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Volume 42, No. 28 ■ July 11, 2018

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## Crowder to represent Jones County at Distinguished Young Women Program in Meridian on July 12

Submitted

Caidyn Grace Crowder, Distinguished Young Woman of Jones County, will be one of 30 Mississippi high school seniors competing for more than \$28,900 in college scholarships when the 2019 Distinguished Young Women of Mississippi Program gets underway Thursday, July 12 in Meridian.

The state program is now in its 62nd year celebrating and spotlighting outstanding achievements of the state's best and brightest high school girls.



Caidyn Grace Crowder

celebrates what is right with today's young people and offers them cash scholarship opportunities to further their education."

Caidyn, the daughter of Grant and Anita Shawn Crowder of Ellisville, attends South Jones High School. Academic accomplishments, membership and hobbies include the following: Dixie Electric Youth Leadership finalist, South Jones Company Show Choir, South Jones Senior Beta Club President, Student Council, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She plans to attend Vanderbilt University to pursue a career as a nurse anesthetist. During the week-long program in Meridian, DYW contestants are evaluated on scholastic achievement, fitness, self-expression, talent and interview. Crowder has chosen a vocal presentation of "Man of La Mancha (I, Don Quixote)" for her talent.

If selected as Distinguished Young Woman of Mississippi, Caidyn will compete in the Distinguished Young Women for 2019 finals in June of 2019, which will be held in Mobile, Alabama. There she will compete for the opportunity to win a share of more than \$100,000 in cash scholarship awards, including the \$50,000 national title scholarship award.

Distinguished Young Women, formerly America's Junior Miss, was founded in 1958 as a way to reward the accomplishments of high school girls seeking to pursue higher education. This organization is the oldest and largest scholarship program for young women. More than 6,500 high school girls participate each year. Past AJM participants include Diane Sawyer, Debra Messing, Deborah Norville, Julie Moran, the late Mary Frann, Kim Basinger and Kathie Lee Gifford.

**IF SELECTED AS DISTINGUISHED YOUNG WOMAN OF MISSISSIPPI, CAIDYN WILL COMPETE IN THE DISTINGUISHED YOUNG WOMEN FOR 2019 FINALS IN JUNE OF 2019, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN MOBILE. THERE SHE WILL COMPETE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN A SHARE OF MORE THAN \$100,000 IN CASH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, INCLUDING THE \$50,000 NATIONAL TITLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.**

The three nights of competition in The Evangel Temple Church concludes on Saturday, July 14. Curtain is 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; 8 p.m. Saturday. Reserved tickets for the 2019 Distinguished Young Women Program are available for \$60 for a three-night package. General admission tickets are available for individual evening: \$15, Thursday; \$15, Friday, and \$20 for the finals on Saturday. Tickets may be purchased by calling (601) 480-3438. All major credit cards are welcome.

"We are extremely excited about this year's program," said Sid Wilkinson, State Chairman of the Distinguished Young Women of Mississippi Program. "This program cel-

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# Creative ways to trim college costs

The cost of college tuition continues to increase, and college graduates are feeling the burn of that trend when the time comes to begin repaying their student loans.

According to an analy-

indicate that college graduates have far greater lifetime earning potential than men and women who enter the professional arena with only high school diplomas.

So what can prospective college students do to avoid

schools' tuitions increase dramatically in just four years.

◆Begin at a two-year college. Two-year colleges typically charge considerably lower tuitions than four-year colleges and universities.

Students who want to save money may benefit by enrolling in a two-year college out of high school and getting all of their prerequisite courses out of the way at a more budget-friendly cost.

When considering this option, make sure credits at the two-year college fully transfer to the four-year school students hope to enroll in after earning their associate's degrees.

◆Remain in-state for undergraduate degrees. In-state tuition at public universities remains a considerable bargain over out-of-state tuition or tuition at private universities. Students planning to do postgraduate work might benefit by enrolling in in-state public universities and saving their money to finance their postgraduate educations.

Students who hope to attend a public university in a state that borders their home state may be eligible for a border waiver, which grants them in-state tuition even though they attended high school outside of the state.

Attending college has never been more expensive, but students and their parents can explore various options that can help reduce the cost of college tuition.

# HANDBAGS and HIGH HEELS



I have always been fascinated by the world of modeling. It seems like such an easy and glamorous gig. Someone photographs you while you stand around wearing gorgeous clothes, and you get paid for it. Simple enough, right? Wrong.

I had several experiences with modeling when I was younger. None of them were easy or glamorous. Fun? Definitely. But also some of the hardest work I've ever done.

One was a runway show put on by some women's club in Memphis. The clothes all came from Dillard's. Our magazine was a sponsor, so we were tasked with sending one girl to walk the runway. My publisher informed me that the girl she really wanted to send was pregnant, so I could do it instead. Gee, thanks. That boss was a real confidence-booster.

Due to my busy work schedule, I was one of the last girls to make it for a fitting, which was evident by the outfits they handed me. Neither was something I would actually buy, but I wasn't in a place to complain, so I smiled and left with two hanging bags filled with satin and velour – two of the worst fabrics ever made.

When I got to the rehearsal, I discovered almost everyone there had little to no experience. The one girl who took it way too seriously was easy to pick out. She tried to teach the rest of us how to pose and stomped down that makeshift runway inside the country club ballroom like her life depended on it. With an endless supply of mimosas backstage, the rest of us were lucky to make it all the way down and



EMILY HALL  
FASHION COLUMNIST

back in one piece. I think one girl tripped down the stairs at the end. It was a far cry from Fashion Week, but it was fun.

My next modeling venture was a much more professional one, as I set up a shoot with a well-known photographer to get some headshots done. This shoot promised a hair and makeup person. You can imagine my surprise when I walked in to the studio, my hair still wet from my shower, and was told the stylist was sick. The photographer was smart enough to keep a hair dryer in the changing room, and I had brought my makeup with me, so I was able to squeak by. This photographer knew I was a novice, so I'm guessing his expectations were fairly low. If he ever got frustrated, it never showed. He guided me and taught me as best he could. It was at this shoot that I learned I have one modeling face – eyes widened, lips slightly parted, not smiling. Emoting, or “smize-ing” as Tyra Banks calls it, is obviously not my strong point. That would be “smile with your eyes” for those of you not obsessed with America's Next Top Model.

That didn't stop me from taking a real modeling gig, though. This one was for a magazine and would be seen by actual people, so I was nervous. I was dressed and ready for the first shot when I took a step off of the white paper under my feet to grab a bottle of water.

Everyone in the room simultaneously freaked out. The shoes were on loan, and I was standing on rough concrete.

One scratch and the store wouldn't take the shoes back. Lesson learned. For the next 4 hours, I was confined to the paper. In that time, I learned that the model only takes breaks when the photographer does; that the way my head tilts can make or break a photo; that angry, but not too angry, is a look. My feet and hands were posed for me like I was a mannequin. Clothes were pinned and tucked from every angle. Someone even came over and changed my shoes for me while I perched on a stool. No walking, remember? By the end of the day, I was exhausted and convinced I hadn't taken a single decent picture. I was pleasantly surprised when the negatives came back and the magazine decided to use



Emily's first modeling shoot, circa 2006.

not one, but five photos of me in the spread.

The next time you look at a model's Instagram page, or see an ad in a magazine, think about everything that goes into getting that one perfect picture.

It may look easy and glamorous, but it's not. Don't believe me? Have you ever tried to make a “sultry” face when there is a fan blowing 20 mph winds right at your corneas? Give it a shot. I'll wait... See? Told you so.

Emily Hall is the Fashion Columnist for the Impact. She still automatically looks around for white paper when she tries on new shoes.

## Buckley, Bilderback and Buffington recognized as Coaches of the Year by MAC

Three Jones County Junior College head coaches were recently named Mississippi Association of Coaches (MAC) Community College Coach of the Year in their respective sports.

Steve Buckley was honored in football, Missy Bilderback was recognized in women's basketball and Brooks Buffington got top honors in women's tennis.

They were all recognized during the annual MAC Coaches Hall of Fame Banquet on June 22 at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson.

Buckley led the Bobcats to an 8-2 record in 2017 and the MACJC South Division championship. In two seasons at Jones, Buckley has posted a 14-5 record.

Bilderback guided the Lady Bobcats to their second straight MACJC and Region 23 Tournament titles and a second straight appearance in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Lubbock, Texas. The Lady Bobcats ended the season at 26-4 and are 75-8 in Bilderback's three seasons as head coach.

Buffington led the Lady Bobcats to a 15-3 record and the MACJC/Region 23 Tournament championship. The Lady Bobcats finished 13th in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Waco, Texas, which was the highest DI finish ever for a JCJC women's tennis team.

Buffington has coached the Lady Bobcats to two straight national tournament appearances and a 24-8 regular season record in his two seasons as head coach.

## IMPACT

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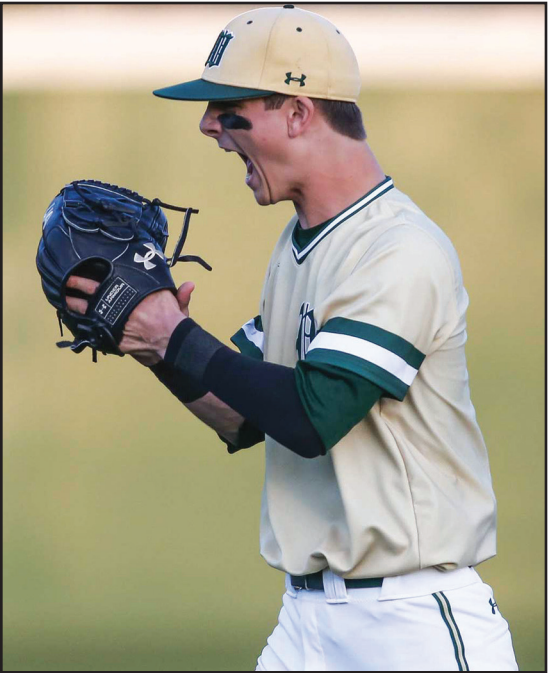
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# Dickerson decides on Southern Miss for next step of his baseball career

By James Pugh

From the age of four, Dustin Dickerson has been around baseball and the big leagues. His dad, Bobby Dickerson, a Laurel native who played collegiate baseball for Nicholls State and was later drafted by the New York Yankees in the



Dustin Dickerson

23rd round of the 1987 Major League Baseball draft, is a former minor league manager and current third base coach for the Baltimore Orioles. "I've been around the game since I was four," said Dickerson. "My dad has taken me inside the clubhouses, on the field and I've even taken infield with the big leaguers. I've learned how to play and how to grow in the game because of that." This week the West Jones baseball standout announced his commitment to play at the next level. "Excited to announce that I have committed to the University of Southern Mississippi to continue my education and baseball career! #SMTTT," said Dickerson in a tweet on social media.

"First of all I would like to thank God for blessing me with the talent I have," said Dickerson a day after announcing the news. "[Southern

Miss] is right here in my backyard, and all my friends and family can come and watch me play." He had planned to announce his commitment at the end of the summer but in the last week decided to change course. "I told myself I was going to wait and commit at the end of the summer," Dickerson added, "but I've been thinking hard about it and wanted to get it all off my shoulders." Dickerson has been a starter for the West Jones baseball program since his freshman year. The incoming senior holds a .283 career batting average, including an impressive .333 junior season. As a junior, Dickerson helped West Jones (27-5) advance to the MHSAA Class 5A South State Championship series for just the fourth time in school history, not only as a talented shortstop but as its ace on the mound. Last season he finished 8-1 from the mound in 14 appearances, had a 1.18 ERA, and led all Mustang pitchers with 83 strikeouts in 66.1 innings pitched. His glove, though, is what helped Dickerson earn several JUCO and Division 1 offers. His highest fielding percentage (.957) came last year as a junior, committing just four errors on 82 total chances. Dickerson is .943 overall in three seasons as West Jones' starting shortstop. Beside Southern Miss, Dickerson's other D1 offers included Nicholls State, Mississippi State and Louisiana Tech. The now Southern Miss commit says his growth in the game is partially due to a former Southern Miss baseball standout. "Coach [Trey] Sutton has pushed me to be a better player," Dickerson said. "He's always made sure I was on the top of my game." Sutton played at West Jones in the early 2000s and later for the Golden Eagles from 2005-2008. He still holds the career hits record at Southern Miss with 327. Dickerson has one more season at West Jones and has high hopes for it. "We've been playing some summer ball and working out every week," said Dickerson. "One of my primary goals is to bring a title to West Jones, especially for Coach Sutton. He's been so close as a player at West Jones and as a coach. "I think next year we will have the team to do it."



Martha McCarty signed copies of her book, "Laurel's Child," at Lott Furniture on Saturday, July 7. "Laurel's Child" is her second published work. McCarty is a retired school teacher of 37 years. Since she walked away from the classroom, she has focused her talents on writing. She lives in Stringer and has four children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. One of her other joys in life, outside of writing, is spoiling her grandchildren. The back cover synopsis of "Laurel's Child" is as follows: "So many of us who grew up here in Laurel, Mississippi, took our home for granted, until we got old enough to see some of the rest of the world. Ours is quite a unique place, but we just assumed everyone had what we had. Tall pines, huge oaks and magnolias lofting over brick streets and throughout our yards and neighborhoods shaded our childhood adventures as we ran her streets and alleys. We were given the very best of everything a kid could ever want or need, and I, for one, am very grateful." To find out more about "Laurel's Child," find McCarty on Facebook. Photo/Brad Crowe.

# The Story Teller: Recollecting memories of those neighborhood small grocery stores

By Martha McCarty

Allow me to introduce myself and to say how very pleased I am to have this column. Many of you knew me as Martha Donaldson, and others of you might know me as Mrs. Kenny McCarty from Stringer. I grew up in Laurel, reared my family in Stringer, and taught school in and around the area until my retirement a few years ago. I have been a writer for years now, and I consider it a privilege to share with you much of what keeps my mind busy both day and night. I love our area and her communities and am so grateful that we can thrive in and enjoy such a rich, Southern culture as we do. Over

**YEP! THESE WERE THE DAYS OF OUR YOUTH, WHEN A CHILD WAS AT HOME IN NEARLY EVERYONE’S NEIGHBORHOOD, AND EVERY STORE OWNER WAS SOMEBODY’S FATHER, GRANDFATHER, UNCLE OR COUSIN. MANY FAMILIES WHO OWNED AND RAN THESE STORES ALSO LIVED IN THE BACK OF OR ABOVE THEM AND TRULY WERE OUR NEIGHBORS.**

the next weeks, I plan to share and celebrate that culture with you, my readers. I suppose one could call what I plan to compile a ‘local color essay’. A couple of weeks ago, I asked FB friends if there had been a small grocery in their childhood neighborhoods, and the response I received was overwhelming, to say the least. Not only were there many scattered around our neighborhoods, but each had had profound effects on the folks and families nearby. We all know how important the neighborhood is to its people, and now I have been made aware of how vital these stores are to neighborhoods. Everybody had a store close by, and everybody loved to go there. Most were within walking distance of our homes, and many of us had more than one from which to choose. Very often we, as children, walked barefoot on gravel or hot sidewalks, but nearly all of us rode bikes and even trikes to get our popsicles, bubble gum, and cold drinks. Susan remembers filling her cap pistol with newly bought caps while she drank her chilled grappettes, and Fred recalls the delicious 10 cent burgers and other ‘small stuff for junior high kids’. Our stores carried everything from hot tamales and pickled pig’s feet to round hoops of sharp cheese and flat taffy. From an open-top chest cooler, a kid could choose a coke, an orange crush or whatever other glass bottled flavor might strike his fancy, as long as he had a nickel to spare. Lisa’s

favorite snack was the ice cream, scooped from behind the counter and dipped into a crispy cone. The meat counters and butchers behind them took really good care of our families. Ron remembers that his mother would call in her order, and her butcher would cut, wrap,



price and have ready her order when she got to the store. Many of our parents even rented freezer space in their store’s walk-in cooler. And what made it even better for our moms, many of whom didn’t have the use of the family car during the day, was that most of the neighborhood stores around delivered to our homes as well. Whether the visit was stopping on the way home after church, running in on the way home from school, going with a parent on a Saturday morning routine shopping trip or just running around the corner on a long hot summer afternoon, going into that special place is such a cherished memory for each and every one of us. If you listen real closely, you can still hear the squeak and slam of the old screen door, as the Sunbeam sign on it nearly caught and tore your shirt. And, Eddie, do you still feel how the saw dust on the floor still tickles your bare feet? And would you get another good look at that parrot. Is it real or fake? Some never did figure that out. Yep! These were the days of our youth, when a child was at home in nearly everyone’s neighborhood, and every store owner was somebody’s father, grandfather, uncle or cousin. Many families who owned and ran these stores also lived in the back of or above them and truly were our neighbors. Whether these merchants were our kin or not, they all seemed like family, and we loved most of them like they were. There were few boundaries for us kids and even fewer dangers between our homes and cold drinks. Our families depended upon, appreciated and supported our ‘mom and pop’ groceries, and we know that their having been there had a great influence in making us who we are today. And if any of you are among the store keepers I’ve spoken of here and are reading this, we, like Elvis, thank you very much!

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*THE AREA HAPPENINGS SECTION IS A SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR NON-PROFIT GROUPS ONLY – SUCH AS SCHOOLS, CHURCHES AND OTHER NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OR FAMILY EVENTS.*  
***YOU MAY SEND YOUR EVENTS TO: ADMIN@LAURELIMPACT.COM.***

## JULY 11

Family Health Center, Inc, is giving away free school supplies! Schedule your visit today – walk-ins welcome. You can pick up on the following dates and locations: Taylorsville location on Wednesday, July 11, 531 Hwy 28 East, Taylorsville (601-785-9580); Waynesboro location on Thursday, July 12, 713 Lomax Avenue (601-671-2405); Laurel location on Saturday, July 14, 117 S. 11th Avenue (601-425-3033).

## JULY 14

The Laurel Christian Home Educators Curriculum Sale will take place on Saturday, July 14 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at First Church of God, 1635 Grandview Drive, Laurel. This is a cash only community sale where homeschooling families bring their used curriculum and homeschool items to sell to other homeschooling families. All are welcome! For more information, contact Michelle Parker at 601-518-0262.

The 16th annual Ellzey family reunion will be held at the Sand Hill Community Center on Saturday, July 14 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Please come and share the fellowship with family and friends. Come early for coffee and donuts. For more information call 601-425-2054. Don't forget to bring old photographs, stories and lunch to share.

Sandra Hancock Ministries is hosting a Voice of Hope Conference on July 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at "The Gathering Place," 3227 Audubon Dr. in Laurel. God has given Sandra a word just for you! Bring your friends and come expecting your miracle! There are no admission costs. For more information, call 1-800-579-7350 or see our webpage at www.sandrahancock.org.

SWA Championship Wrestling is coming to the Myrick gym on Saturday, July 14 with another exciting card of professional wrestling action! Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and bell time at 7:00 p.m. Ringside \$10; adult general admission, \$8; and kids (6-12) general admission is \$6. Kids under 6 are free. This is a fundraiser for the Myrick Booster Club.

You are invited to our 2nd Annual Gospel Singing Jubilee featuring "Crimson City Quartet," "Brother Four," and "Kole Johnson" on July 14 at 6:00 p.m. at Lighthouse Church, 3050 Hwy 588, Ellisville. For more information call 601-408-1216. Free admission, love offering and donation.

New Bethany Church on Hwy 588 West of Ellisville invites you to a concert by the Magnolia Boys Quartet on July 14 starting at 6:30 p.m. Come out for a great night of gospel music!

New Life in Christ Ministry, 226 Ellisville Blvd., invites you to our "Women of Power Ministry" on July 14 at 11:00 a.m. The speaker will be Bishop Carrie Crawford of Richton, MS.

## JULY 15

East Galilee MB Church, Rose Hill, invites you to our Dream-team Revival. Services will be starting Sunday, July 15 at 1:00 p.m. Nightly

services will be Monday, July 16 through Friday, July 20 at 7:15. There will be a different guest speaker each night.

Church of Christian Unity, Laurel, invites you to our Youth Choir Day on July 15 at 3:00 p.m. Please bring your choirs, soloists, praise teams, mimes, and groups to be our special guests.

New Beginnings Baptist Church in Stringer will be having summer revival July 15-17. Speaker will be Bro. Harold Floyd, and music will be provided by Van Long. Service times: Sunday 11 a.m.; lunch at 12:00 p.m.; and afternoon service at 1:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday service at 7 p.m. The church is located at 134 CR 1511 Bay Springs MS.

## JULY 20

The 40th Annual Mississippi Watermelon Festival will be held in the Mize City Park on July 20 & 21. On Friday, July 20 the gates open at 3:30 p.m. and on Saturday, June 21 the gates open at 8:30 a.m. with live music, arts and crafts, games, fun and great food with all the free watermelon you can eat. Saturday features a 5K run/walk and a car show! Saturday night will feature a performance by Jamie O'Neal at 8:00 p.m.! Pony rides, bungee jumps, a water walk, the festival has something for everyone.

Bring your lawn chairs and grab a spot in the shade. Friday admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 10. Saturday admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 per child under 10 and includes the concert. All proceeds go to the Mize Volunteer Fire Dept. For more information, call 877-790-9722 or visit www.mswatermelonfestival.com or email mswatermelonfestival@gmail.com.

## JULY 22

Shady Grove M.B. Church of Heidelberg will host their annual revival on the fourth Sunday, July 22, through July 27. Our evangelist speaker for the week will be Rev. Moore, pastor of Corinth Baptist Church of Newton, Miss., and will begin nightly at 7:15. The Sunday speaker will be Rev. Clinton Heidelberg, pastor of Beaver Meadow M.B. Church. You are invited each night to come and worship with us!

You are cordially invited to worship with us at Old Enterprise Baptist Church during our annual Homecoming service on Sunday, July 22 at 2:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Terry Jones, pastor of Bethlehem MB Church, Shubuta. You are also invited to attend our annual revival services running July 23 – July 25 with services starting at 7:30 nightly. There will be a different guest speaker each night.

## JULY 23

Pine Valley Baptist Church, located at 924 SCR 8a, Taylorsville, announces its revival services beginning July 23 and running July 25. The evangelist will be the Rev. Cornelius McDonald Sr. Of John the Baptist. Please feel free to come join us any night of your choice. Services: at 7:30 p.m.

## JULY 29

The Youth Department of New Jerusalem Full Gospel Church invites you the public to our upcoming services on July 29 at 3:30 p.m. for our Youth Got Talent Show. For more information call Director Melissa Nix, 601-319-6786, or Candace Jordan, 601-577-2603.

## MISC.

Te Invito A Mi Iglesia to Iglesia El Faro, 544 East Street, Laurel, MS. Servicios, Sabados: 6:00 p.m., Domingos: 10:00 a.m. Pastores Rafael Y Cecilia Anderson. 601-335-1453.

Al-Anon meetings are held each Monday night at 7:00 at the 24-hour Society Club House at 626 N. Magnolia Street.

# Safe Sitter® course offered at SRMC

South Central Regional Medical Center will offer Safe Sitter® courses for young teens, grades 6-8, on Friday, July 27 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at South Central Place in Laurel. Registration deadline is Tuesday, July 24 at 5 p.m.

More than 600,000 young teens have graduated from the medically-accurate program which teaches how, why, and where injuries happen so they can be prevented. The cost of the course is covered by the South Central Health Care Foundation; however, registration is required. Please call 601-399-0506 or email kvanderslice@scrmc.com to register your son or daughter or your child's babysitter.

The course provides hands-on practice in lifesaving techniques to young teens who are

home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting so they are equipped with the skills and confidence to act in an emergency. They learn basic first aid and infant and child choking rescue.

Students also receive instruction on how a child's age affects how to care for them, how to prevent problem behavior, and how to run their own babysitting business.

Students who graduate from a Safe Sitter® course receive a completion card demonstrating that they know how to use their skills in situations they encounter.

For more information about the Safe Sitter® organization, contact National Headquarters at 317.596.5001 or visit safesitter.org.

# New way to measure obesity

Being obese or overweight is cause for concern at any age. Doctors and fitness experts have long relied on body mass index, or BMI, as a method of determining healthy weight ranges based on a ratio of height to weight. However, BMI may not be the most accurate measure of fitness.

In May of 2017, a team of researchers at the Mayo Clinic unveiled the Body Volume Indicator (BVI)® as a new tool for assessing body size and health. BVI looks more closely at abdominal fat concentrations, which proponents consider a more accurate way to determine potential health risk. BVI is considered to be a more precise means of estimating weight distribution and fat around the organs. This visceral fat in the abdominal area can impact a person's risk for diabetes and heart disease, offers Mayo Clinic researchers.

Through a professional app, clinicians can more accurately estimate the body volume, percentage of visceral fat and distribution of body fat for patients. This information will be combined with age, gender

and level of physical activity to paint a better picture of how individuals measure up.

Across North America, obesity remains a major concern. Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2009-2010, found that more than two in three adults are considered to be overweight or obese. Furthermore, about one-third of children and adolescents between the ages

of six and 19 are overweight or obese. Although these statistics may change now that BVI will be used in conjunction with other measures of body weight and personal health, they provide an eye-opening glimpse into the health of children in the United States.

Having more accurate means to identifying problem areas, such as visceral fat, can help the public in various ways.

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JCJC students taking first and second place in the Mississippi PBL competition in March are pictured at the national PBL conference and competition in Baltimore, Maryland, with JCJC’s PBL advisors. They are pictured left to right in the front row: PBL advisor David Ray, Grant Valverde of Enterprise, Melissa (Camille) Hankins of Laurel, Laura Rau of Petal, Erica Murphy of Hattiesburg and Tyler Rouse of Lucedale. Pictured in the back row, left to right, are Brett Denson of Petal, Donovan Rome of Petal, John Kohnke of Purvis, PBL advisor Mitch DuBose, Daniel Easley, Landon Williams of Waynesboro and Dustin Coats of Pascagoula. Photo/submitted

## Laurel's Easley places second in national PBL competition in Baltimore, Maryland

Eleven Jones County Junior College students attended the Phi Beta Lambda National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, with more than half placing in the top ten of the national PBL competitions. Three students just missed winning top honors but are extremely thrilled with capturing second place at a national competition. Laura Rau of Petal placed second in the nation in Client Services, receiving a \$200 cash award and trophy. The network design team of Dustin Coats of Pascagoula, Brett Denson of Petal, and John Kohnke of Purvis placed second in the nation, taking home a \$400 cash award and trophies. In the Administrative Technology contest, Daniel Easley of Laurel placed second in the nation, receiving a \$200 cash award and trophy

“This trip was full of many new and incredible opportunities for PBL club members. It helped us grow closer as a PBL family, and I couldn’t be more grateful for this opportunity,” said Easley.

Additionally, Easley placed tenth in the nation in Computer Applications. Erica Murphy of Hattiesburg also earned two national trophies by placing sixth in the nation in Project Management and eighth in the nation in Programming Concepts.

“I was very proud of our student’s accomplishments,” said JCJC PBL Adviser David Ray. “We had seven top 10 winners, which is the best our club has done in the 10 years I’ve been the advisor. This is a testament to the hard work put forth by the students and their level of instruction at Jones. These students worked hard to get to Baltimore, and to watch their efforts pay off as they received recognition among 9,000 of their peers is very rewarding.”

Also attending the national conference as an adviser was JCJC networking instructor Mitch DuBose. He and Ray agree, “These students were one of our favorite groups in the 10 years we’ve been attending national competitions and conferences. They all did a great job representing Jones County Junior College.”

All of the 11 JCJC students attending the national competition and conference placed first or second at the state PBL conference and competition in February to qualify for the national competition in June. Besides the six placing in the top-10 in the national competition, Tyler Rouse of Lucedale competed in the Business Decision Making category. Melissa (Camille) Hankins of Laurel competed in Management Concepts and Marketing Concepts. Donovan Rome of Petal competed in Programming Concepts. Grant Valverde of Enterprise competed in Network Concepts, and Landon Williams of Waynesboro competed in Public Speaking.

Story by: Teresa McCreery, JCJC Media-Public Relations. Contributing to this story was David Ray, JCJC PBL advisor and business instructor.

## No turning back from following Jesus

By Dr. Bill Myers



“‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.” (Matthew 4:19-20)

Many of us have a difficult time in following God’s direction, especially if it is out of our comfort zone. We say we will follow His call, but most of the time that means His call has to remain nestled in

are all called to love Him more than anything in our lives. He desires an ongoing relationship with us. We are also called to love and forgive one another no matter the circumstances.

Learning to hear His voice isn’t difficult. As we worship, pray and spend quiet time with Him, our ears become sensitive to His voice. Trust me, if we’ll listen, we’ll hear Him speak. Learning to have a thankful heart opens the door for communication. My friends, you will find God’s will and many times hear Him speak through His Word.

I remember the old hymn that we used to sing, “Take up thy cross and follow me, I heard my Master say..... Wherever He leads, I’ll go.”

Following Jesus is all about doing things His way instead of ours. He set the example for us to follow through God’s Word, and no, it doesn’t necessarily mean that He will call us to a foreign country, but it possibly could mean that

our personal comfort zone. I wonder if we would be willing to let go of our careers, homes, etc., to follow God’s call like the disciples of Jesus. Now, I’m not saying that God is calling each of us to leave everything behind, but would we be willing to follow Him at all cost? Is He truly the Lord of our lives?

God is calling us to surrender our all to Him and that means putting Him first in our lives – above our careers, marriage, relationships, etc. If we will choose to follow His will, He will not forsake us, His children. He took care of the disciples as they followed Jesus, and He will take care of us.

So what is our calling from God? We

He would speak to us about giving someone a loving hug that is hurting, inviting someone to church who is lonely, inviting a family who is needy to eat with you, teaching a class in church, forgiving those that have hurt us, etc. When we do what our Heavenly Father asks of us, our hearts receive peace (Shalom: wholeness and completeness).

Is God speaking to you today about a particular situation you’re facing? Is He “tugging” at your heart about speaking to someone? Is it time to forgive the hurts you might have received from others? Is it time we take the step to love the unlovable? Maybe our reply should be, “Jesus, I will follow you.....no turning back....”

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# Young settles on Alabama as his college football choice

By James Pugh

Offers from Alabama don't come calling that often for high school athletes in the Pine Belt, especially for a blue-collar athlete inside the Free-State of Jones. So when the offer came to West Jones standout Byron Young, everyone – including Young – took notice.

"I really wasn't waiting on the offer [from Alabama]," said the incoming senior defensive end. "I grew up liking LSU. That was the offer I was looking for. But Alabama offered me, and I started talking to the coaches there and looking at all they had to offer [in terms of education]. I began to see that it was a perfect place for me to be."

Alabama offered the 2019 ESPN No. 111 recruit back in January. A little over a month later Young released his Top 10 schools, which included Alabama and eight other SEC universities. Clemson was the only school outside of the SEC listed in his Top 10.

The West Jones standout made his decision known on Wednesday via social media.

"After much consideration, I have decided to commit," said Young in a tweet. "I'd like to thank every school that has shown interest in me, large or small. I'd like to thank my coaches for believing in me, even when I didn't believe in myself and for pushing me beyond the limits I at one point set for myself. I'd like to thank my teammates for pushing me at practice and for all the great times we've had so far over my football career. I also want to thank my friends that have been there for me even before I was noticed for football (especially Abby and Jon-Micah). I'd like to thank my family for all the sacrifices they've made to put me in the

position I'm in today. From my mother to my sister, they have all pushed me academically and physically to places beyond I thought I'd ever be. Last but not least, I'd like to thank the Man above for giving me the talent and ability to play this sport I love. With that being said, I'd like to an-



nounce my commitment to The University of Alabama. Roll Tide Roll."

Young's commitment is the 18th of the 2019 recruiting cycle for Alabama. The Crimson Tide currently holds the No. 1 recruiting class in the nation for 2019, according to 247Sports.com.

"It was a place I fell in love with when I visited," said Young. "My family loved it as well. I felt at home when I was there. I loved the coaches and the players from there that I knew."

West Jones thrived last year with Young at defensive end. The Mustangs finished 8-4 overall and second in Region 3-5A, a run that included a momentous 17-7 win over the three-time reigning 3-5A champs, Laurel.

"Last year was a good year for us," Young said. "We started out slow with losses to Wayne County and Quitman. We picked it up and never got down on ourselves. We kept going with the mindset of getting better each day and each week. This upcoming year, I think we will be even better. I know that overall as a team we are better."

His commitment on Independence Day foreshadows the remainder of his summer and fall.

"It was something that I wanted to do for the longest now," said the Alabama commit. "I talked to my two brothers about it. They told me that if this was something that I wanted to do, I needed to make a decision and do it now instead of waiting."

"I don't think I would have been pressured much by it [in the season] if I waited, but now I know that I don't have to think about it as much."



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# JCJC art students help beautify Mize

By Teresa McCreery

In the midst of the summer heat, four Jones County Junior College art students and their teacher spent three days creating a piece of art that Mize residents would find appealing. Art instructor Mark Brown and JCJC students Mady May of Mize, Brianna Pace of Raleigh, Grace Leavitt of Bay Springs and Alyssa Jensen of Hattiesburg worked with June Lack of the Mize City Council to produce a mural that reflects the town's traditions. Located in Smith County's home of the Mississippi Watermelon Festival, all that represents Mize is now painted on a 16-foot by 10-foot mural in the heart of the town.

"It was the idea of Ms. June Lack as part of a beautification project she is spearheading," said Brown. "She approached us more than a year ago but several steps had to be taken before work could commence."

Once the city leadership approved the design and located a building to use for the mural, the surface of the building had to be prepared for painting and materials were needed for the volunteer artists. Then, for three days the JCJC students and Brown worked from the scaffolding, under extreme temperatures, to grid, draw and paint the mural.

"I can't say enough about these JCJC students that took time out of their summer to work on this project. It really attests to their character. I am proud of them!" says Brown. "I would also like to thank the Mize city workers for their help, and Ms. June Lack for her dedication to seeing it done."

The mural contains the date the town was established and the Mize school mascot, the Bulldogs. If you are heading to Mize to see this artistic display of city history and the watermelon that makes Mize popular, it is located at the town's only four-way stop. It is on the east side (right side) on Highway 28 as you head north toward Magee and behind the Shell gas station.



JCJC art students, Mady May (left) and Brianna Pace (middle) are pictured with JCJC art instructor, Mark Brown (right) in front of the finished Mize Mural project.  
Photos/submitted



After drawing a grid on the building surface for the 16-foot by 10-foot mural, JCJC art student, Mady May (left) and JCJC art instructor, Mark Brown (right) get situated on the scaffolding to begin painting the Mize Mural.

## JCJC softball hosts inaugural golf tournament

ELLISVILLE – The inaugural Jones County Junior College Lady Bobcat Softball Golf Tournament will be held Sept. 14 at Dixie Golf Club in Laurel.

The tournament is a fund-raiser for the national champion Lady Bobcat softball team to go to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Leadoff Classic in Columbus, Georgia, in the spring of 2019. Because of its recent success, Jones is the only Mississippi team to be invited to the 24-team event.

It will be a four-person scramble (pick your own team) with an 8:30 a.m. tee time. Entry fee is \$300 per team or \$75 per play-

er. Corporate, putting, hole, long drive and closest to the hole sponsorships are available.

Food and on-course prizes will be available. Prizes for first, second and third flight finishers will be awarded. For more information, contact JCJC head coach Chris Robinson at 601-477-4264 or chris.robinson@jcjc.edu or the Dixie pro shop at 601-649-3384. To sign up, go to www.jcjcathletics.com and click on "Softball." Click on "Golf Tournament" and download the brochure. Make checks payable to JCJC Foundation and mail to Chris Robinson, 900 South Court St., Ellisville, MSU 39437.

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# Wagner-Meinert's Ammonia refrigeration training begins at JCJC

By Teresa McCreery

ELLISVILLE — Jones County Junior College's Heating and Air-Conditioning program is offering ammonia refrigeration training as part of the college's new partnership with Wagner-Meinert, LLC. The Ft. Wayne, Indiana, based company is also establishing a certified RETA (Refrigeration Engineers and Technician Association) Testing Center at the JCJC Advanced Technology Center in Ellisville to ensure the industrial ammonia refrigeration operator/technicians in the region can stay in compliance with OSHA and EPA standards.

The first class, Refrigeration Principles Level 1, began on Monday, July 9 and will end Thursday, July 12 at the JCJC HVAC classroom in the JCJC Industrial Services Center, located near the athletic fields. The cost of this course is \$799. This seminar is specifically for plant engineers, maintenance personnel and all individuals concerned with a more efficient operation of their Industrial Refrigeration Systems. Based on the RETA Course One manual, it is intended as a complete and total introductory refrigeration course, mixed with practical field examples and open forum

discussion. Course information includes a brief opening section describing the history of refrigeration from its beginning through the modern day, state-of-the-art Industrial Refrigeration Facility. It will also include a look at the role of technicians in the Ammonia Refrigeration Industry and the basic refrigeration cycle and its components. Other topics include refrigeration cycling, properties of refrigerants, refrigerant tables and refrigerant compressor types.

Future classes will include the Hands on Supplement to Level 1 course. It will be held on Friday, July 13 with a \$299 fee. The Refrigeration Principles Level 2 class begins Monday, October 1 and runs through Thursday, October 4 for \$999. The final fall session, Refrigeration Review Course is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13 through Thursday, November 15 for \$699.

To register for any of these courses or for more information, contact Wagner-Meinert LLC by phone: 260-489-7555, via email at registration@wmillc.com. For assistance, JCJC HVAC instructors Jay Aultman can be reached at jay.aultman@jcjc.edu or by calling 601-477-4241; for Thomas Johnson call 601-477-4247 or email thomas.johnson@jcjc.edu.



JCJC and Wagner-Meinert, LLC have partnered to begin offering ammonia refrigeration training and credential testing at JCJC. Pictured checking out the JCJC Ammonia Refrigeration systems instrumentation are (left to right) Wagner-Meinert, LLC's lead instructor, Jeff Sloan (pictured left by screen) JCJC Career and Technical Dean, Rod Tolbert (middle left) HVAC instructor at Jones, Thomas Johnson (middle); Wagner-Meinert, LLC's Training Compliance Engineer, John Sherrill (middle right); HVAC instructor at Jones, Jay Aultman (right) and President of Wagner-Meinert, LLC, Jeff Albert (far right). Photo/ Teresa McCreery

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Ammonia Refrigeration systems instrumentation are (left to right) Wagner-Meinert, LLC's lead instructor, Jeff Sloan (pictured left by screen) JCJC Career and Technical Dean, Rod Tolbert (middle left) HVAC instructor at Jones, Thomas Johnson (middle); Wagner-Meinert, LLC's Training Compliance Engineer, John Sherrill (middle right); HVAC instructor at Jones, Jay Aultman (right) and President of Wagner-Meinert, LLC, Jeff Albert (far right). Photo/ Teresa McCreery

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The 2017 JCJC women's soccer team has been named the 2017-18 MACJC Academic Team of the Year in women's soccer. They had a team GPA of 3.47 and were also recognized as an NJCAA Honorable Mention Academic Team of the Year.

Photo/Shawn Wansley, JCJC Sports Information

## Lady Bobcat soccer team named MACJC Academic Team of the Year

By Shawn Wansley

Five Jones County Junior College athletic teams have been recognized for academic excellence. The JCJC women's soccer team has been named MACJC Academic Team of the Year in that sport. Head coach Dolores Deasley's team had a 3.47 team GPA, which tied them for fourth nationally and also earned them NJCAA Academic Honorable Mention Team of the Year honors. Lady Bobcat soccer players Carmin Childs (Oak Grove), Aimee Durn (Watford, England), Erica Gaddie (West Lauderdale) and Anna Brice Taylor (Sacred Heart) each had 4.0 GPAs.

Four other Bobcat teams also earned NJCAA Academic Honorable Mention Team of the Year honors.

The Lady Bobcat tennis team had a 3.70 GPA, which was second in the MACJC and third in the NJCAA. Sisters Ariadna

Jordan (Spain) and Mieria Jordan each had 4.0 GPAs on the women's tennis team.

The Bobcat baseball team had a 3.31 GPA, which was fourth in the MACJC and tied for 14th nationally. Payton Harris (Oak Grove), Luke Hudson (Presbyterian Christian School) and brothers Ryne Sasser (South Jones) and Steven Sasser all had 4.0 GPAs

The national champion Lady Bobcat softball team had a 3.35 GPA, which was seventh in the state and 45th in the nation. Bailey Gilbert (Sylva-Bay Academy), Gracie McCleskey (Caledonia) and sisters Breanna Hasty (Germantown) and Natilyn Hasty all had 4.0 GPAs.

The Bobcat men's tennis team had a 3.15 GPA, which was sixth in the MACJC and 18th nationally. Connor Henderson (Petal) had a 4.0 GPA on the men's tennis team.



The 2018 Lady Bobcat tennis team had a 3.70 GPA and was recognized as an NJCAA Honorable Mention Academic Team of the Year.



The 2018 Bobcat baseball team had a 3.31 GPA and was recognized as an NJCAA Honorable Mention Academic Team of the Year.

Continued on page 9

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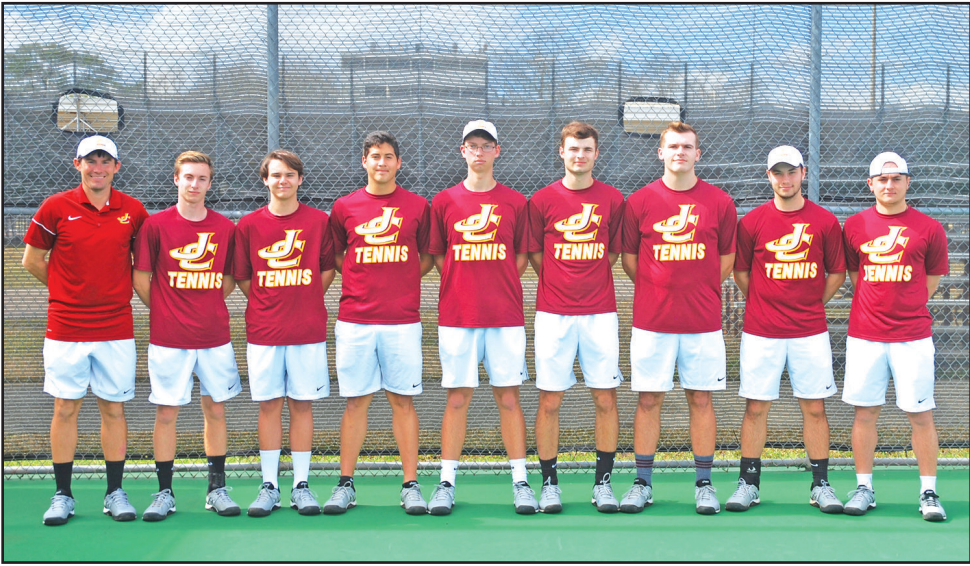
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SURFING  
SWIMMING  
TICKETS  
TOURIST

MACJC Academic Teams of the Year, continued from page 8



The 2018 national champion Lady Bobcat softball team had a 3.35 GPA and was recognized as an NJCAA Honorable Mention Academic Team of the Year.



The 2018 Bobcat men’s tennis team had a 3.15 GPA and and was recognized as an NJCAA Honorable Mention Academic Team of the Year. Photos/Shawn Wansley, JCJC Sports Information

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PUZZLES  
and  
PASTIMES

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20						21			
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28			29				30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42				43		44		
			45					46		47		48	
49	50		51			52				53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61					62			
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

- CLUES ACROSS  
1. Begetter  
6. Arrived extinct  
9. Lacking the power to hear  
13. Epic  
14. Aboriginal Japanese  
15. Jar used for cooking  
16. British nobleman  
17. Smart  
18. Israeli stateswoman  
19. Outer space matter that reaches the ground  
21. Instrument  
22. Infections  
23. Holiday (informal)  
24. Spanish be  
25. Not even  
28. Chewie’s friend Solo  
29. Garments  
31. Geological times  
33. Music City  
36. Cubes  
38. Important Chinese principle  
39. Closes tightly  
41. Forms a boundary  
44. Knife  
45. Plants of the lily family  
46. A turn around the track  
48. Midway between north-east and east  
49. Type of degree
51. Midway between north and northwest  
52. Profession  
54. Musical note patterns  
56. Deeply cuts  
60. Muharraq Island town  
61. Emaciation  
62. Weaver bird  
63. One point east of north-east  
64. Scherzer and Kershaw are two  
65. Rice dish  
66. Nasdaq code  
67. Danish krone  
68. Enzyme
- CLUES DOWN  
1. Carpe \_\_\_\_  
2. Wings  
3. Loose soil  
4. Earnhardt and Jarrett are two  
5. 3 feet  
6. Fasts  
7. Erstwhile  
8. Diving seabird  
9. Houses  
10. Ancient Greek City  
11. Type of skirt  
12. Greek village  
14. Estranges  
17. Scottish island
20. Express delight  
21. Cosmopolitan city  
23. Letter of Hebrew alphabet  
25. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)  
26. Flow  
27. Shoal-forming fishes  
29. Footwear parts  
30. Schedule of events  
32. Songs to one’s sweetheart  
34. Test for high schoolers  
35. Enthusiasm  
37. Streets have them  
40. One point east of due south  
42. Cut the grass  
43. Rattling breaths  
47. For each  
49. Marketing term  
50. One who challenges  
52. Sword  
53. Polio vaccine developer  
55. Film version of “Waterloo Bridge”  
56. Want  
57. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music  
58. Young hawk  
59. Harmless  
61. Small amount  
65. Palladium



GUESS WHO?

I am a performer born in South Dakota on July 12, 1977. I had a very successful collegiate wrestling career, amassing a 106-5 record. I was WWE King of the Ring in 2002 and I joined the UFC in 2007.

Answers on Page 15

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- Support Groups
- Counseling Service for Victims and Abusers
- Community Education





Classified Index

Apartments for Rent	14
Attorneys	10
Auto Parts	14
Autos - Cars	15
Autos - Classic	15
Autos - Motorcycles	15
Autos - SUVs	15
Autos - Trucks	15
Child Care	11
Equipment	11
Fish	13
Furniture	11
Garage Sales	13
General	10
Handyman	13
Health and Beauty	11
Help Wanted	10
Houses for Rent	14
Houses for Sale	14
Land	13
Lawn and Garden	11
Lost and Found	13
Massage	11
Mobile Home for Rent	14
Mobile Homes	14
Musical	11
Pets	13
Portable Buildings	13
Produce	11
Services Offered	12
Timber and Lumber	13
Vacation	11
Wanted to Buy	13

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p.m.-4 p.m. Apply online: [www.clark-oil.com](http://www.clark-oil.com), Huddle House or email to [mjames8205@aol.com](mailto:mjames8205@aol.com). Background check required. Experience preferred but not required.

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Continued on ... Page 12



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**1998 Waverlee Homes, 16x80, 3BR/2BA.**, Zone 1, fireplace in living room, \$12,500 as is. 601-520-0710.

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**1997 Horton, 27x52, 3BR/2BA,** fireplace in living room, Zone 1, \$12,500 as is. \$601-520-0710.

**2000 Capparet, 32x54, 3BR/2BA,** fireplace in living room, Zone 1, \$14,500 as is. 601-520-0710.

**50 Shades of Gray. 16x80, 3BR/2BA.**, new carpet, vinyl flooring and paint. Beautiful home, must come see it. \$21,888. 601-520-0710 or TB Sales @ Facebook.

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**3Br/1ba, \$750mo., 4 acres,** w/2200sq.ft., brick home, 3br., 2ba. home, extra br., with 1/2ba. under carport, swimming pool, shop w/storage room, a loft, barn w/ 4 dog pins. Text me for photos and appt. to view. No owner financing, serious inquiries only. \$180,000. Call 601-520-3934.

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**2005 Bmw z4, \$8950** at Ellisville Motors. Call 844-737-5629. See more at EllisvilleMotors.com.

**2003 Grand Prix GT, 204,000 miles** (mostly highway miles), new tires, battery. No a/c. \$1200 obo. Call 601-319-5291.

**1997 Jeep Cherokee Country, Red,** 4 door, automatic, new A/C, brakes, new tires, shocks, new radiator & fans. Completely serviced & much more. My mechanic will verify all work. 280,000 highway miles, lots

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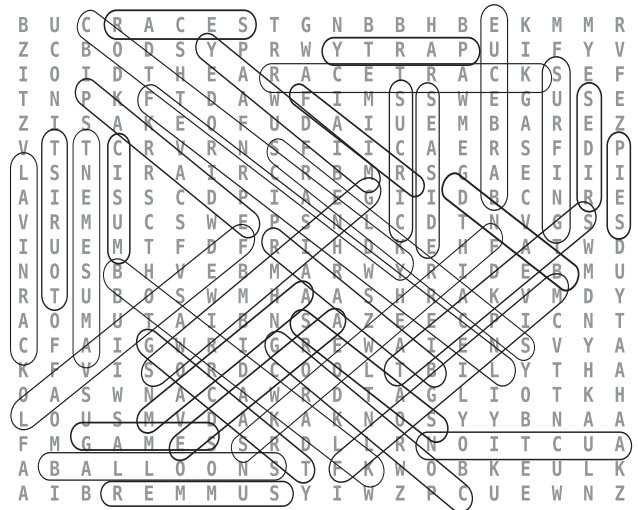
**1999 Chevrolet Silverado, good** condition, good new tires. \$3995. 601-422-3003.

## Answers to Today’s Puzzle Page

D	A	D	D	Y			D	O	A			D	E	A	F		
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D	R	Y	S				D	K	R				D	N	A	S	E

**2014 Gmc 2500hd. 95K miles. 2WD** 6.0 gas motor. Tow package. Goose-neck installed. Call 601.518.0079. **\$19,000.**

**2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500** \$10, 900 at Ellisville Motors. Call 844-737-5629. See more at EllisvilleMotors.com.



Today’s “Guess Who?” answer:

**Brock Lesnar**

## The Greatest Game in the Football Series – ULM

Southern Miss athletics will look at the greatest games in each of the playing series of all 12 opponents from its 2018 football schedule, giving Golden Eagle fans a weekly look this summer of what we consider to be the greatest game in that series’ history.

We will post these games on social media as well, and ask fans to agree or disagree with our selections as well as share their favorite memory from these games.

Our next look back is from the ULM series, who the Golden Eagles meet for the sixth time in their history in Hattiesburg on Sept. 8 in a 6 p.m. contest. Southern Miss leads in the series 5-1, including a pair of victories in the last two meetings. The series was resumed after a 24-year hiatus with the Golden Eagles winning a 28-17 decision in the first-ever meeting between the two schools in Monroe. The date was Sept. 4, 1982 and marked the first meeting between the two schools in football.

Behind a 171 rushing yards from Sam DeJarnette, tied for the seventh-best rushing contest by Golden Eagle sophomore, the Golden Eagles defeated the then Northeast Louisiana, 45-27, in Jim Carmody’s first game as head coach. A crowd of 30,767 watch the Golden Eagles at M.M. Roberts Stadium as DeJarnette scored a pair of 4-yard rushing touchdowns, while senior quarterback Reggie Collier added 106 yards on the grounds and two more rushing scores to pull away in the contest.

The game stayed close

until early in the second half when Louis Lipps returned a punt for a 50-yard touchdown and the Golden Eagles rolled up 417 total offensive yards. That number included 334 on the ground. The Voice of the Golden Eagles John Cox described the evening like this:

“It was an electrifying night at Roberts Stadium when the Eagles and, what was then known as Northeast Louisiana, opened the 1982 season. The Nasty Bunch defense returned seven starters from the year before, but it was the offense led by Heisman Trophy candidate Reggie Collier, wide receiver and punt returner Louis Lipps, and Auburn transfer Sam DeJarnette that stole the show that night in Carmody’s debut as head coach. DeJarnette dazzled everyone that night by breaking tackle after tackle and running away from defenders. But it was the Collier that showcased his talents as one of the best dual threat quarterbacks in the country. It was a team with a lot of ways to beat you and they it showed it that very night.”

## Sideline View: Ole Miss, MSU both top \$100 million in athletic revenues

By Dale McKee

Good news in college baseball for Mississippi State and Ole Miss this week. Two first round draft selections in the June Major League Baseball draft have decided to forgo signing pro contracts and will enroll at MSU.

J.T. Ginn of Brandon turned down the L.A. Dodgers and their \$2 million offer to play for the Bulldogs. Also the Bulldogs landed Florida high school pitcher Carter Stewart, the eighth overall pick in the draft by the Atlanta Braves, as he spurned the Braves and almost \$5 million to play in Starkville. Ole Miss was also fortunate as the 36th pick in the draft, Gunner Hoglund, told the Pittsburgh Pirates that he was not interested in their \$1.9 million offer and is already enrolled in summer school at Ole Miss.

### Walk is good as a double

Taylorsville native Billy Hamilton is hitting only .220 for the Cincinnati Reds, but this past weekend he had a 3-for-3 day against the Chicago Cubs. How valuable is Hamilton to the Reds? Hamilton is one of the top defensive center-fielders in all of baseball. He also bats ninth in the Reds’ lineup and is a threat to score every time he reaches base. When Billy reaches base, he scores more than anyone in the all of baseball. He scores 51 percent of the time, according to a Cincinnati newspaper. When he reaches base, he puts pressure on the other team, especially the opposing pitcher, and makes his teammates better.

### How close are the Lakers to the title?

The Lakers have signed a trio of veterans, but all were for one year. Next season, the likes of Kevin Durant and Kawhi Leonard will be free agents, so it might be year two of the LeBron James era before the Lakers end their five-year NBA playoff drought.

### Nathan’s Famous Hot Dog Contest

Joey Chestnut did it again for the 11th time as he won the Mustard Belt on July 4 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Chestnut ate a record 74 hot dogs and buns in a record 10 minutes to claim the crown. This is like eating 38 Big Macs. Chestnut earns about \$300,000 a year eating his way around the world. Miki Sudo choked down 37 hot dogs to win the female championship.

### Who is the final team?

The College Football Playoff might have only one opening for this year’s playoff. So often in college football the rich get richer, especially when it comes to a playoff spot. I assume Alabama, Ohio State and Clemson will be in this year’s playoffs, as they have been in the past several years. Alabama has been in the CFP six times while Florida, LSU and Auburn have been in twice over the last two decades. Georgia made their first appearance last year. So the question will be who is the final CFP team? Many believe it will be Penn State, Georgia, Oklahoma or Miami. Maybe eight playoff teams would be better for everybody.

### Big Money

The athletic financial records of Ole Miss, Mississippi State and USM were reported this week by the Clarion Ledger. Ole Miss made \$9 million profit as they took in \$117 million -- up from last year’s \$110. MSU went over the \$100 million mark for the first time in school history -- up from \$84 million -- plus they made a \$14 million profit. USM dropped by \$2 million over the previous year as the Eagles took in \$23 million.

Ole Miss had two offensive players chosen as Sporting News All-Americans in A.J. Brown and Greg Little. Meridian native and Alabama’s Raekwon Davis also made the defensive team.

Contact Dale at ddmckee18@yahoo.com

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