starters, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC has been around for 45 years. Lower income workers get money from the government instead of paying taxes to the government. It's computed on a progressive scale which minimizes disruption to labor markets. Increasing EITC tax credits could have the exact same effect as raising the minimum wage, without creating unemployment and putting a huge burden on businesses. In addition, lower income workers would still be eligible for other subsidies such as rent and food because they would not be making more money. If you double the minimum wage, many workers will no longer be eligible for many of these income subsidies.

Protect the bears

As columnist Charles M. Dunagin points out this week, one of the bum ideas to be floated in the current session of the Mississippi Legislature would allow black bears to be shot on sight.

As history has shown, bears have a lot more to worry about us than we have to worry about them.

Thanks to unregulated hunting of the bears and destruction of their habitat, the black bear was almost extinct in this state a century ago. According to wildlife officials, by the early 1930s, there were less than a dozen bears in all of Mississippi. After decades of protection and a concerted effort to revive the species, the current bear population is estimated to be still only between 200 and 250 — or roughly one per every 12,000 residents.

The state is hardly overrun with bears.

This proposal, Senate Bill 2484, belongs in the trash bin.

publisher emeritus



By CHARLIE DUNAGIN

Park system needs revitalization

AS USUAL, the Mississippi Legislature has significant issues it should address this year along with proposed legislation that could best be thrown in the waste basket.

The state badly needs to expand Medicaid to cover more of its working poor citizens, but that seems unlikely to occur. Gov. Tate Reeves and the majority of the Republican-dominated Legislature apparently have no appetite for it. Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann, to his credit, has expressed interest in some

form of expansion, but apparently is not pushing it this session.

The lack of support by state leadership, who claim to be for jobs and economic development, is difficult to comprehend given the fact that it would pump about a billion dollars of federal money into the state, help shore up struggling hospitals and afford better health care to the working poor.

Another issue that needs addressing is the state park system which is in bad need of revitalization.

No wonder the state parks — which should be a major tourist attraction as well as offering recreation to local people — are run down.

Parks funding over the past two decades has been slashed nearly 60 percent, Jennifer Head, budget administrator for Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, is quoted in the Tupelo newspaper. A legislative budget proposal for the coming year recommends trimming another \$900,000 from MDWFP.

About 600 structures across the state park system need repairs or replacement, and the system's staffing numbers have plummeted in recent years. Head said repairs are needed all over, from sewer and water systems to campsites and cabins.

Members of the Legislature are taking notice of the problem, although it's uncertain whether they'll come up with a solu-

tion.

State Sen. Neil Whaley, R-Potts Camp, has introduced a bill to change how many of the state's 25 parks operate and who oversees them.

His proposal would privatize some of the parks and put some others under local control.

THAT PLAN seems fraught with the possibility of a bad outcome. Privatization has a spotty history in Mississippi with prisons and welfare, and it's questionable whether privatizing parks would fare much better except perhaps for certain segments of the population, including those who get the privatization contracts.

It would be more prudent to quit slashing the park system budget and restore what was cut.

The above are just two of the major issues that bear watching in the Legislature this year.

Then there are solutions looking for problems.

Two of those involve bear attacks and flag burning.

Sen. Albert Butler, D-Port Gibson, has authored a bill giving landowners the legal right to shoot bears on their property which probably would open season on the animals.

There are a limited number of bears in Mississippi, and it is illegal to kill them

except in self-defense.

Critics of the bill point out that, if passed, it would undermine 90 years of work to re-establish a bear population in the state after it was nearly extinguished by hunting.

There are no recorded bear attacks on humans in Mississippi, although a deer hunter, Stephanie McGarrh, found herself in a tree with a bear last fall. She's opposed to the bill which Butler says he introduced after some friends in Copiah County said they were fearful of being attacked.

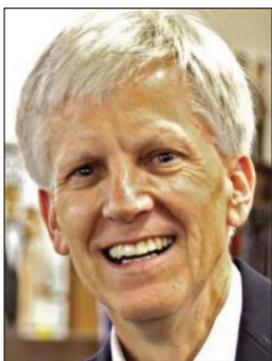
Then there's the bill introduced by Sen. Kathy Chism, R-New Albany, that would ban burning of the U.S. flag other than for the disposal of a worn or soiled flag.

Mississippi already has a statute that bars the mutilation, defacement or defilement of the U.S. flag, the Mississippi state flag and the confederate flag, but it, like Chism's new proposal, would be unlikely to stand up in federal court if challenged. Courts repeatedly have struck down such laws on the grounds that defacing a flag is political speech protected by the First Amendment.

Maybe there were some flag mutilations in Mississippi over the past several months, but we don't recall any publicity about them. Nor have there been any assaults by bears on people in Copiah County.

Charlie Dunagin is editor and publisher emeritus of the McComb Enterprise-Journal. He lives in Oxford.

delta scene



By TIM KALICH

Pair early voting with cleaner roles

IN MISSISSIPPI and a lot of other places, there's a belief that anything that makes it easier for people to vote is good for Democrats, and anything that asks voters to do something extra is good for Republicans.

It was this belief that created such rancor in the previous decade over requiring

voter ID at the polls. The change was both oversold by Republicans as a curative to voter fraud and over demonized by Democrats as a deterrent to participation by minorities and the poor. Voter ID turned out to be no big deal.

This year, there are two main pushes going on in the Mississippi Legislature related to voting: one would make it easier for voters to cast their ballots early; another would make it easier to remove from the rolls voters who have died or moved away.

Regrettably, there is no bipartisan consensus on either proposal.

Republicans, who used to think more early voting — at least the in-person variety — was a good thing, have turned against the idea because of how Donald Trump and his hard-core supporters have falsely equated early voting with election fraud. It should be more aptly equated with election turnout.

It was widely demonstrated in 2020 that more people will vote if given more opportunities to do so. The total votes cast not only for Joe Biden but also for Trump, the defeated incumbent, broke previous records for presidential elections. Some of that was due to Trump's polarizing nature, which drove up the turnout from those

who worshipped him and also from those who despised him. Also playing a role, however, were the steps that the states took, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, to reduce the health risks of casting a ballot by expanding early voting, both by mail and in person. The idea of trying to force most people to vote on one day during a 12-hour time period is a quaint tradition but an antiquated one in a society that is driven to seek greater convenience.

IT MUST BE acknowledged, though, that the expansion of early voting, especially with mail-in ballots, creates a higher potential for fraud unless there is a mechanism in place to reliably verify a voter's signature, as exists in only some states. Although there is no evidence of result-tilting fraud in the 2020 contest, there is always an increased potential for it when voter rolls are bloated with the names of people who have died or moved away. In Mississippi, bloated voter rolls have been a chronic problem. Last year, the Secretary of State's Office reported that seven counties, including Leflore, had more registered voters than residents of voting age. That's only possible when voting rolls have not been religiously updated.

A bill in the Senate would try to address the problem by requiring Mississippi's county election registrars to mail an address verification form to any voter who has not cast a ballot in two years. If the voter receiving the notice didn't respond or vote within four years, then the voter's name could be removed from the rolls. Democrats and their supporters on the left are screaming, as they did with voter ID, that this is another effort to suppress voter turnout.

Indeed, two years of non-voting is too quick to trigger a confirmation notice. Four years or possibly eight make more sense in identifying those whose presence in the county where they are registered needs to be confirmed.

We'd like to see a bipartisan agreement to pair the ideas: expand early voting, including through mail, but at the same time take steps to get the voting rolls as clean as reasonably possible.

Together, these two paths would encourage voter participation in elections without jeopardizing trust in the results.

Contact Tim Kalich, editor and publisher of the Greenwood Commonwealth, at 662-581-7243 or tkalich@gwcommonwealth.com.

porch swing



By ANDREW OLDHAM

Help children understand God's love

GOD PRESENTS many opportunities to teach our grandchildren. If we watch and listen, He will let us know when to share.

Last week my daughter came down with COVID-19. We took all precautions and

quarantined her upstairs. After things were settled I searched and found my granddaughter in her tent crying. "Do you want to talk about it?" I said. Tears rushed down her face, "No, Papa."

"Come sit with me and let's talk," I said. She climbed out of her tent and crawled into my lap. Without saying a word she looked up at me and asked, "Is Mommy going to die?"

We have all been frightened by the coronavirus. It is hard for small children to understand it all. They only know that there is fear in the air and that people are dying. They don't know what to do with their feelings. Even when we try to settle their little minds, uncertainty lingers. What are we grandfathers to do when one of our grandchildren ask us about this virus?

Remember these are God's precious children and He has given them to us to teach them about His love. Take this occasion to hold them in your arms and share from your heart, and from scripture.

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalm 139:13-14

In your own words use this scripture to remind them how special they are. That God formed them especially for Mom and Dad. I tell grown children, and now my grandchildren, that I thank God they are mine. I am thankful God gave them to me to love. Do you know what an honor it is to love you? You were given to Mom and Dad so that I could share in their special joy.

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

Psalm 91:15

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Philippians 4:6

Present God as only you can, in a loving way. When we call on God, He will answer us. God tells us not to be anxious but when we are, we should pray (Philippians 4:6). And that when we pray, and believe, he will give to us what we request (John 14:13). The reason He will

answer our prayers is because He loves. He wants what is best for us so that our joy may be full. When our joy is full God is glorified (John 16: 24).

God wants us to share our fears with Him. Once you have shared about prayer, ask your grand if they would like to pray. They may say, "No". Ask if it's okay if you pray. Then pray a child like prayer from your heart. When we do this, we are teaching them why and how to pray.

This is the confidence, which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1 John 5:14

Once we have prayed, teach them to trust God. He told us that when we pray he will answer our prayer. Did you know that we can trust God to answer our prayer?

Trust and believe and claim these promises. Be thankful. Thank him in advance for his promise kept and don't forget to thank Him again when the answer comes. Wait on the Lord and thank Him when he answers

Andrew Oldham live in Madison. His email is andrewoldham1@gmail.com.

northside insights



By
KELLEY
WILLIAMS JR.

HOF voter, thy name is coward

THE BASEBALL HALL of Fame announced its 2021 inductees (or lack thereof) this past Tuesday, and for the first time since 1960 no one was elected by the writers or the veterans committee. That's 60 years! And implies that the candidates were either weak or borderline. Most of the scuttlebutt centered around pitcher Curt Schilling, who got more votes than any other candidate but still not the requisite 75% for enshrinement in Cooperstown.

I remembered of course that Schilling was part of the most dramatic comeback in baseball history, leading the Red Sox over the Yankees in 2004 after falling behind

three games to none, becoming the only team in MLB to accomplish that feat. The Red Sox went on to "reverse the curse," winning the World Series for the first time since 1918 (before they traded that Ruth fellow to the Yankees). I also recalled that Schilling won two other World Series, one with the Phillies and one with the Diamondbacks. But I didn't know how his individual stats compared to other hall of famers. Curiosity piqued, I decided to look it up.

The first stat I checked was strike outs, a measure of pitching dominance. It turns out Schilling is in the elite 3K Club, as one of only 18 pitchers in baseball history with 3,000 or more strike outs. With the exception of Roger Clemens, who, like Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire is tainted by his steroid usage, every other pitcher on that list is in the Hall of Fame. Now even more curious, I expanded my list to the top 20 strike out leaders in baseball history who are eligible for the Hall of Fame. (Active players are ineligible, so I excluded CC Sabathia and Justin Verlander from the list.)

Schilling checks in at #15 on that list, and besides the aforementioned Clemens, every player on that list except Mickey Lolich is in the Hall. Well, I thought, perhaps Schilling was wild on the mound, issuing lots of free passes to go along with all the Ks. So, I looked at the strike out to walk ratio. Lo and behold, among the top 20 strike out leaders of all time, Schilling ranks #1 in K/BB ratio. Schilling's ratio of 4.38 strike outs per every 1 walk is far and away the best. The only other pitcher north of 4 is Pedro Martinez at 4.15. And Schilling's K/BB ratio is more than twice

as good as strike out king Nolan Ryan's 2.04.

In fact, Schilling is one of only four pitchers in baseball history with greater than 3,000 strike outs and fewer than 1,000 walks. The others are Greg Maddox, Ferguson Jenkins, and Pedro Martinez, all in the HOF. By the way, #20 on the Hall eligible strike out leader list is a guy you may have heard of, fella by the name of Cy Young. Young has 313 fewer strike outs than Schilling and his K/BB ratio is a full two points worse than Schilling's. (And for good measure, Schilling's WHIP – walks and hits per inning pitched – is the seventh best on this list, ahead of Ryan, Randy Johnson, and Bob Gibson to name a few.)

BASED ON THE NUMBERS, Schilling should be a lock for the Hall. Perhaps, though, he was a bad teammate, a prima donna, a cancer in the locker room. But my recollection of Schilling was as a warrior who would go to battle for his teammates. He certainly did that in 2004, playing through a ruptured membrane around his right ankle tendon that doctors had to suture into place to enable him to pitch. Schilling went on to win Game Six of the ALCS, blood oozing through his sock, and Game Two of the World Series.

What I didn't know was that in 2001, when Schilling was co-MVP of the World Series while with the Diamondbacks, he also was the recipient of both the Roberto Clemente Award and the Branch Rickey Award. The former is given annually to the player who "best represents the game of baseball through extraordinary character, community involvement, philanthropy and positive contributions, both on and off the

field." The latter was given annually to an individual in Major League Baseball in recognition of "exceptional community service." In Schilling's case, he received the award for his fundraising and outreach efforts on behalf of ALS victims. The guy doesn't exactly sound like a cancer to me.

So what gives? Did Schilling cheat by throwing illegal pitches? No, that was Perry, Gaylord, MLB HOF, class of 1981. Did he batter and ultimately murder his wife? No, that was Simpson, O.J., NFL HOF, class of 1985. Did he shill for a ruthless dictator? No, that was Rodman, Dennis, NBA HOF, class of 2011.

Schilling's crime was apparently much worse. He, he, I can barely bring myself to say it, he expressed his opinion. Gasp! After his thought days were over. In a manner the thought police don't approve of. Oh, the horror!

Whether one agrees or disagrees with anything Schilling has said is completely beside the point. The more important point is the message that what one says is more important than what one does. The Baseball Writers Association of America has apparently bought into this nonsense. In fairness to the BBWAA, roughly 70% of those voting did cast a ballot for Schilling. But those who didn't need to take a long hard look at the stats and then a long hard look in the mirror and decide if they can think for themselves or will just let the mob think for them.

And those of us who don't vote for Halls of Fame need to consider what it would be like if something we say one day negates everything good we've done in the past.

Kelley Williams, Jr. is a Northsider.

guest commentary



By
HEDDY-DALE
MATTHIAS

Lawsuits may be only answer

I'M DEPRESSED. Who isn't with COVID-19?

My training in medicine is as an internist, critical care physician, and anesthesiologist. I'm pleased that all this training has allowed me to see hospital medicine from many different viewpoints.

I fully admit I'm an old curmudgeon.

My training was incredible at Tufts Medical School, Albany Medical Center, Tufts University Medical Center, and Pittsburgh Medical Center (then Presbyterian-Pittsburgh Medical Center.)

I am a member of the "old style" physician who spent hours, days, and weeks at the bedside of a patient, trying to save a life against all odds. I am well aware that this is not the current training model.

I understand that current physicians in medical school, training, and practice are not "allowed" this time and pleasure as EHRs, hospital administrators, school and training overseers are bearing down on them to cover a ridiculous number of patients, and, more importantly, to bill for these services.

As I was always self-employed in Jackson, those physicians who are not will tell me I just don't understand the exigencies of their practice "models." They will point out to me how much their overhead in their offices costs them, and that "physician extenders" have become an important part of their practice for economic reasons. I "hear your pain," and I am well-aware of these costs, believe me.

I am fully aware that Medicare and Medicaid payments, private insurance pay-

ments, etc. have all decreased drastically over the last few decades. This has led to consolidation of medical practices, especially those run and employed by hospitals. These physicians' practices are now run by financial administrators, whose "bottom lines" are concerned with profits and not patient satisfaction, outcomes, or good medical care. I truly understand. I do.

This new model for medical practice has led to the following: 1. "Physician extenders (NPs, PAs), a euphemism for someone with less training than a physician. 2. Hospitalist medicine. 3. In hospital medical care by a "committee" of consultants.

Is this model more "efficient?" It is for internists and GPs who don't have to take time out from their clinics to see sick patients in the hospital. Is it "improved medical care?" I believe not. I was fairly skilled, but there was no way I could have taken care of over 60 sick patients in the hospital, even with my advanced training. That is what is required of hospital-employed "hospitalists" currently. It's absolutely ridiculous. Not only can these physicians not take care of this many patients, but worse, they don't know the patient or family, or have any vested interest in their care or outcome, unless the administration calls them on it for some reason.

Regarding the care of critically ill patients, COVID-19 has added additional stress, for certain. I am well aware of this. However, my personal experience during this time has been that in the ICU, the patient has 12 consultants, but no real doctor. No one physician assumes personal responsibility for the patient. "I'm just a consultant." I have a personal story of a young man who died of a non-COVID-19 related disease that could have possibly been cured if one of his 12 consultants had actually cared about making a proper diagnosis. No one took primary responsibility and he died with the proper diagnosis two days prior to expiration when surgical intervention was not feasible.

This is not the fashion I practiced in the "old days" as a critical care physician. Those patients were "mine." I was responsible. Not twelve consultants. Just me.

I've discussed this recently with a number of great physicians all over the country regarding problems and solutions. Included in the problems are these: EMRs, limited hours of resident physicians, physician employment by hospitals and other major healthcare providers, mentorship during training, insurance reimbursement, medical malpractice, etc.

WHAT ARE THE possible solutions?

The federal government should completely retool the EMR, which is an unproven medical device. No studies have every demonstrated that it improves patient care, and, in fact, diminishes it by the time spent away from patients, the pressure to "up-code" every diagnosis for greater reimbursement, and for the endless and mind-numbing "cutting and pasting" of irrelevant data. Improved EHRs will be interactive and devised for many different types of practices. A new type of EHR must be portable and all must be designed to be accessible from one practitioner to another. Get Apple to design one that works as well as an iPhone!

We, as physicians, must declare that patient safety and improved outcomes are top priorities. This could be improved with taking care of fewer patients, having higher reimbursement, using outcome/evidence-based medical paradigms, assuring that morbidity and mortality analyses occur and are taken seriously, with requirements for further education, and censure practitioners, if necessary, including probationary periods and revocation of privileges. In addition, physicians need to be better mentors to new physicians, demonstrating that patients are more important than profits. A young college student who is shadowing physicians told her father that the first thing the physician told her is how to see more patients, and how to run an office to make money.

If the above solutions are not implemented or successful in improving patient care, per-

haps it's necessary that more lawsuits against hospitals, physicians, and their insurance companies will need to be used in order to implement change. It's not my favored solution, but if "the bottom line" of money and profits continue to be the motivation of our broken medical system, then targeting profits might be an unwanted but effective solution to changing practice models if physicians and hospitals don't take responsibility. I see little evidence that hospital administrations, medical associations, and medical boards are truly interested in improving patient care if it interferes with profits.

I know physicians feel overworked. In many cases that is true. However, how many physicians would be willing to accept a lower income in order to better care for patients? I'm not sure. At this point, are more lawsuits the only answer? I hope not. Hospitals and physicians must demand this of and for themselves.

I hope I die quickly at home, especially during COVID-19, and never have to be admitted to the hospital with a critical illness. I will have 10 consultants but no real doctor." When will physicians wake up? When will hospital physicians believe that every patient they're caring for is their responsibility?

God help us all. Primum non nocere.

**Hedly-Dale Matthias, MD
"Curmudgeon extraordinaire"**

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a conversation with Wright on Greater Jackson Arts Council



"We believe the arts are essential to any small city or urban city. The arts are a way to communicate how we tell our story and how we express what's currently HAPPENING."

-Silbrina Wright

Silbrina Wright served as the community outreach manager for the Greater Jackson Arts Council before assuming the role of executive director on Jan. 1. A seasoned fundraiser and leader across nonprofit, government and private sectors, she studied business administration at Belhaven University, served as executive director for the Mississippi Conference of Black Mayors and was recently tapped by Tougaloo College to be a grant consultant for the Bennie G. Thompson Delta Leadership Initiative.

What does the Greater Jackson Arts Council do?

"The Greater Jackson Arts Council was founded in 1981. We fund programs in the arts with grants. We support artists and organizations throughout the city of Jackson so they can create artistic projects that the community can enjoy. We also support education and leadership in the arts."

How do you view your role as executive director?

"I love music and the visual arts. In my new leadership role, I am more of an advocate and champion for the arts. The arts sector in our community struggles with having equity. No one knows quite where the arts fit, so it's always the first to be cut out of a budget. I want to be a champion of the arts, which is where my best skills are utilized. We want to make sure that we're capturing all of the artistic work and the creative energy of all of the community."

What strengths do you bring to the job as executive director?

"I am a visionary, and I love working with others. I believe that our ability to

connect human to human is one of the most incredible things we have to present to the next generation. If we can connect and unify, we are able to solve our problems and live in harmony.

"I'm able to sit down with anyone and listen. I am able to connect with others and that makes me perfect for this job."

Do you have any specific goals for the arts council next year?

"We're looking at our mission and goals. Our goals, the next chapters of the Greater Jackson Arts Council, are going to be guided by our listening sessions. We're going to be listening to what people would like to see happen because we're building this Greater Jackson Arts Council for them and the community."

What is the greatest challenge facing the arts council?

"The biggest challenge we see ahead of us is being able to hear from everyone. Over the next six months or so, we are planning listening sessions so we can hear from the community about how it envisions our collective work will happen. We want the community to be invested in this."

"We want to invite the community in all sectors, from artists to moms who are at home with their kids, to the listening sessions. The first listening session will be in February. That date has not yet been determined but our listening sessions will be conducted over Zoom. In each listening session, we just want to listen. We want to make sure that we don't miss anyone."

What are some programs that the arts council is known for?

"The community loved our storyteller balls. We put together those balls as fundraisers, but they were definitely an

opportunity for communities and community members to tell their stories. A big part of our work through the years was seen at festivals downtown.

"Currently, virtual conversations about the arts are happening and some of those projects are supported by our organization through our re-granting program. Individual artists can also apply for grants."

How does the arts council fund programs it supports?

"We have grant opportunities that we participate in and we have funding sources through the city of Jackson. We also have supporting boards and sponsors that we partner with."

How many cities will have a Limited-Edition Signature Series Keith Haring Fitness Court like the one that the Greater Jackson Arts Council and the City of Jackson recently announced will be placed in Jackson, near the intersection of Woodrow Wilson Avenue and State Street, across from Children's Hospital?

"There are going to be ten of those across the country. Jackson will have the only one in the South. Keith Haring is a nationally known artist and this will be a signature piece that is going to be iconic for the city of Jackson."

"When you think about the arts, you don't necessarily think about fitness. We're trying to bridge that gap. We're looking at the culture of health and how we want art to become a part of our healthy city. We're looking forward to the attention that it's going to bring and the inspiration that it's going to bring."

"We will have some opportunities for
See Silbrina Wright, Page 9A

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The former downtown post office is now the Courthouse at The Walthall Lofts

Downtown Living

Continued from Page One

by the post office, Sledge said. The hall will be open to the public as well as residents and has an early April targeted opening date, he said.

A bar, planned for the basement space that once housed postal sorting operations, has an early April target date for opening as well.

The food hall and bar are expected to lend a sense of community downtown as well as boost the downtown economy, Sledge said.

The Walthall Lofts, a redevelopment of the Edison Walthall Hotel, opened in July 2020 as a mix of 154 one-bedroom and studio units situated around an inner court swimming pool. "That's something you don't see everywhere," Gomez said.

Monthly rent at the Walthall Lofts, which are located at 225 E. Capitol St., ranges from \$850 for a 350-square-foot studio to \$1,650 for a 770-square-foot, one-bedroom unit at the Walthall Lofts.

ANOTHER FAIRLY RECENT addition to downtown residential life is the Lamar Life Lofts, 23 loft apartments as well as office and retail space, located in the Lamar Life Building at 317 E. Capitol St. The building, known for its clock tower that is a downtown icon, was renovated in 2019.

Downtown Jackson Partners keeps track of about 400 apartments, some of which are in the downtown business improvement district and a few that are outside of it but nearby, Gomez said.

Before the Walthall Lofts opened, there were about 300 apartments in the downtown area and they were about 95 percent filled, he said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed leasing but it's picking up, Gomez said. "We're hoping when things go back to normal, we'll be able to fill these developments again," he said.

The development that's happening now on Capitol Street is continuing the progress the Hilton Garden Inn and the 64 apartments at the King Edward Apartments kicked off in 2009, Gomez said. The progress continued with the Standard Life Flats and, in 2017, the Capitol Art Lofts, Gomez said.

At the other end of Capitol Street from the King Edward Apartments, Kip Gilbert of LeFleur's Bluff Properties is re-developing numerous storefronts in the 400 block of East Capitol Street that will have retail on the first floor and apartments on the second or third floor, Gomez said.

"The apartments will be done in the next three months," Gomez said. "Three are completed, and they're working on four more. They're having some issues with supplies of construction materials and some appliances during the pandemic."

Gibert's entrance into transforming Capitol Street began when he purchased the Heritage Building property and continued with the purchase of the former Russ Tann building at 415 E. Capitol St., said Jeff Speed of Speed Commercial Real Estate, who is managing the redevelopment projects.

"Working in conjunction with the state Department of Archives and History and the National Park Service, we have redeveloped and rehabbed all of those properties under the Historic Tax Credit Program provided by the state Legislature and the federal government," Speed said.

"The rules associated with that are stringent. We restored a lot of the storefronts and interiors to what they looked like in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. If I showed you a picture of what that segment looked like three years ago and now, you would say it's unbelievable."

Speed said some of the buildings have not been occupied in 40 years and the plan is to wait for the right businesses to fill the

rehabbed spaces.

"We're not just going to put in just anybody," he said. "We're trying to provide an atmosphere."

The Shopkeep Co., which sells American-made products, occupies a renovated space at 418 E. Capitol St.

Gibert got excited about the progress he saw, Speed said, and purchased all of the buildings located between the Emporium building and Taste of the Caribbean restaurant on Capitol Street plus another building on President Street.

Gibert also bought the LeFleur Cadillac building on State Street and intends to restore it to how it looked in the 1940s, Speed said.

Speed said he's excited about the work being done to give new life to Capitol Street. New sidewalks, irrigation, landscaping and lighting are going to be installed on the upper end of Capitol Street, he said.

Speed praised Jordan Rae Hillman, who directs the city of Jackson Planning Department for her help. "She along with the whole administration has been easy to work with," he said.

Downtown is just now acquiring the population density it needs to justify the amenities that people who live there expect, Speed said.

"You couldn't have put these businesses in years ago because they wouldn't have survived," he said. "I love pulling into downtown and watching people walk their dogs. You would not have seen that 10 years ago."

GOMEZ CREDITS THE Mississippi Historic Tax Credit Program, which the Legislature reauthorized during the 2020 session, with encouraging investment and ensuring some of the character of rehabbed buildings is restored.

The state of Mississippi offers a 25 percent credit for the rehabilitation of historic structures used for income-producing purpose, and the federal government offers a 20 percent credit for the rehabilitation of historic structures used for income-producing purposes. Properties qualifying for the 20 percent federal preservation tax credit may also qualify for the state tax credit.

"New market tax credits can be used if you have a commercial component," Gomez said.

The conversion of the Mississippi Foundry and Ironworks Plant at 300 W. South St. into what's known as the Foundry Lofts in the 1990s led the way for downtown conversions. "They were the real pioneers," Gomez said.

In the mid the 2000s, the Electric 308 Building at 308 E. Pearl St. was renovated and the top two floors were divided into 15 apartments, a mix of one-bedroom and two-bedrooms units.

Located just across from the Governor's Mansion are the Plaza Apartments at 120 N. Congress St. and several blocks away from them are the Tombigbee Lofts at 555 Tombigbee St.

"Sterling Towers on East Griffith Street is just outside of the downtown business district, located across the street from the Mississippi College School of Law and has about 100 plus apartment units," Gomez said. "That's been around for a while."

While not in the center of downtown, the Downtown Partners website also lists these apartments: The Dickies Lofts at 736 S. President St.; The 721 Apartments at 721 N. State St.; and 729 High Street apartments at 279 High St.

Components such as additional retail in downtown are still being worked on, Gomez said. "We're still trying to grow all of those," he said.



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Silbrina Wright

Continued from Page 7A

local artists to have performances at the court. There will be groups that will come and exercise. What has become more apparent than ever now with the COVID-19 crisis is that we need to stay healthy as much as possible and have spaces that encourage us to keep moving. “

Do you need to raise funds for the Keith Haring Fitness Court?

“Yes, there are funds to be raised. We will be rolling out our sponsorship packages very, very soon.”

How important are the arts?

“We believe the arts are essential to any small city or urban city. The arts are a way to communicate, how we tell our story and how we express what’s currently happening. It’s a way to humanize our perspectives. The arts are everywhere.

“We don’t necessarily see the arts from a traditional perspective but in a broader sense as our culture. Jackson has its own unique culture that should be expressed and can be expressed through the arts. We want the arts to be a part of the toolkit of every industry.”

How does the arts council view the arts in a broader sense?

“I am advocating for new language when we talk about the arts. Let’s not just talk about it in terms of traditional understanding of the arts, but let’s broaden the spectrum and look at what culture is and how art is affecting it, not necessarily with a brushstroke or a musical tone.

“For example, we have a program with middle school students that we started called Art Infusion Brotherhood or AIB. We have 30 students in that program, and we give them opportunities to express themselves in the arts.

“When COVID hit, it came right in the middle of our spring opening for the new class, and we were not able to have a face-to-face meeting with them. We quickly shifted to a virtual learning platform. In doing so, we were able to connect them with college students who helped them understand how to handle online classes. We figured college students would be able to school them on time management and technology. When COVID continued, and it began to be a burden on families, we decided that we needed to look at what would be the No. 1 thing we could do to help.

“We partnered with the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Reuben C. Anderson Institute for Social Justice at Tougaloo College and began a food security project. In discussing that with our board, we received full support. We found it an opportunity to look at agriculture and the culinary arts and how food insecurity affects families when they are not connected to fresh fruits and vegetables. We were able to support about 2,400 families in Jackson with full boxes of food at Christmas thanks to our partners. We’re getting ready to do that again with a food giveaway at the Arts Center on Feb. 27. That’s the type of things we want to broaden our reach with and look at little bit deeper.”

How has the pandemic affected the arts council?

“Because of COVID, we are looking at our budget a little bit closer. We have cut back on a lot of our programming because of it. We are not able to fundraise in our traditional manner.

“During the onset of the pandemic, we sat down as a team and discussed how we could pivot our programming and address COVID and its impact. We wanted organizations and artists to understand the available relief programs that were out there for

gig workers and artists. It was the first time that gig workers and artists were eligible for unemployment. We started coaching and helping them navigate those programs.”

What do you like about your job?

“What I love about this job is that I have an opportunity to work with the best team around. Jon Salem will stay on as the managing director, and Janet Scott, who has retired as the executive director, will remain as a consultant.

“I have a great board of directors who are supportive of our new ideas and anything we feel the arts need. I enjoy working with them. I always wake up knowing that I have a completely nurturing system behind me and we can move new, innovative ideas forward.”

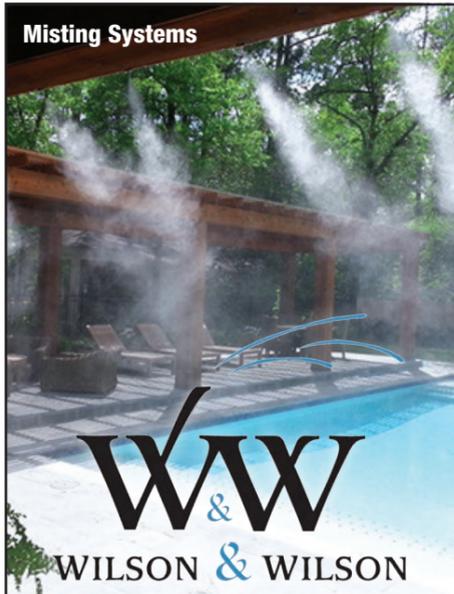
Do you have any advice for young artists just starting their careers?

“Find a community like the Greater Jackson Arts Council that can help you grow and connect to resources. That will help you stay in the loop with what’s current and what resources are available. We want to encourage all of our artists, young and old, to be a part of our community. There’s a link on our Facebook page where you can sign up for up-to-date information.

Do you have a favorite artistic medium?

“I have been singing since I was three years old. Songs are what move me and comfort me. I literally hear them in my sleep. I’m so attracted to all kinds of music.”

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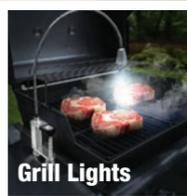
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FEELING STUPID ABOUT SOME OF YOUR ACTIONS

By Gary Andrews
gary@gadevotionals.com

Have you ever encountered a problem in your personal life that really seemed to be difficult however the solution was so simple that you wondered why you had the problem in the first place? I remember a situation I encountered when I played baseball. I was in my late teens and had driven my car to the game. I went alone, parked my car, and went and played the game.

When the game was over I looked for my keys to the car, however they were nowhere to be found. I searched all around the bench where we sat, looked all over the field, walked back and forth from my car to the field looking at every inch of the ground.

Thankfully a couple of my friends stayed with me and eventually towed my car and me home. This was during a time when cars were left unlocked and many times, keys were left in the ignition because there was no threat of theft or damage. We were all trustworthy of everyone in the park.

I had always been taught by my parents to never leave the keys in the ignition and I didn't. As I was being towed toward my house I suddenly remembered that I had put the keys in the ashtray of my car. I certainly felt stupid and my friends reminded me of the incident for many days and months after the incident.

For those of us that know the Lord personally, we seem to think that we can hide some of our actions from God. Why do we do this? It is because we are human and humans sometimes do stupid things. Is it possible for us to live a perfect and sinless life? No! There was only one person that walked this earth that lived that kind of life and that was Jesus Christ.

I believe today that people shop around for certain denominations of churches that allow them to continue the lifestyle they are used to. Many are looking for churches and pastors that make them feel good instead of calling them out for their sins they are committing or have committed. Many people are looking for a secular religion and turning away from the Bible and the preaching of Biblical pastors and preachers.

Religion is not the answer for eternal life. It is really good that people go to church to be fed but they need to seek and find a church that has Biblical foundations and the Word of God is the only word taught. The only way that any of us are going to reach eternity and a life with our living Lord, is to accept Him by faith and believe on Him. We need to stay away from our earthly desires and actions, however when we do fall for the snares and pitfalls around us, we can go straight to the Lord and ask for forgiveness. We cannot hide our sins or actions from God.

I heard a story of a friend of mine that couldn't get into his truck when the weather had turned cold and his door was frozen shut. He poured a lot of water on the door and seemed to have no ice whatsoever anywhere around the door or the lock. However he couldn't get the door open until he finally realized he hadn't used his key to unlock the door. As for me losing my keys and him forgetting to use his key, we both seemed foolish in our actions that we took because the solution to our problems were so simple.

It is the same with being a child of God. Many times we do stupid things and take actions unbecoming a Christian but we need to realize we have to come to God for forgiveness and quit trying to hide from Him.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for being with me each and every day. Thank you for allowing me to be human but knowing that you are the one and only true God and that I can talk with you at any time. Amen.

(Suggested daily Bible readings: Sunday – Psalm 69:5-6; Monday – 1 Corinthians 2:6-8; Tuesday – 2 Samuel 24:10-14; Wednesday – Romans 1:18-25; Thursday – Proverbs 30:2-6; Friday – Hebrews 5:1-4; Saturday – Genesis 3:4-8.) A331-15

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1 Peter 4:8

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in memoriam

Obituaries

William Patrick Thomas

William Patrick Thomas, "Bill," a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and devoted friend passed away on Tuesday, February 2nd after a lengthy illness. He was 82.



Bill was born on January 18, 1939, in Kilmichael, to Jewel B. Thomas and Ruth Germany Thomas. A 1957 graduate of Montgomery County Consolidated High School, Bill was a class favorite who excelled in athletics, particularly football.

After graduation Bill accepted a football scholarship to Holmes Community College and then later to Delta State University where he graduated in 1961 with a degree in physical education. Upon graduation, Bill enlisted in the United States Marine Corps where he served with honor.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Bill married his high school sweetheart, Virginia Sue Curtis, to whom he was married for over 57 years. In 1963 he went to work for the Mississippi Ratings Bureau while at the same time attending Jackson School of Law. He graduated from law school and was admitted to the Mississippi Bar Association, where he was a member for over 35 years.

Bill accepted the position of house counsel in 1967 for the Hester and Hester Insurance Agency of Jackson. During his time at Hester and Hester, Bill transitioned to full time sales where he excelled and received numerous awards. He was a member of the Million Dollar Round Table over 25 times and made Leaders' and Chairman's Council regularly. He became a full partner in the firm in 1984 and assumed ownership along with Marvin Stockett in 1991 when the firm became the Stockett and Thomas Agency. He worked there until his retirement age 77 in 2017.

A lifetime runner, Bill was a member of the downtown YMCA for over 35 years and a proud member of the "lunchtime levee

running crew." He competed in numerous 5Ks and half-marathons. Another of Bill's passions was his farm that he and Virginia maintained in Attala County. Snow skiing in Taos, N.M. was also a great love of his. He first went there in 1976 and returned every year, skiing expert runs until his mid-seventies. Later in life Bill and Virginia traveled extensively.

The time he spent with his wife, children and five grandchildren brought him the most joy. He was affectionately known to them as "Big Daddy."

Bill was a man of integrity with a strong work ethic and a deep sense of loyalty. He will be remembered for his quiet and compassionate nature, his resourcefulness and ability to problem solve. He was a member of the Madison United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his daughter, Tamara Thomas Gammon, her husband George and their children Russell Shepherd Gammon and Virginia Kate Gammon of Madison; and a son, Patrick Curtis Thomas, his wife Christina and their three children, Elizabeth Ashton Thomas, Christian Patrick Thomas and William Wyatt Thomas of Madison.

Bill was preceded in passing by his wife Virginia and his parents.

Pallbearers included Curt Thomas, George A. Gammon III, Russell Shepherd Gammon, Christian Thomas, William Thomas and Alex Sung.

Honorary pallbearers were Jim Alexander, Charles Austin, Charles Wilson Dismuke, Thomas Donahoo, Bobby Howell, Donnie Hovas, Farris Jenkins, Wayne Leonard, Marvell Morgan, Marvin E. Stockett, Terry Thomas, Jimmy Weeks, and Boyce Wilson

In lieu of flowers, the family is most appreciative of memorial donations directed to French Camp Academy, 40 Mecklin Avenue, French Camp MS, 39745. Bill was a supporter of French Camp Academy, an interdenominational Christian boarding home and school in French Camp, Mississippi benefiting Mississippi children.

A private family burial was held on Friday, February 5 at the Natchez Trace Funeral Home in Madison.

Koré Freis Hale

Koré Freis Hale, 49, died suddenly of a heart attack on January 25. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday February 8 at the Cathedral of St Peter the Apostle in Jackson.



Although Koré was born May 25, 1971 in San Leandro, Calif., she became a true Jacksonian at the age of four, graduating from what is now called Barack H. Obama Magnet School, St. Richard's Catholic School, Murrah High School and Hinds Community College. Her regular customers from decades ago at Keifer's and Hal and Mal's still remember her beautiful smile and kindness.

Koré's central focus has always been her family and friends. On all she showered

warmth, compassion, and fierce love. Celebrations – complete with wonderful food, playfulness, and lots of laughter – were her forté. Koré's friends and family, including numerous cousins, mourn the early loss of her profound presence. She was beloved for her loyalty, care, and devotion.

Survivors include her husband Beau Daniel Hale, her daughter Katie Medlin, her sons Matthew Edward Hale and Andrew Thomas Hale, her granddaughter Kiley Rayne Magee, her parents Richard and Catherine Ruggiero Freis, her brother Adam Morrow Freis, his wife Fawn Crawford Freis and their children Addison Corey Freis and Hailey Morgan Freis, and her mothers-in-law Barbara Gale Hale and Bonnie Walters.

In lieu of flowers, memorials for Koré, who loved marine biology, may be made to Whale and Dolphin Conservation (<https://us.whales.org/>).

THE NORTHSIDE SUN
OBITUARY POLICY

The Sun publishes obituaries of Northsiders and their families. Typically, we receive obituary information from the funeral homes.

We invite readers who are so inclined to supplement this with more descriptive text capturing the spirit of the person's life

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in memoriam

Obituaries

Henry Louis Campbell

Surrounded in love by his parents and grandparents, Henry Louis Campbell, son of Helen Ann and Bill Campbell of Brandon, returned to our eternal home on Saturday, February 6. Named Henry



after his great grandfather, meaning "hero," and Louis, meaning "renowned warrior," he was a "Little Warrior" indeed.

Henry captured the love of all his family and friends, known and unknown, before his birth two short weeks ago. And he brought love in the innocent and pure way that only a child of God can. Affectionately known as "Pumpkin Oreo" by his sister Olivia, two, and brother Jackson, five, that is exactly who Henry has been to all during these last several months; a perfect, sweet, messenger of light and love.

We never know what life may bring when we venture out in this world, but we know that Henry's light will help guide and comfort us all, no matter how bumpy and unpredictable the road ahead may be. In his impactful life, Henry shined his light from Mississippi to Texas to Tennessee to Massachusetts to California and to many places in between, near and far. Being made perfect in a short time, Henry and his little warrior light will forevermore remain a beacon of peace, faith, hope, and love, bonding all who came to know him, love him and pray for him.

Rest in God's nearness, Henry

Louis. "Fear not, for I am with you." (Isaiah 41:10), Deuteronomy 31:6, Joshua 1:9, Ephesians 3:20.

In addition to his parents and siblings, Henry is survived by grandparents Debbie and Bill Campbell of Madison and Judy and Charles Varner of Jackson; great grandmother Judy Bernal of Virginia Beach, Va.; aunts and uncles Lendon and Sean Ellis of Cordova, Tenn., Charles and Gretchen Hoff Varner of Alameda, Calif., and David and Kiersten Varner of Sudbury, Mass.; and numerous cousins. He joins his great grandparents the Rev. Henry and Virginia Varner, Pat Bernal, Vera and Pete Williams, Pansy Wray and Jasper Campbell.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society, P.O. Box 935, Jackson, MS 39205, <https://cmdss.org/support-donate/>; University of Mississippi Medical Center for Maternal and Fetal Care (C/O) University of Mississippi Medical Center Development Accounting, 2500 North State St., Jackson, MS 39216, https://www.umc.edu/Office_of_Development/Give_Now.html (#1 select "other" in drop down and #2 enter "fetal medicine" in "Please specify your area of support" box); University of Mississippi Medical Center Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, (C/O) University of Mississippi Medical Center Development Accounting, 2500 North State St., Jackson, MS 39216, https://www.umc.edu/Office_of_Development/Give_Now.html (#1 select "other" in drop down and #2 enter "NICU" in "Please specify your area of support" box).

Barbara S. Hopkins

Barbara Smith Hopkins, passed away on February 4 at Merit Health Madison Hospital.



Barbara was born on March 1, 1932 to Cornelius O. and Helen G. Smith in Yonkers, N.Y. She grew up in New Jersey and Long Island, N.Y. and graduated from Marietta College (Ohio) with a BA degree in education. In 1955 she was wed to Harley Harold Hopkins of Williamstown, W. Va. and they remained happily married until his passing in 2016.

After business-related transfers to Columbus, Ohio, Chattanooga and Kingsport, Tenn., Barbara and Harley settled in North Jackson in 1965. Together they owned and operated The Office Store and Harley's in Highland Village Shopping Center. In her later years Barbara enjoyed working in the tennis pro shop at the Country Club of Jackson.

In addition to being a devoted wife and mother, Barbara enjoyed flower arranging and playing in numerous bridge clubs throughout her life. Much of her social life revolved around the Jackson Yacht Club where she and Harley were members for over 50 years. She led many memorable family vacations in Gulf Shores, Ala., and

enjoyed sailing trips with family and friends along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Barbara was a member of Chi Omega Sorority, the Chi O "Wise Owls" Luncheon Club and the American Association of University Women. Over the years she was active in Welcome Neighbors, Jackson Symphony League, the Philanthropic and Educational Organization (P.E.O.) and a volunteer at the William Lowe "Bill" Waller Sr. Craft Center in Ridgeland. Barbara was a member of Christ United Methodist Church of Jackson.

She is survived by her two children, Harley Harold Hopkins III (Carol Bowers) of Falls Church, Va., and David Ogden Hopkins (Paula) of Memphis; grandchildren, Anna Lauren Hopkins, Landon Ellen Hopkins, Andrew Ogden Hopkins, and Carson Bowers Hopkins; brother C.O. Smith of Georgetown, Texas; niece Michelle Smith of Pharr, Texas, and nephew William Corwin of Whitefish, Mont.

A memorial service will be held on a future date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made in memory of Barbara Hopkins to the P.E.O., Chapter F, 12 Charleston Circle, Brandon, MS 39047 or JYC Foundation to Promote Youth Sailing, Jackson Yacht Club, 700 Yacht Club Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

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PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 6 day of November, 2019, by the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Administrator of the Estate of Leon Vance Ghetti, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for administration and registration according to law within (90) days from the first publication of this Notice or they will be forever barred.

SO NOTICED, this the 20 day of January, 2021.

/s/ Donna Stewart
DONNA STEWART

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Generous Hearts

Continued from Page One

ration among providers, professors, students, residents and fellows.

The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders was opened in 1991 as the Children's Cancer Clinic at UMMC, with the Junior League of Jackson providing the funding for its construction.

Located next to the Center is the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower, which opened to patients Nov. 2. The new seven-story children's hospital tower includes private neonatal and pediatric intensive care rooms, a pediatric imaging center, a dozen advanced surgical suites and an outpatient specialty clinic.

"There is such a difference between what is state-of-the-art today and 28 years ago," Jim Coggin said. "The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders provides wonderful care, but their facility needs an update."

The Coggins, who have an adult son and two grandchildren, lost a daughter, Allison Coggin Lee, to melanoma at age 33.

"Spending time with her during treatment gave us an understanding of patient families' needs," Pat Coggin said.

"Cancer patients and their families face a difficult situation, but it can be made easier when they're situated in an environment that's comfortable, up-to-date, and spirit lifting."

An increase in the number of patients keeps the current

infusion space full most days. These patients range from young children to teenagers.

"It's hard for a 13-year-old to share treatment space with a 3-year-old," Jim Coggin said. "Ideally, patients will have their own area during procedures and infusions in an environment that blends into the Sanderson Tower, which we consider the standard to meet aesthetically."

JIM COGGIN, WHO RETIRED as president and chief administrative officer of Saks, Inc., formerly Proffitt's and McRae's, became more familiar with the Medical Center and its mission through friendship with Dr. James Keeton, professor emeritus and former UMMC vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

"Touring the Sanderson Tower and then the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders and seeing the children and their families there inspired them to make this generous gift," Keeton said.

The Coggins said they see the start of the fund as a way of rallying Mississippians to the cause of advancing the care of children with cancer or blood disorders.

"By giving to help the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, we can help children and also encourage others to support this cause," Jim Coggin said.

Word of the family's gift is spreading, as other gifts have already been made toward the project.



Pat and Jim Coggin



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Highland Elementary starts student led recycling program; run by honor society students

By **CHRISTO HICKS**
Sun Staff Writer

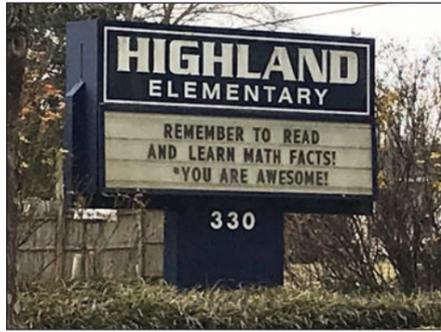
THE CITY OF RIDGELAND along with a local elementary school have cooperated to start a student led recycling program. The city paid a visit to the school, Highland Elementary, after receiving a bill from Waste Management claiming the school had placed improper items into the recycling bins.

"The containers were worn out. That stuff doesn't last forever," said Mike McCollum, public works director.

That was an easy fix. Ridgeland pays for their public school's recycling, as well as any equipment associated with recycling. Soon after their visit to the school, McCollum, and Jan Richardson with Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, returned with all new containers. This included a new eight-yard rolling container which collects recycling from all of the classes, and different sizes of individual bins for classrooms.

"We envisioned a student led program," said McCollum.

Highland Elementary repaid the favor by developing that vision. They began educating students on what to and what not to put inside the bins. They posted flyers in the classrooms with that information on it for students to see when throwing their trash



Students at Highland Elementary participate in recycling program for school

away.

The school's honor society members are in charge of the recycling program, according to Darian Knox, assistant principal.

One of their duties are to check through the items to make sure they are all proper.

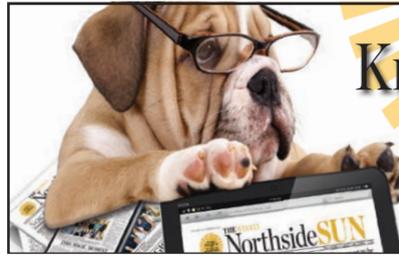
RIDGELAND HAS paid for its residential and public-school recycling as early as 1994. They distributed each new neighbor a bin and even have an award program for people who actively recycle. As much as 99 percent of Ridgeland's citizens recycle.

happenings

Little Light House

On Saturday, March 6, the Little Light House, Central Mississippi, will host their 16th Annual Garden Party Fundraising Benefit at The Hilton in Jackson from 2-4

p.m. The guest speaker is Chris Nikic, the first person with Down Syndrome to become an Iron Man. The event will include food, chances to win prizes, raffle baskets, and a presentation. Sponsorships and tickets are available at www.llhms.org or calling 601-956-6131. Seating will be limited.



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SPORTS TALK

by rick cleveland
mississippi today

THE LAST TIME I talked at length to the Mississippi State football legend Art Davis was in September 2014. Art was living in Oregon, but his heart was in Mississippi where his old friend, Jack Cristil, had died.

We talked the morning of Jack's funeral.

"Days like today, I miss Mississippi the most," Davis told me, speaking softly. "I live in Oregon and have for 13 years, but Mississippi is my home. It hurts not to be there today to celebrate Jack's life. He meant so much to Mississippi and Mississippi State."

Conversely, Art Davis, who died Jan. 29 at the age of 86, meant so much to Jack Cristil. It is a matter of fact that big Arthur Davis scored the first touchdown Cristil ever called at State. This was 1953. Dudy Noble had just hired Cristil to do State's radio broadcasts for a whopping \$25 per game. Noble told Cristil: "You tell that radio audience what the score is, who's got the ball, how much time is left, and you cut out of the bull."

So State opened the season at then-

Art Davis comes home to die

Memphis State, where Cristil dutifully told the audience how big Arthur Davis, so fast and so strong, ran 38 yards for a touchdown to give the Bulldogs an early lead en route to a 34-6 State victory. Who could have guessed: Cristil would go on describing State touchdowns for 58 years. He never forgot the first touchdown or the man who scored it.

Years ago, Cristil talked about the man who quite possibly was his favorite Bulldog of all-time, saying Arthur Davis "was an All-American on the field and a true gentleman off it." Cristil said he had never felt closer to any individual, that Davis personified the best of Mississippi State.

Davis, who stood 6 feet, 2 inches tall and weighed just under 200 pounds and ran a 9.8 100-yard dash, was named the Southeastern Conference's Player of the Year in 1954 and was a first team All American in 1955. He starred on both offense and defense. Once, at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, Davis scored all four touchdowns – three on runs and one on a pass interception – in a 25-0 State victory. Look Magazine named him college football's Player of the Year in '55. He was the fifth player taken overall in the 1956 NFL Draft, despite a crippling knee injury suffered as a senior at State. In 2018, Art Davis was inducted into State's exclusive Ring of Honor.

The death of Art Davis follows by 34 days the death of his older brother, Harper Davis, another Mississippi State football legend and Mississippi Sports Hall of Famer. Harper was nine years older. Amazing that so much football talent could come from one Clarksdale family. Harper was once considered the fastest player in pro football. Turns out, his little



Art with his older brother Harper

brother was equally as fast, was three inches taller, and weighed 20 pounds more.

AS A CHILD IN CLARKSDALE, Art was nicknamed "Honeybee." A nurse in his pediatrician's office said the little boy was "as cute as a honeybee." The name stuck, even as he grew into a big, strapping man.

He entered his senior year at Clarksdale High as one of the most highly recruited players in the country, then suffered a broken leg in the first game of the season. Many of the out-of-state college suitors backed off, but State and Ole Miss still offered him a scholarship and Art chose State.

There, he played for a young Darrell Royal. Years later, he would help Royal coach a national championship team in 1963 at Texas. Before that, he also coached with Paul Dietzel at LSU and Bobby Dodd at Georgia Tech. After the national championship at Texas, he retired from coaching and came back to

Mississippi where he worked, at various times, in Cleveland, Clarksdale and Starkville.

He moved to Oregon in 2001 to be closer to his grandchildren.

But he never quit missing Mississippi, says his son Doug Davis, who still lives near Portland.

Last year, Art made the decision, as son Doug Davis, describes it, "He wanted to end his life on home turf."

So Art Davis moved back across the continent to Starkville, where he was buried not too far from where he scored so many touchdowns and where his name appears on the huge stadium.

I remember, almost hauntingly, what Art Davis told me more than seven years ago when we talked on the morning of Jack Cristil's funeral.

"I miss Mississippi," Art said, still speaking ever so softly. "You know people out here hear my accent and ask me where I am from and I tell them Mississippi. Invariably, the people screw up their face and say something like, 'Really?'"

"So I tell them, 'Yes I am from Mississippi, just like Walter Payton, Jerry Rice, Archie Manning, Brett Favre, William Faulkner, B.B. King, Elvis Presley, John Grisham and Eudora Welty. They are always surprised when they hear those names. And then I'll always tell them: 'There's no place like Mississippi.'"

The memorial service for Art Davis was held February 2 at Odd Fellows Cemetery on University Drive in Starkville. Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and/or the Parkinson's Foundation.



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Weddings & Engagements

Liston and Draughn exchange wedding vows October 10 at Fairview



Mr. and Mrs Thomas Austin Draughn

EMMA ELIZABETH Liston and Thomas Austin Draughn were united in marriage at 5:30 p.m. on October 10, at the Fairview Inn. The double-ring ceremony was performed by the Reverend Bruce Case.

The bride is the daughter of Sherry Cate Liston of Madison. She is the granddaughter of David Cate of Brandon and Dona Mitchell of Madison, and Brenda Liston and the late William H. Liston of Winona. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Louis Draughn of Madison. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spears of Flora, and Shirley Draughn and the late Thomas L. Draughn of Byram.

Escorted and given in marriage by her mother, the bride wore an ivory fit-to-flare crepe gown featuring lace embroidery, a court-length train and sheer flutter cap sleeves adorned with floral lace patterns. The illusion neckline and scooped back were complimented by a fingertip-length veil and silver beaded belt. She wore crystal drop earrings with a foliage motif and a gold bracelet, a gift from the bridegroom, engraved with their initials and wedding date. Completing the bride's ensemble was a hand-tied bouquet of white and blush garden roses, Queen Anne's lace, lavender and blue delphinium and greenery wrapped with organza ribbon.

Maid of honor was Ann Fairly Barnett. Bridesmaids included Laurel Leigh Bane, Katherine Walton Halliday, Sidney Elaine Lampton and Collins Mounger Hansen. They wore floor-length steel blue chiffon dresses featuring cascading ruffled v-cut necklines. Their bouquets complimented the bridal bouquet and

were tied with plant-dyed silk ribbons.

The bridegroom's father served as best man. Groomsmen included Griffin Layton Draughn and Mason Garret Draughn, brothers of the bridegroom, as well as James David Gilman, John-David Matthew Polk, and Alex Stephen Robinson.

A selection of ceremonial music was presented by Magnolia String Quartet. The reading of scripture was provided by Laura Catherine Potts.

A RECEPTION HOSTED by the mother of the bride followed the ceremony. After the couple's first dance to the song "I Found You" by the Alabama Shakes, the couple danced with the bride's grandfather and bridegroom's mother to Nat King Cole's "Unforgettable." Guests were entertained by the Scott Steele DJ company. The wedding cake, a spice cake with white buttercream icing, featured a cascade of flowers that complimented the bride's bouquet. The bridegroom's cake, a German chocolate cake with chocolate icing, featured miniatures of his classic car and shop tools.

The newlyweds departed the reception under a shower of white rose petals, leaving in the bridegroom's 1967 Lancia Fulvia decorated with banners and cans on string.

On the eve of the wedding, the bridegroom's parents honored the couple with a rooftop cocktail hour and rehearsal dinner at The Faulkner in downtown Jackson.

After a wedding trip to Sedona, Ariz., the couple is at home in Ridgeland.

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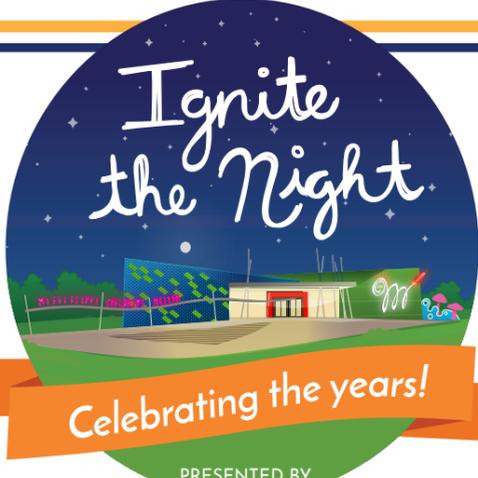
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Weddings & Engagements

Miss Montagnet and Franklin planning March 27 wedding at Covenant Presbyterian

MR. AND MRS. OLIVER Stephen Montagnet III of Ridgeland announce the engagement of their daughter, Olivia McCarley Montagnet to Joshua Creed Franklin of Madison, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Mark Franklin III.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of The Honorable and Mrs. Robert William Elliott of Ripley and Mr. and Mrs. Olivier Stephen Montagnet Jr. of Pass Christian. The prospective bridegroom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Opie Carl Gren of Pearl and Mrs. John Mark Franklin Jr. of Long Beach and the late Mr. Franklin.

Miss Montagnet is a 2016 graduate of Jackson Preparatory School. In 2020, she received her bachelor's degree in biology from Texas Christian University. At TCU, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority. She is currently pursuing her master's of behavioral science degree from Pepperdine University. Miss Montagnet is a registered behavior technician at The Growing Tree, LLC.

Franklin is a 2016 graduate of Jackson Preparatory School. In 2020, he received his bachelor's degree in exercise science from the Sally McDonald Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi. While at Ole Miss, Franklin was a member of Kappa Alpha Order. He is currently an anesthesia technician at River Oaks Hospital. Franklin will attend the University of Mississippi Medical



Olivia McCarley Montagnet, Joshua Creed Franklin

Center School of Medicine in the fall. The couple will exchange vows on March 27 at Covenant Presbyterian Church with a reception to follow at the home of the bride. After the wedding, the couple will reside in Jackson.



Bridal Registry

- Katelyn Armstrong & Bill Magee
- Rachel Curry & Nick Gibert
- Laura Dichiara & Sykes Heard
- Courtney Purvis & Dillon Carmichael
- Piper Swanson & Jeff Skinner
- Jessica Barnhouse & Timothy Feduccia
- Kristin Ley & Bill Allen
- Leanna Cameron & Mark Adams
- Kimberly Zachow & Chaz Lindsay
- Elena Stater & Thomas Skelton
- Emily Carter & Reid Patterson
- Lauren Halverson & Daniel Banaszak
- Alden Hartley & Jamison McKee
- Madi McNair & Austin Scott
- Maris Moorehead & Brody Risinger
- Anna Steen & Walker Burrow
- Mary Morgan Haire & Kyle Alford
- Barron Killens & Amiel Barzelay
- Clara Frances Cannon & Cooper Simmons
- Tammy Craft & John Dudley
- Mary Becker Menendez & Gib Bowden
- Kelli Defoe & Macon McClanahan
- Kristen Gilbert & Will Denny
- Toy Gathings & Mac Allen
- Rachel Weeks & Jake Springer
- Audrey Kelly & Collin Hurt
- Paige McKay & Gafford White
- Rebecca Parker & Jake Fugett
- Allie Ewing & Matthew Hancock
- Camille Bexley & Drake Beneke
- Emily Holmes & Clark Hays
- Christian Powell & Hunter Byars
- Ashley Moore & Davis House
- Reagan Woods & Jacob Arnold
- Sarah Allen Bowman & William Bullock
- Emily Wasson & Reed Cresap
- Bailey Grace Elkin & Palmer Dryden
- Anna Suggs & Greg Horlock
- Haley Adams & Harry Goldman
- Morgan Bush & James Scott
- Kendall Garraway & Thompson Moore
- Olivia Montagnet & Joshua Franklin
- Amanda Ray & Lucas Callahan
- Allie Brown & Matthew Clay
- Kelly Hines & Ross Weems
- Reagan Woods & Jacob Arnold
- Katherine Williams & Elliott Thomas
- Laura Jane Cole & Alec Rawlings
- Sarah Kennedy Duncan & Thomas Spurgeon
- Lauren Sledge & Jason McMaster
- Olivia Bratcher & Connor Bailey
- Katherine Williams & Elliott Thomas
- Erin Fowler & Griffin Hatcliff
- Katie Shaver & Hunter Summerford
- Sally Farrington & Patrick Thompson
- Sara Weedman & Daniel White
- Taylor Coombs & Drew Moak
- Janeanna Shell & Landon Heath
- Rachel Crim & Buckner Corso
- Londyn Steed & Hull Bolls
- Rivers Countiss & Adam Keyes
- Emily Heine & Chad Hietschold
- McKenzie Davis & Robert Wasson
- Rebecca Josey & Hugh Muse
- Natalie Taylor & Cole Crosby
- Kirstie Bailey & Brandon Keel
- Christine Newman & David Jenkins
- Martha Kate Goforth & Brett Armstrong
- Caroline Hughes & Steven Irby
- Alexis Witcher & Samuel Meadors
- Anna Beth Burgin & Chandler Milstead
- Amy Wright & Andres Posada
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- 5 1,149, to Caesar
- 9 Holland cheese
- 13 Equine infant
- 17 False monicker
- 19 Top grade
- 20 Haven
- 21 Plant pest
- 23 Tracy-Hardwicke meet in Africa
- 27 Displacement unit
- 28 "Smell ____"
- 29 Deadly mosquito
- 30 Pucksters
- 31 Bergman as a princess
- 34 Tree home
- 35 Horsemen
- 36 DDE rival
- 37 Crowd response
- 39 Dobbin's diet
- 41 Courtenay as a valet
- 46 With "The", Booth as Dolly
- 52 Humorist Rogers and others
- 53 "Der ____": Adenauer
- 54 Martinique
- 55 Beget
- 56 ____ bitsy
- 57 Swiss painter who taught at the Bauhaus
- 58 Jab
- 60 Merry
- 62 ____-fi
- 63 Writer Wiesel
- 64 Part of ADC
- 65 Mitchell mansion
- 66 Donat as a prisoner
- 73 Price of participation
- 74 Storyteller
- 75 Scraps
- 76 Overeater
- 77 Pass
- 80 D.C. All-Star team
- 81 Negatives
- 82 Abate
- 83 Flooring unit
- 84 Siblings
- 85 Male heirs
- 86 Scorch
- 87 Grasps
- 91 Jean Simmons as Ruth Gordon
- 93 Comedian Jay
- 94 Within: comb. form
- 96 Chemical suffix
- 97 Pale color
- 101 Soft mineral
- 103 With "The", Cooper as a drifter
- 109 On the go
- 110 Gridiron gripper
- 112 British gun
- 113 Lawyer's assoc.
- 114 Woolley as a long term guest
- 118 Toiler of yore
- 119 Card game
- 120 Rugby's river
- 121 Capital of Bolivia
- 122 Have courage
- 123 Rolls of dough
- 124 Back of the neck
- 125 Eight bits

DOWN

- 1 Trattoria treat
- 2 Entertainer John
- 3 Rain forest vine
- 4 Summer shade
- 5 Uxmal residents
- 6 Raccoon relative
- 7 Rural accommodation
- 8 Mother of Helen

Movie Roles

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
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- 9 Outer skin layer
- 10 Peace symbols
- 11 Philosopher-author of "Metaphysica"
- 12 Everest, abbr.
- 13 Dictatorship philosophy
- 14 Choose, with "for"
- 15 "Oh, give me ____"
- 16 Floating hotel
- 18 Roofworkers
- 22 Retreats
- 24 Take out
- 25 Singer Horne
- 26 Encircle
- 32 With regret
- 33 Sharp-crested ridge
- 38 Rock minerals
- 40 Top pitcher
- 41 Distort
- 42 Military service period
- 43 Dinsmore of fiction
- 44 Salty
- 45 Winter weather word
- 47 American writer, Conrad
- 48 Slender palm
- 49 A Carson
- 50 Baseball stat.
- 51 Denom.
- 57 Sutherland as a detective
- 58 Arizona group
- 59 Distinctive smell
- 60 Data
- 61 Is mistaken
- 63 Millions of years
- 64 Throw ____: get angry
- 65 Nobelist Mother
- 67 Gambol
- 68 Charlie Chan portrayer
- 69 Quarter ____: 12:45
- 70 Ladd as a protector
- 71 Grasping device
- 72 Pointed arches

- 77 Airline abbr.
- 78 Back talk
- 79 The Jungfrau, for one
- 80 Garbo as a communist
- 81 Not by a long shot
- 82 Electrician
- 84 Barbie's beau
- 85 Benchmk.
- 86 Dance pioneer Ruth
- 88 Raise
- 89 Mirren or Hunt
- 90 Picks
- 92 Mentioned for gallantry
- 95 Sports org.

- 97 Way
- 98 Felt compassion
- 99 Inscribed stone slab
- 100 Indonesian island
- 102 Get ____ of: listen to
- 104 Hinder, in law
- 105 ____ faced: grave
- 106 Rosalynn's successor
- 107 Movie reviewer Roger
- 108 Street show
- 111 Govt. agent
- 115 ENE + 180
- 116 Actress Marie Saint
- 117 Gist

Solution for this week's puzzle next week. This solution for Feb. 4th puzzle.

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special days

Happy Birthday:
 February 11: Jenny Woodruff, Robert Ward, Marian Johnson Kennedy, Sammy Moon, Doug Harper, Arthur Royals, Jean Yu, Randall Saxton, Holly Smith, Emma Farr, Wanda Tate, Addie Edwards, February 12: Mary Jane Runnels, Lisa Conway, Christopher Thibodeaux, Andrew Chase, Jennifer Lowe, February 13: John Owens, J.K. Garner, Melanie May Cook, Anthony Myrick, February 14: Anna Thomas, Roger McGehee, Jack Webb, Stephen Lindsey, Rene Pray, Carla Humberg, Mrs. Bob Higginbotham, Waldo Johnson, Brian King, Pat Perkins, Ken Harbour, Anna Thomas, February 15: Meg Lamberth, Michelle Zimmerman, Frank Young, Michael Chandler, Terry Odom, Anne Wilkins, Becky Loper, February 16: Ralph McDaniel, David Boackle, Kathy Sprayberry, Agnes Porfilio, Randall Hall, Lois Hollomon, Erin Griffin, Alice Rice, February 17: Peggy Carlisle, John Mahan, Deke Hewes.

Happy Anniversary:
 February 11: Roger and Linda McGehee, February 14: Bob and Becky Killelea, Bill and Arlette Thompson, February 15: George and Gail Gravier; February 16: Bryan and Lindsay Laird.

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by edrie royals



“YOU CAN’t just retire. You must retire to something. My something is going to be boating.” Those words of my late husband, Dr. Jimmy Royals, left no doubt about what his future plans would be when

he said goodbye to the Woman’s Clinic, which he and Dr. Claude Callender established in 1950. He had an innate sense of knowing when it was time to end a chapter and start anew. He never looked back. “Face the light and let your shadows fall behind,” he often advised. Learn from the past, and let it go.

I knew a life with Jimmy would center on boating; and, for the first 12 years of our marriage, we cruised the waters blue and brown, clear and muddy. Our journey began in December, 1989, when we boarded the Sunshine II and left from Eden Isles Marina on Lake Pontchartrain near Slidell.

In the following years, we explored the coastal waters of Mississippi, Alabama, the Florida panhandle, and the western coast of Florida, including the Everglades. On the eastern seaboard we made three separate trips into the Chesapeake Bay. One year we travelled from Key West to Bar Harbour, Maine, and returned to Florida just in time for a hurricane. We cruised to the Bahamas six times, visiting islands from the northern Abacos to the southern Exumas.

With the passage of time, I bonded with the water, other boaters, and life at sea. When my husband’s life on earth ended, I so often thought of our days aboard the Sunshine II and the privileges and blessings we had experienced, including countless learning opportunities in geography, history, and culture. I began to think about cruises on ships with itineraries to far away places. I could combine my love of the sea with self-directed educational experiences. And so it’s been.

One of those ventures was in the waters of the Far East with my friend, Lottie Boggan. The year was 2017, before Covid and before the turmoil and civil unrest in Hong Kong, where our trip began. We spent two days in that city, often called the Pearl of the Orient. A tram ride took us to the top of Victoria’s Peak where we looked down on the harbor surrounded by skyscrapers enveloped

Sail Away Part I

in the mist of a cloudy day. A sampan cruise took us through the floating village of Aberdeen, where live aboards make their homes on boats and have for generations. The harbor is also a place where many commercial and pleasure vessels rest at anchor nearby to the boat people. I felt a kinship with those living on the water even though we never met. I, too, had lived on a boat and had the water, instead of the land, beneath my feet.

We saw the night scene of downtown Hong Kong come to light and life. The streets were filled with throngs of shoppers going in and out of endless stores and venturing into side streets where countless vendors welcomed them. Time, even though late in the evening, seemed irrelevant.

The second day offered an opportunity to visit Lantau Island, the largest of Hong Kong’s outlying islands. Our first stop was Tai O, a little, quaint fishing village—centuries’ old—sitting at water’s edge with well-tended sidewalk streets and neatly kept stilt houses built out over the water. Along the way, we stopped at the town’s small Buddhist Temple and the local fish market. Tai O provided a step back in time to a pristine world of peace and quiet and simplicity.

The next site on this lush, mountainous island was Ngong Ping Plateau, where we climbed numerous steps to reach the famous Tian Tan Buddha, a bronze statue that stands 112 feet high and dominates the surrounding area. The last stop was at Po Lin, a nearby Buddhist Monastery built in 1906. Beautiful, elaborately decorated oriental buildings referred to as main halls housed numerous Buddha statues. Other smaller buildings also showcased Buddha figures. We ate a vegetarian meal of soup and bread at the public restaurant and walked among myriad outdoor incense burners.

Nature trails offered moments of tranquility, and the pervasive quiet created a feeling of peace. Tian Tan Buddha, visible in the distance from every vantage point, was a towering, pervasive presence. A few cows meandered at will through the grounds and others rested in green grass. The tour of Lantau Island ended with a silent, pensive bus ride back to the ship where, in a few hours, a sunset departure took us away from Hong Kong harbor.

THIS LAND CALLED CHINA WAS promising to be a complex study of the old and the new. It was a place of Buddhas, incense burners, pagodas, and antiquities—a

place of quiet, polite people steeped in the importance of family and respect for the elderly—a place of busy professionals intent upon being successful in today’s world—and a paradoxical place of olden customs existing side by side with skyscrapers and all things high tech and modern. I wondered how many more generations would live to experience both worlds. Would the treasured ways of the past be able to survive or would they be lost to modernity with its ever-changing face and drive to erase the past.

So much of China’s past was destroyed during the rule of Mao Zedong, leader of China’s communist party from 1949 until his death in 1976. When Mao initiated the Cultural Revolution, one purpose was to rid China of its traditional culture, including temples and ancient buildings, art, antiques, books—basically, anything authentically Chinese.

In an obvious way, the revolution’s intent was to erase China’s rich history spanning thousands of years and countless generations; but the revolution did not and could not erase the past. Although numerous, irreplaceable treasures were destroyed, counter forces acted to preserve many of the priceless items. Our guides spoke often and proudly of China’s long history and expressed regret for what was lost.

Histories of countries belong not only to their citizens but also to the world’s collective memory, and those histories should be acknowledged and shared—the good and the bad, the beautiful and the ugly. All of our yesterdays have lives of their own; and, on a continuum, they give birth to our todays and tomorrows, our present and future moments. If some try to erase history, others will see the need to preserve it. Our futures can be better if we acknowledge and own the past, learn from it, and strive not to make the same mistakes or fight the same wars.

When we left Hong Kong, we embarked on a cruise that took us to ports in Taipei, Taiwan; Naha on the island of Okinawa, Japan; Shanghai, China; Kobe, Japan; Shimizu (Mount Fuji) Japan; and Yokohama, Japan. Our adventures and self-directed classroom at sea ended in Tokyo with enough memories to fill a book.

It was a journey that would not be possible today. Cruise ships no longer sail in distant waters. The open seas of yesterday and the lessons they offered are closed to travelers. We were grateful to God then, but even more so now, for every moment, every memory, and every blessing.

Let's discuss safe options for this year's travel

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- Holland Tulip Festival, Holland, Michigan May 3-7
- Shrine of Christ's Passion Indiana & Chicago area theaters May 26-30
- New Orleans July 12-16
- Creation Museum & Ark Encounter July 29-31
- Railroads of Colorado & New Mexico Aug. 8-18
- Island of Coudrés (Canada) Sept. 5-15
- Canyonlands Sept. 29-Oct. 6
- Christmas in Ohio & Kentucky Nov. 10-13
- Branson Christmas Nov. 16-19
- Christmas in Newport, Rhode Island Dec. 1-5
- A Smoky Mountain Christmas Dec. 13-16

For a complete listing and price of 2021 trips, call Alice at 662-256-1122, 662-640-5273, or email ourplacetours@aol.com

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IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF THE FIRSY JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF
HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL
AND TESTAMENT AND ESTATE OF
GERARD RAMON CASE, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. P2021-13 T/1

GEORGE PHILLIPS

PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been issued on the 19th day of January, 2021, by the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon the Estate of Gerard Ramon Case, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of said court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days after the date of first publication of this notice or they will be forever barred.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE this the 25th day of January, 2021.

/s/ George Phillips
George Phillips
Executor

Of Counsel:

C. Louis Clifford IV (MSB#99545)
Clifford Law Firm, PLLC
1755 Lelia Drive, Suite 303
Jackson, Mississippi 39216
Telephone: (601) 812-5925
Facsimile: (601) 812-5926
Email: louis@clifford-law.com

1/28/21, 2/4/21, 2/11/21

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF LEON VANCE GHETTI, DECEASED

CAUSE NO.: P-2019-488 (O/3)

DONNA STEWART

PETITIONER

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LEON VANCE GHETTI AND ANY AND ALL
OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF LEON VANCE GHETTI

You have been made a Defendant in the Petition for Determination of Heirship filed in this court by Donna Stewart.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said Petition for Determination of Heirship at 9:00 a.m. on the 24th day of March, 2021, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at Jackson, Mississippi, before the Honorable Denise Owens, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment may be entered against you for the money or other 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 said Court, this the 18th day of January, 2021.

EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK

BY: L Vance, D.C.

PAUL E. ROGERS, MSB #5649
Rogers, Ainsworth & Williams, PLLC
567 Highway 51, Suite B
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157
Phone: (601) 969-7777
Facsimile: (601) 352-8658
E-mail: paul@rogersawlaw.com

2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21

Advertisement for Bids

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time, Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of Casa Grande Apartments located at 3603 Terry Rd (Parcels 626-118 and 626-118-1)

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and or conduct business in the City, to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1055. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Contract Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies. Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

by: /s/ LaTonya Miller
LaTonya Miller, Manager
Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21, 2/25/21

We, the members of Sal & Mookie's LLC intend to make application for a change in location of an On-premise retailer's permit. Under the provisions of the Local Option Alcoholic Beverage Control Law 67-1-1 et. seq., Mississippi Code of 1972. If granted a change from Sal & Mookie's LLC doing business as Sal & Mookie's, who is now operating at 565 Taylor Street, Jackson, MS 39216. We, propose to operate under the trade name of Sal & Mookie's at 200 District Boulevard, Jackson, MS 39211 of Hinds county. The name(s), title(s), and address(es) of the owner(s)/partner(s)/corporate officer(s)/member(s) and/or majority stockholder(s) of the above names business are Jeff Good, Managing Member, 3668 Cavalier Drive, Jackson, MS 39216 and Dan Blumenthal, Member, 1930 East Northside Drive, Jackson, MS 39211.

If any person wishes to request a hearing to object to the issuance of this permit a request for a hearing must be made in writing and received by the Department of Revenue within (15) fifteen days from the first date this notice was published. Requests shall be sent to:

Chief Counsel, Legal Division
Department of Revenue
PO Box 22828
Jackson, MS 39225

This the 3rd day of February, 2021

2/11/21, 2/18/21

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
RONALD R. EVERETT, DECEASED

CAUSE NO.:20-1943 (O)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on January 21, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Rankin County, to MERILYN GAIL EVERETT THOMAS, Executor of the Estate of RONALD R. EVERETT, Deceased. Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

DATED this the 25th day of January, 2021.

MERILYN GAIL EVERETT THOMAS,
Executor of the Estate of RONALD R.
EVERETT, Deceased

By: /s/ R Kelly Kyle
R. Kelly Kyle

R. Kelly Kyle, MSB No. 09392
Kyle Wynn & Associates, PLLC
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1/28/21, 2/4/21, 2/11/21

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Playing for Jackson Academy's Lady Raider girls varsity soccer team are (from left, back) Assistant Coach Jaylon Robinson, Avery Kobs, Emily Thompson, Lani Roberts, Jordan Bertschler, Addi Roberts, Kendall Ross, Harper Griffin, Olivia Smith, Head Coach Phillip Buffington; (middle) Jenna Lancon, Aubrey Edmonson, Ava Couey, Natalie Thompson, Regan Felder, Anderson Ueltschey, Owen Overstreet; (front) Kate Wyndham Boyll, DeDe Miller, Anna Adkins, Caroline Weir, and Madi Brewer.

names in the news

Preiss Terry was named to the Fall 2020 University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences Dean's List. During this term, Preiss was majoring in political science. Students on the Dean's List earned 12 or more credit hours as letter grades with a minimum 3.60 GPA.

The University of Alabama awarded some 2,257

degrees during its fall commencement. Northsiders graduating were **Devin Brown**, bachelor's degree in computer science; **Kathleen Diket**, bachelor's degree in nursing; **Joseph Porter**, bachelor's degree; and **Damaris Reid**, master's in social work.

Lawson Stewart has been elected to the Mississippi College 2020-21 Student Government Association Executive Council. The council is the governing body of the Student Government Association.

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Developmental tennis

Madison-Ridgeland Academy's developmental tennis team is hard at work and ready to kick-off their season on March 31st. Shown are (from left) Rudra Sharma, Audrey

Holt, Julia Moore, Rosie Matlock, Catie Mann, Ella Dotson, Catherine Moore, and Trace Rowe. Not pictured are Allie Heubach, Chase Thomas, and Elijah Tubb.



Dance flash mob

St. Andrew's Episcopal Upper School dance students recently organized a flash mob for their peers during morning break. Pictured are (from left) Jasleen Rekhi, Hailey Watkins, Jamie Lee Jenkins, Anna Buckley, Marie Bishop, Satiya Johnson, and dance teacher Catherine Bishop.



Mr. and Miss Senior Class

Voted Mr. and Miss Senior Class at Jackson Prep's annual Précis Pageant were Mills Murphy (left) and Aubrey Scott Moak.



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happenings

Group may participate in the meeting via teleconference. Members of the public may attend the meeting in the UMMC Office of the Vice Chancellor.

Review Committee

The UMMC Partnership and Affiliation Review Committee Working Group will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 11, beginning at 1 p.m. Members of the Working

Farmers market

The Mississippi Farmers Market on High Street will be open on Saturdays (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.). The market is located on 929 High St. For more information, call (601)-354-6573.



Offensive awards

Receiving offensive awards at the Jackson Prep varsity football awards banquet were (from left) Matt Jones, Most Valuable Receiver; Grant Simpson, Most Valuable Lineman; and Jeffrey Ince, Most Valuable Quarterback.



SuperKids wear red

Kindergartners at First Presbyterian Day School wore red during their SuperKids Reading Program unit of letter R. Shown are (from left, back) Win Pleasant, Wingate Shull, Boyd Payne, Louis Boteler; (front) Turner Bailey, and Sam Agostinelli.



Pajama Fundraiser

Saint Anthony Catholic School first grade students enjoyed pajama day in conjunction with a fundraiser. Pictured are (from left) Hampton Baxter, Alden Ward, Brooks Holder and Isaac Smith.



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Braxton Bolden signs

Madison Central High School senior Braxton Bolden signed a national letter of intent to play football at Holmes Community College. Shown are (from left, back) Assistant Football Coach Mike

Hendershot, Brooks Bolden, brother; Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Anthony Hart; (front) Barry Bolden, father; Bolden, and Vicki Bolden, mother.



100 days of school

Magnolia Speech School students in Miss Ami Hill's class dressed up to celebrate "100 days of school." Shown are (from left)

Trey Graham, Easton Phillips, Gabby Mazy, Paris Otis, Barrett Vaughan, Coy Watkins and Carter Graham.

names in the news

At the Cowbell Classic, Mississippi State University virtually hosted 170 speech and debaters from 24 schools across eight states, competing in 15 events. Prep students **Kayleigh Canoy** (senior) and **Edward Wilson** (sophomore) led **Katherine Cole** (freshman) and **Sammie Johnson** (freshman) through their second ever tournament, including

writing, revising, and delivering 13 speeches they and their classmates researched over the previous week – while also asking questions of other speechmakers. Edward earned a slot in the finals of Congress and was elected presiding officer. He finished third overall in Congress and also Declamation speaking.

Candyce Simmons of Jackson was one of 39 students named to the Harding College's College of Pharmacy dean's list for fall 2020. Dean's list standing is reserved for full-time students with a 3.80 or higher grade point average.



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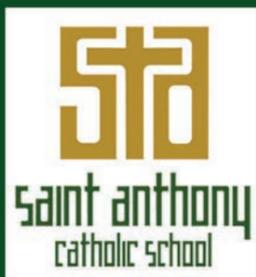
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Officer of the Quarter

The Rotary Club of North Jackson recently honored Sgt. Stephanie Burse as the Jackson Police Department's Precinct 4 Officer of the Quarter. Sgt. Burse was honored for her ability to catch a carjacking suspect by using the "find my iPhone" app from the victim's phone that was

left in her car to track the carjacker and arrest them. Shown are (from left) Precinct 4 Commander Obie Wells Jr., Steve Orlansky, club member and committee chair; Sgt. Burse, Sgt. Mark Hodges, Deputy Chief Tiny Harris and Assistant Chief Joseph Wade.

Habitat announces staff changes

MERRILL McKewen, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area (HFHMCA), recently announced new staff and new staff positions for 2021.

Brittany Hill of Madison is the new Finance Director. Hill holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from the University of Alabama. A certified public accountant, she has eight years of experience in public accounting with Home LLP and three years in director level accounting positions with Jackson area hospitals.

Kelle Menogan of Madison, a licensed residential builder, is the new Construction Director. He holds a bachelor's degree in environmental design from the University of Colorado and a master's in business administration from Belhaven College. His 39 years of work experience includes 26 years at Tougaloo College, where he served the past 17 years as Vice President of Facilities and Real Property Management.

Victoria Stein of Jackson has been named Development Director. She is a graduate of Mississippi State University, where she received a bachelor's degree in communications with a concentration in public relations. She has six years of experience in public relations and development work, including serving as Development Coordinator at the American Lung Association in Mississippi and a Public Relations Intern and then Executive Assistant at The Cirlot Agency. She began employment in 2018 at HFHMCA in the position of Development Associate.

Ashley Avery of Madison has been promoted to a new position -- Family Services Director. A graduate of Jackson State University, Avery holds a bachelor's degree in industrial technology. He began employment with HFHMCA in 2010 as Family Selection Coordinator. His previous work experience includes six years in financial services with Trustmark. He also has experience in broad-based financial management

advisory, community outreach/public relations, client services, and administration.

HABITAT FOR Humanity Mississippi Capital Area founded in 1986.

The non-profit has built or

renovated simple and sustainable homes for 650 families in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties.

Habitat homes are sold at no profit with an interest-free mortgage to families who cannot qualify for traditional bank loans.

"This leadership team has a unique depth of experience aligned with our vision as we move into the thirty-fifth year of this affiliate," McKewen said. "We are so fortunate to have them on board in these extraordinary times."

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Chapel of the Resurrection

Larger worship center built at Chapel of Cross; features seating for 360 congregants

By NELL LUTER FLOYD
Sun Staff Writer

A NEW WORSHIP SPACE stands southeast of the historic Chapel of the Cross in Madison, behind the woodland and cemetery as seen from Highway 463.

Known as the Chapel of the Resurrection, the \$4.4-million structure seats about 360 people and provides much needed room so members of the Episcopal Chapel of the Cross will be able to worship together after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

"The Chapel of the Resurrection is three times the size of the Chapel of the Cross," said the Rev. Ben Robertson, rector at the Chapel of the Cross, 647 Manssdale Road.

With an interior that features hand-hewn oak beams and floors, tall narrow windows and arched entrances, the Chapel of the Cross accommodates about 100 worshippers, perhaps a few more depending upon how closely together they sit.

"The chapel has been too small ever since it was built," Robert said. "When Bishop (William Mercer) Green consecrated the chapel in 1852 he wrote in his diary that it's too bad it's only able to accommodate half the people who attended."

As Madison County has grown and subdivisions such as Reunion, Lake Caroline and others have filled, the Chapel of the Cross has grown to a membership of about 900, he said. "We wanted a place where we could all gather," he said.

Like the Chapel of the Cross, the Chapel of the Resurrection is built of brick, utilizes supports known as buttresses and features tall, narrow windows with an arched point at the top known as lancet windows, but the newer building is not a replication of the older one, he said. "It's very much its own building," he said.

Ground was broken for the new building on April 14, 2019, and Probita Contracting Group in Florence is done with construction. Eley Guild Hardy Architects designed the building.

"We are waiting for some of the furnishings to arrive," Robertson said. "We have some choir chairs being built by The HannaBerry Workshop in Ocean Springs that will arrive in February. The pews will arrive in the middle of February."

"We were given an incredibly gracious gift, a font, by St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Williamsburg, Virginia. It is in Madison County and we will install it after the pews. Adam Gwin of Adam Gwin Fine Furniture in Natchez has completed the altar and credence tables. He will also build priest chairs, prie dieux and hymn boards."

A rose window, created by Pearl River Glass Studio in Jackson, is a beautiful addition to the space, Robertson said.

"It's stunning," he said. "We're blessed by how it's all come together."

Noack Organ Co. in Georgetown, Massachusetts is building an organ for the new chapel. "I'm hoping it will be done by Christmas, but it may be January 2022," Robertson said.

The Chapel of the Cross will remain the centerpiece of the campus, be preserved as

a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and be used for services that need do not require the seating of the new chapel, Robertson said. "We'll definitely use it and preserve it well," he said.

The Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, bishop of the Episcopal Church in Mississippi, has given permission for the Chapel of the Resurrection to be used before it is formally consecrated but that hasn't happened on a regular basis yet, Robertson said.

EDITH STATER, A MEMBER of the Chapel of the Cross for more than 30 years, served on the furnishings and fixtures committee for the new chapel.

"It's time to rejoice," she said. "With God's help plus hours and hours of work from development to construction to completion, all amid the many challenges of 2020 and COVID-19, the result is a beautiful new worship space for our community so it can continue the legacy of the Chapel of the Cross and grow and support current and future generations."

Stater's daughter, Elena, holds the distinction of being the first bride to be wed in the Chapel of the Resurrection. Elena Stater and Tommy Skelton married there on Dec. 12.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Chapel of the Cross currently offers limited in-person worship on Sundays at 11 a.m. that is also livestreamed via Facebook and the church's website, Robertson said. Some Sunday school classes meet in person, while others meet virtually.

The Chapel of the Cross is known for its annual Day in the Country, a festival that is more than 40 years old that has raised funds for the maintenance of the building. Robertson is hopeful that a full-fledged Day in the Country will be offered this year.

Because there is a cemetery right outside the Chapel of the Cross, a ministry that is a throwback to another time offers members and friends a unique experience: The opportunity to dig graves in the cemetery. Members of the Gravediggers Guild use shovels instead of modern machinery to create final resting places in the cemetery. "It's a very earthy, meaningful ministry," Robertson said.

The legal name of the parish will remain the Chapel of the Cross, and members who attend the church will attend what's known as the Chapel of the Cross, even while meeting in the Chapel of the Resurrection, he said.

Members of the Chapel of the Cross submitted several names for the new building and members of the vestry selected the Chapel of the Resurrection.

"After this year, the year with the pandemic, an economic downturn and contentious political upheaval, for the vestry to select the name, the Chapel of the Resurrection, is a statement that we are a people of resurrection," Robertson said. "We are an Easter people. This last year has been quite challenging but all will be well in all manner of things, and this chapel and its beauty is a symbol of that."

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
HUGH M. McWILLIAMS, DECEASED

CAUSE NO.: 2021-0008 O/3

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 22nd day of January, 2021 by the Chancery Court of First Judicial District of Hinds County to TIMOTHY S. McWILLIAMS Executor of the Estate of HUGH M. McWILLIAMS, Deceased. Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

DATED this the 28th day of January, 2021.

/s/ TIMOTHY S. McWILLIAMS
Timothy S. McWilliams, Executor of the Estate of
Hugh M. McWilliams, Deceased

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Highland Village Chevron more than just a gas station for regular customers

By **NELL LUTER FLOYD**
Sun Staff Writer

DAVID FERRIS pretty much takes the same route home most days after completing his work as executive chef at Fresh Cut Catering.

Without fail, he stops at the Highland Village Chevron, a full-service gas station/convenience store that is easily described by the theme song for the hit TV show, "Cheers."

These lyrics explain it best: "Where everybody knows your name/and they're always glad you came..."

Even if his vehicle is full of gasoline, Ferris pops in at the Highland Village Chevron, which sits in the Highland Village parking lot, across from Whole Foods Market, and occupies the southwest corner of East Northside Drive and Old Canton Road.

"Every day after I work I go there, get my Gatorade, say, 'Hi,' and then go home," he said. "It's a place I grew up going to and I still love going there. Every time you're in there you're going to know two or three people from Jackson."

Some days Dr. Kyle Ball, an OB-GYN at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, may drop by the station on the way to work and on the way home from work. He might grab a cup of coffee or fill his vehicle with fuel and, in the course of doing business, have a friendly chat.

The station is a throwback to when service was key to the success of a business and owners went out of their way to help others

Select the full-service line and someone will not only fill your vehicle with gasoline but check the fluid levels, measure the tire pressure and wash the windshield.

The Highland Village Chevron at 1361 E. Northside Dr. is one of a few full-service stations left in Jackson, with another being the Gulf station at 352 E. Woodrow Wilson Ave.

"When I first started, there was the Ridgewood Shell, the Colonial Mart Shell, the Lakeland Exxon and Texaco at Triangle Mart," said Northsider Mike Shay, who with his wife, Leanna, a K3 teacher at First Presbyterian Day School, has owned the Chevron since 2005.

A native of Alaska who moved to Mississippi when he was 17, Shay has worked at the station since 1997. Even though he's the boss, he works alongside employees to take care of whatever needs to be done.

"I won't ask my guys to do anything I don't do," he said. "I still pump gas. I still fix tires."

Customers pay a little bit more for gasoline on the full-service side, but many think the assistance is well worth it, especially when it's hot outside, cold outside or



Mike Shay

pouring down rain. For some, convenience is what matters.

"There's not a single demographic for customers that use full service," Shay said. "It's older, younger, male, female. Sometimes it's high school kids."

SOME INDIVIDUALS ARE hardly acquainted with the ins and outs of their vehicles and want a quick check to make sure they're in good order while some just dislike pumping their gasoline, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

Others value a local go-to for maintenance such as an oil change or a new battery, and should they experience the annoyance of a flat tire, know they can have it repaired or replaced there.

"When you need something, you know they're going to take care of you," said DeSha White of Jackson, a Realtor, who has been a customer of the station since 1985.

Ball appreciates that the station's customer service is reminiscent of another day and time when owners and employees took pride in their work.

"It's something from a bygone era," he said. "I'll be fueling my truck and an elderly woman will pull in with trouble and Mike (Shay) immediately goes and helps her or has his men go help. It's a fearful thing for older woman to have car trouble."

Melissa Meacham, a homemaker, and mother of three sons, counts on the station
See Mike Shay, Page 15B

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IN THE CHANCERY COURT
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OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

ESTATE OF JEAN T. BREWER,
DECEASED NO. P2021-00054 O/3

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 27th day of January, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Executor of the ESTATE OF JEAN T. BREWER, DECEASED, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 31st day of January, 2021.

/s/Thomas Arnold Turner III
Thomas Arnold Turner, III, Executor of
the Estate of Jean T. Brewer, Deceased

/s/ Leonard C. Martin
Leonard C. Martin
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Mike Shay

Continued from Page 14B

to keep her family's vehicles in good shape along with their dirt bikes and lawn mower.

"I could not survive without them," she said. "It's like a small-town gas station. I pull up and say, 'Mike, I've got a nail in my tire' or 'I need an oil change,' and he gets it done. We go there for gasoline, oil changes and to get snacks from the convenience store. We go there daily."

Meacham opts for full-service when her vehicle needs gasoline and she doesn't mind

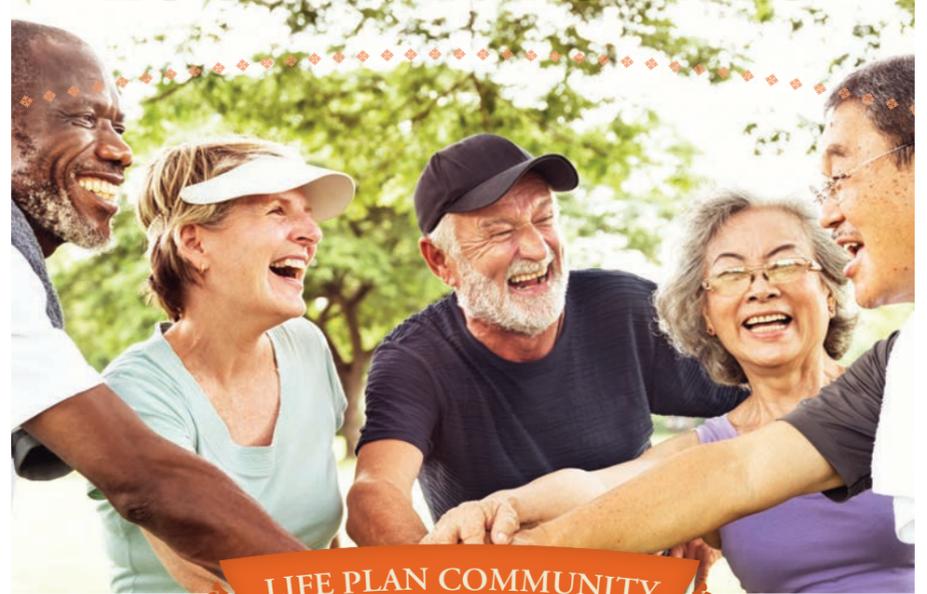
the extra cost. "We'll go inside and get snacks while they pump our gas," she said.

The location is handy but there's more, she said. "Mike has high principles and values, and his employees are great to be around and welcoming," Meacham said.

Ball, who has done business at the station since 1994, regards Shay as a gentleman and friend.

"My dad always said to do business with your friends," he said. "Mike's a super guy."

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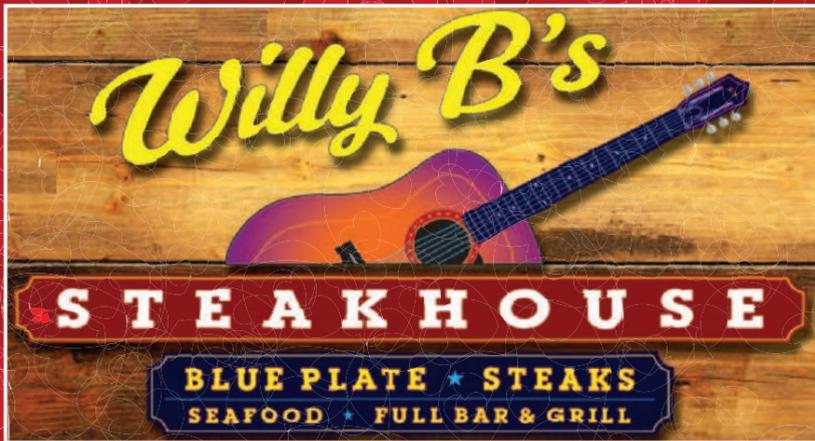


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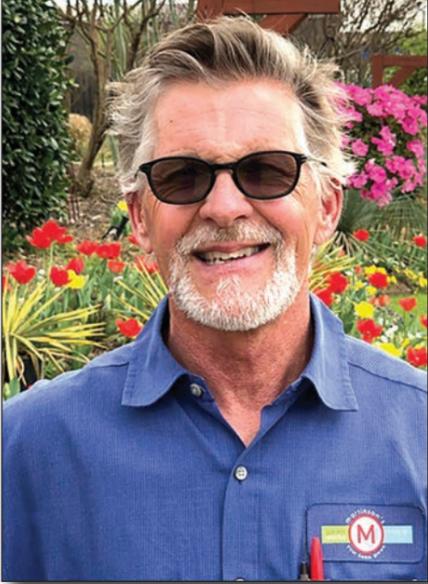
*Valentine's Day
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LIFE'S A GARDEN... DIG IT!

by Allen Martinson



Raising Travel Companions

After living in a neighborhood we loved for a while we decided to purchase a little land so we could get away when we wanted to.

Right away we did something we always wanted to do; we bought a teepee that was 24 feet in diameter. The 17 poles were cut in Montana from very straight lodge pole pines and were 35 feet long. Finding a trucker to move that was harder than finding a Teepee company. We found a place called Panther Primitives, I think from North Carolina, that makes authentic Sioux teepees, yurts, and other kinds of tents. In the 10 years we had the property we went through three teepees as they are made of cotton canvas and don't last forever.

For those 10 years we spent every Wednesday and Saturday night out there. I think they were probably the only kids showing up at Saint Andrews who had just woken up in a teepee lit by candles and kerosene lamps. We planted trees and other plants every chance we got with the kids' help. It really made it fun. We fished and swam in the lake that the land was a part of.

They grew up thinking all of this was normal until later when they figured out most kids were watching TV and going to Disneyland and playing soccer. Not that we felt like there was anything wrong with those things, we just didn't want to spend most of our time getting to and fro from weekend sports. We believed our time was better spent at our own place to play.

It was around this time that every young couple with kids had to have a Suburban to haul kids and carpool. We had one and enjoyed some long road trips in the beast. Those trips I'll write about but I wanted to introduce Mia and Max to you because they will be involved on some pretty wild journeys that I'll be musing about in later articles.

It was time to trade in the Suburban and I told Mimi what our budget would be after the trade-in. I told her she could get anything she wanted as long as we stayed in that budget. I should've never said that. I came home one day and her sparkling eyes were extra sparkling as she was excited to tell me that she found what she wanted. Mimi found a 1966, 21 window Volkswagen van that could carry more kids than any suburban. I didn't have to look at her very long to know she was serious and there would be no talking her out of it. She had the bright yellow van shipped to the nursery from California. We had so much fun getting around in that van. Anyone who has been hooked by the Volkswagen bug knows it comes with its ups and downs, mostly ups.

THE KIDS GREW up in a great house and some land that was 10 minutes away. Although it felt like we were on another planet with a permanent base camp set up, packing to go out there twice a week was no big deal. They had swings hanging from trees where they could do their homework



while we fussed over dinner on the fire. They helped us build the 30' x 30' wooden deck the teepee rested on and they helped us put up the poles and wrap the skin on the teepee twice a year. They might have learned some curse words while the poles were being erected. If you can imagine 35 foot tall poles that have to be placed precisely to form the circle, I think a curse word might have squeaked out as we tried our best to make it fun.

They were taught at an early age that Home Depot and Lowe's and Walmart were the enemy of the nursery man. They didn't step foot in Walmart until they were in high school and I can assure you it wasn't with me. We have found a way to live our lives without that place. We do go to Lowe's when we need building materials for one of our crazy projects. We have a blast when we go to Lowe's for lumber and nails and concrete and hinges because it's always for a project we are excited about like a chicken pen or a deck for a teepee or a fence around the garden or wooden sides

on one of our work trucks.

They are very good at planning and building these sorts of things and that makes it really fun to build these things as a family. I think it has made them appreciate things we see every day that may otherwise go unnoticed. We still build things together when we find time to get together. We are not a family who likes to sit around not doing something.

I HAVE NO IDEA IF the way we raised Max and Mia is right or wrong but we figured we would get one chance to do it so we may as well have fun.

My point in telling about how they were raised is that it leads to great adventures in the mountains and caves here in America and other countries. We weren't afraid to get into the back wilderness country because we felt like there wasn't anything we couldn't at least try. My favorite part about their nontraditional upbringing we chose to inflict upon them has led to two very confident siblings who are carrying on with this adventurous spirit.

Mia lives in South Carolina where she runs, mountain bikes and camps every chance that comes her way. She moved off to a place where she knew not one person and has made a wonderful life for herself and is completely doing it without our help. Max rode with it by first earning his Eagle Scout award and by always having his camping stuff in his vehicle in case a chance arises. He is learning the horticulture trade and can weld and build anything he wants to. I couldn't be more proud of those two.

As I was doing my Chevy Chase thing in the attic today I realized their childhood was a lot like mine and Mimi's growing up in the country, I think we can all look back and agree that that was just about as fun as it could get. I'm glad we made the most of it while we could, doing it together is over now and Mimi and I love the empty nest stage, in fact we are professional empty nesters. We did the best we could, now it's up to our kids to use those memories however they choose.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LEON WILLIAMS, DECEASED

CASE NO. 2020-934C

PAUL E. ROGERS

PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 9th day of November, 2020, by the Chancery Clerk of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Leon Williams, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for administration and registration according to law within (90) days from the first publication of this Notice or they will be forever barred.

SO NOTICED, this the 22nd day of January, 2021.

/s/ Paul E. Rogers

PAUL E. ROGERS, MSB #5649
Rogers, Ainsworth & Williams, PLLC
567 Highway 51, Suite B
Ridgeland, MS 39157
(601) 969-7777

1/28/21, 2/4/21, 2/11/21

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CATHERINE WILLIAMS, DECEASED

CASE NO. 2020-933C

PAUL E. ROGERS

PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 9th day of November, 2020, by the Chancery Clerk of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Catherine Williams, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for administration and registration according to law within (90) days from the first publication of this Notice or they will be forever barred.

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