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Volume 42, No. 52 • December 26, 2018

## Johnson retires from United Way of the Pine Belt Region

By Linda Cranford

After 19 years of service as executive director of the United Way of the Pine Belt Region, Barbara Johnson has retired. Many folks involved with the organization never thought the day would come that Johnson would actually leave; she had talked about retiring for several years. Friday December 14, she walked out of the Chisholm Center Building at the corner of Oak and Magnolia for the last time leaving the executive directorship in the hands of longtime friend and former co-worker Rhonda Gilbert.

Johnson began volunteering with the United Way in 1984 when she was working at Trustmark Bank. "I still remember Bob Gaddis calling me into his office and asking me to be a volunteer with the United Way," said Johnson. Gaddis was the bank president, and very active in United Way. "He asked me to serve on the Citizen's Review Panel."

The Citizen's Review Panel visits and reviews the United Way partnership agencies and works with the Fund Distribution Committee in deciding on the amount of money allocated to each agency.

"The first year I was on the Citizen's Review Panel, I went for four interviews and I still remember them. I visited the



Barbara Johnson waves good-bye as she retires from the United Way of the Pine Belt Region. Photo by Linda Cranford

Christian Food Mission, Parents for Drug Free Youth, Laurel Language, Speech, and Hearing, and the Pine Belt Drug Alliance," recalled Johnson. "After going on those four interviews, I thought, oh my gosh, look at what these people are doing with the amount of money they are getting from the United Way and the services they are providing to our community. I thought how awesome it was that they could provide those services. Then I thought,

they're not getting enough money."

Johnson said she served on the Citizen's Review Panel for three or four years. "I always wanted to do more," exclaimed Johnson. "My goal was to be Fund Distribution Chairman. I knew that the Fund Distribution Chairman oversaw the Fund Distribution committee and all the people on the Citizen's Review Panel. I thought about being able to influence how much money we could raise in the community if I was Fund Distribution Chairman." Johnson became Fund Distribution Chairman and served three or four years as chairman.

"Then one day, Bob Gaddis called me into his office again and asked me if I wanted to get involved with the campaign process of the United Way. I became the Commercial Division Chairman. At one point, I was Fund Distribution Chairman and Regional Campaign Chairman. It was a unique situation. As far as I know, I'm the only person that has served a dual chairmanship like that."

After serving as a volunteer for 15 years, the opportunity for Johnson to serve fulltime with the United Way came in 1999 when the Executive Director at the time, Anna Willis, decided to retire. "I told them I would give three years. The

first year I was going to access where we were and make changes. The second year I was going to implement those changes and determine their success. And, the third year I was going to analyze those changes to make sure everything was in shape, and then I would be gone. I was going to do something else." Nineteen years later, Johnson has decided to finally do that "something else."

"I believe that sometimes in order for an organization to be more successful you have to have a change in leadership," said Johnson. "Times have changed, attitudes have changed, and our community has changed. I've always wanted what was best for United Way. I've had a great 33 years with United Way. It's time for a leadership change."

Johnson said she's looking forward to traveling and spending more time with her family.

Gilbert comes to the United Way with over 30 years' experience in the Banking Industry having previously worked with the Bank of Jones County and First State Bank as assistant vice president, and most recently with Grand Bank in Hattiesburg as internal auditor.

Continued on Page 3

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# Howard Industries helps Salvation Army during holiday season



“Howard Industries is excited to work with the Salvation Army again this year for this year’s Angel Tree and canned food drive. As they do every year, our employees have generously given to help everyone, especially children, have a Merry Christmas.”- Michael Howard. Left to Right: Mickey Ross, Major Raymond Pruitt, Moe Caver, Lawanda Singleton, Michael Howard and Pam Boler. Photo/submitted

# Local author Cleveland Payne sets up shop in Sawmill Square Mall



Mississippi Writer, Cleveland Payne, a lifelong resident of Laurel, Mississippi happily set up shop in the Laurel, Sawmill Square Mall for the 2018 Christmas Season. Payne is the author of sixteen books including histories, essays, novels, and a biography. He is a retired educator and the recipient of several writing awards including the 2017 Mississippi D.A.R. Community Service Award. For more information visit his website: <http://www.clevelandpaynebooks.com>. Photo/Katie Grice

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# Auditions set for January 7-8 for Biloxi Blues

Laurel Little Theatre’s 58th Season continues this spring with the funny and moving Neil Simon comedy “Biloxi Blues.” The Tony Award winning Best Play was based on Simon’s real life story when he was drafted into the Army during World War II and was stationed in the muggy swamps of steamy coastal Mississippi. Auditions are at LLT’s Downtown Arabian Theatre on Monday and Tuesday, January 7-8 at 7 p.m. No preparation necessary – just come down and read from the script with everyone else. Director Rick Youngblood will need a cast of 7 men and 2 women (a few high school/college ages will be cast in some of these roles). There’s the hard-as-nails platoon leader, a half dozen of the enlisted privates (of all ages) and then a couple of ladies the men meet at the local USO dances. Rehearsals will run through February and March three nights a week, and then, pick up a few extra rehearsals the last two weeks before performances begin. Drop a line at LLTLaurelMS@aol.com with any questions.

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# The Story Teller: "Left for Dead"

By Martha McCarty

He had been left for dead, and he wasn't far from being just that. The fight had been a bad one, and most everyone in his company had been killed. All of the officers who had anything close to good sense had been killed, and the few stragglers who could still walk had found each other and gone on ahead deeper into the Carolina hills.



It was all but pitch black dark in the woods where he lay. As Edward began to come to, he knew he too had been shot. His shoulder hurt like the devil. In fact it felt like the devil himself had hold of his arm and was trying his best to twist the darn thing off. Edward lay as still as he could, what with the pain and all, and listened. He could hear gun shots, but they seemed much farther away than they had been when he had fallen against the tree and then on to the ground.

He opened his eyes but was conscious not to turn his head or try to rise up. As best he could, he studied the trees above and was glad to find himself partially under some bushes as well. They did help to conceal his body a bit as he lay there under them.

And then he heard the voices. "What are they saying?" he thought. "I can't make out what they're saying." Lying perfectly still, he played dead as the footsteps came closer to him. "Maybe they won't see me here, if I don't move and can keep myself from screaming." The thought of being gone through with a bayonet was almost too

much to allow himself not to move. "If I can see one raised above me, I'll try to roll over and away," he told himself.

He'd been trained to finish off any wounded and dying if he came up on a badly wounded enemy soldier. He'd often wondered if he could do such a thing to a fellow who couldn't defend himself. Even an enemy was still a man, and any man deserved the right to survive if he had managed to live through what he's seen today.

With his eyes closed, he was deep in thought when the hand came to rest on his forehead, and despite all of the control he could muster, he jumped at the touch. And when she squealed, he hollered and rolled way. But the tree beside him kept him from going far. Grabbing his wounded shoulder, he tried to sit up, as the young girl fell backward herself. Within an instant, there was a man beside her, and he was talking to Ed.

In broken English the Indian said, "Soldier hurt. Soldier be still. We help you. Soldier be still."

Edward was in no condition to run. The roll against the tree had taken his breath, and he sure wasn't going anywhere on his own. "But, what now?" he wondered.

Again and very slowly, the young woman reached to his forehead. He didn't think he was feverous, but Edward realized that that was what she was trying to determine. He lay still and let her place a hand first on his forehead and then on his cheek.

He didn't know quite what to think when she smiled at him, and said, "No hot." And then she turned to the man with, "We take him village?"

By now Edward had gotten himself up against the tree and was leaning against it

while holding his shoulder with his good arm. The man squatted beside him and offered to check the wound. "Me look, Soldier?" And then Edward heard, "Me clean?"

Actions do speak volumes, and Edward Royals knew that these two Choctaw Indians were trying to help him. He gave consent with both his own smile and an affirmative nod, but he passed out when the blade slid into the wound and behind the bullet to prod it out. That excruciating pain, the loss of blood from an afternoon of bleeding and the trauma of the whole ordeal together were enough to put him back out.

It was nearly daylight when Ed woke again. This time he was in a hut of some sort. He could see the sky through a hole in the roof where smoke was going out - leaning up along the side of the not-so-high wall of the structure was a long contraption made of sticks fastened to a couple of saplings by short lengths of vine. He would find out later that it was a travois, a stretcher, that the Indians had fashioned to pull and carry him back to the village on. It had to have taken a while to make; it was quite long; Edward was quite tall.

As he lay there, taking in his surroundings and listening to quiet voices from outside, the young woman from the night before came through the doorway opening of the hut. She carried a small bowl in a towel and knelt down beside him. When Ed made an effort to sit up, she helped him do so, and he leaned against a pile of blankets stacked between his mat and the wall.

"Soldier, eat?" she said. And she lifted the bowl to his lips. Their eyes locked, as he drank slowly from the bowl. What the liquid was he didn't know, but it was warm, and it

was good! It was a broth made from venison and had small bits of meat in it. Nothing he'd eaten in weeks had tasted quite so good, and she had to pull the bowl away until she could make him understand that he needed to slow down.

Without knowing it or even trying to do so, she had found her way to his heart. Little did she know that through the stomach is the quickest way to a man's heart! When she gave him back the bowl, he slowly finished the broth and settled back onto his mat.

"What's your name?" he asked. He patted his chest and said, "Edward. I'm Edward. What's your name?" Then he patted his chest again, said, "Edward, and then patted her arm. "You?" he asked.

She understood what he asked and responded with a name he didn't think he could pronounce.

He laughed and said, "I can't say that. I'll call you Clariesa. I've always liked that name." He patted his chest again and said, "Edward", and then he patted her arm and said, "You Clariesa."

She smiled into his eyes as she patted her own chest and said, "Clariesa." She again smiled and said, "Clariesa." Later he would introduce her as Clariesa Harris. He figured she needed a sire name as well, and Harris would do until he gave her his own.

*Edward and Clariesa Royals were the grandparents of my mother-in-law and several others in our surrounding counties, including, among others, the communities of Stringer, Summerland, Taylorsville, Bay Springs and Moselle.*



Thursday, December 13, 2018, United Way of the Pine Belt Region hosted a celebration honoring Barbara Johnson (pictured right) for 19 years of leadership and welcoming Rhonda Gilbert (pictured left) to succeed her. Johnson originally became associated with United Way of the Pine Belt Region as a volunteer. She stated that the most enjoyment she received from her leadership as executive director of United Way of the Pine Belt Region, was simply the people. She treasures her time spent serving the community and said that the experiences made through United Way of the Pine Belt Division as both volunteer and executive director will always be in her heart. Gilbert shared that it means the world to her to know that she is trusted to represent United Way of the Pine Belt division as executive director. She is honored to have the opportunity to connect and interact with people within her community on a personal level, and she is honored to continue United Way's Mission of shining light within the community.

Photo/Katie Grice

## JOHNSON RETIRES... continued from Page 1

She has been married to her husband, Randall Gilbert, for 21 years and has lived in Jones County for over 25 years. She has a son, a daughter, two stepsons, and six grandchildren.

"I have known Barbara for many years, and have always admired her work ethic and compassion," stated Gilbert. "As a

friend and former co-worker, I am so excited and thrilled to be able to take the reins and follow in her footsteps. It's exciting and scary for both of us. I look forward to doing everything I can to make United Way the best that it can be and continue what Barbara has been doing for the last nineteen years."

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**Classified Index**

Apartments for Rent 6

Attorneys 4

Autos - Cars 6

Autos - Trucks 6

Campers 4

Farm 4

Firewood 4

Fish 4

Furniture 4

General 4

Handyman 4

Help Wanted 4

Houses for Rent 6

Houses for Sale 6

Land 4

Massage 4

Mobile Home for Rent 6

Mobile Homes 6

Musical 4

Pets 4

Portable Buildings 4

Services Offered 4

Timber and Lumber 4

Vacation 4

Wanted to Buy 4

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- Must be able to cover "hard" news and write feature articles.
- Must be able to work a flexible schedule.
- Must be able to meet deadlines.
- Photography skills a plus.
- Degree in journalism, English, political science or paralegal studies preferred.
- Experience as a news editor/reporter helpful.
- Competitive salary and benefits.

**Send resume to: Kevin@impactads.com**

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

*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.*

**December 30**  
The Fifth Sunday Community Unity Church Service will be held December 30 at Gavin Chapel Presbyterian Church beginning at 11:30 a.m. Rev. Joseph Bass will bring the message.

**December 31**  
Glade Baptist Church, located on Hwy. 15 south of Laurel, will have a New Year's Eve gospel sing on December 31 at 7:00 p.m. and going until 12:01 a.m. The featured Groups will be The Magnolia Boys Quartet of Laurel and Calm Assurance of Columbia.

**January 7**  
Laurel Little Theatre's 58th Season continues this spring with the funny and moving Neil Simon comedy "Biloxi Blues." The Tony Award winning Best Play was based on Simon's real life story when he was drafted into the Army during World War II and was stationed in the muggy swamps of steamy coastal Mississippi. Auditions are at LLT's Downtown Arabian Theatre on Monday and Tuesday, January 7-8 at 7 p.m. No preparation necessary - just come down and read from the script with everyone else. Director Rick Youngblood will need a cast of 7 men and 2 women (a few high school/college ages will be cast in some of these roles). There's the hard-as-nails platoon leader, a half dozen of the enlisted privates (of all ages) and then a couple of ladies the men meet at the local USO dances. Rehearsals will run through February and March three nights a week, and then, pick up a few extra rehearsals the last two weeks before performances begin. Drop a line at LLTLaurelMS@aol.com with any questions.

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# God is listening

By Dr. Bill Myers

Don't Be Afraid to Ask God! He's listening!

"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:9-11)

For some reason, it seems easier to believe in our heart for someone's salvation than to believe God for a material item. Our mindset is that God only deals with the spiritual and not the physical. How untrue! Didn't our Heavenly Father feed the children of Israel when they left Egypt? Didn't Jesus feed the five thousand? Nowhere in scripture does it mention that Jesus wore rags for clothing or that He had to beg for food or money to pay His taxes. What He did do was put everything in perspective. He chose to put God first. He obeyed the first commandment, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Everything else came afterwards. Jesus never lacked for anything because He knew His Heavenly Father would supply everything He needed. He never worried or fretted over needing anything. He never doubted God's ability to provide.

When Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding He attended, it wasn't really a need. The wedding party would have survived without it, but He performed the miracle to bless the wedding couple and family. Yes, He cared about their "desires." Friends, He cares about each need and desire that we might have and truly wants to bless us!

This devotion isn't about that someone who's lazy and won't work and would rather sit on their couch expecting God to make them a millionaire. No, it doesn't work that way! Ha! God isn't going to be "magical genie" that gives us everything we want. But, if we need something, His Word says that He will supply! Our position is to trust and believe His Word!

As we spend more time praying and being thankful, our relationship with Him will deepen and our desires will change.

"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave Him up for us all — how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32) "All" means everything. This isn't just spiritual gifts, but everything! God is Jehovah Jireh, our provider. Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be made complete" (John 16:24)

Whatever you need today or have been praying for, ask God who desires to meet your every need and desires.

"God...richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Timothy 6:17) Friends, Prayer changes everything! So ask in the Name of Jesus and believe with a heart of thanks that He will answer!

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for caring about every part of our lives....Amen.

## Bancorp South makes donation to ARC



Bancorp South AVP Branch Manager Joy Ulland ( pictured right) presented a \$250 check to Julie Brown, the ARC of the Pine Belt Region Board secretary. The ARC is an organization that helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thanks to Bancorp South for caring about our community. For more information regarding the ARC or how you can be involved, contact Julie Brown @ 601-649-4141.

Photo/submitted

## Jones County Federation of Democratic Women make donation to Domestic Family Abuse Shelter



The Jones County Federation of Democratic Women donated, as they do annually, some Christmas cheer to the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter. Front row left to right: Ora Duckworth, Faye Jackson - Vice President, Tina Black, Grace Amos - State Secretary for MS Federation of Democratic Women and Community Service Coordinator, Ann Martin - President, Marsha Pinterl, Marva Posey, Carlyon Owens, Marie Moffett and Bretha Lindsey. Back row left to right: Ms. Retha - manager OAFS, Becky Steward - executive director OAFS, Tanya Gray - state president for MS Federation of Democratic Women, Kim Ferguson - Community Service Coordinator OAFS, and Lillie Brown. Contributing members not pictured: Lula Cooley, Elder Foster - Treasurer, Alesia Gammage, Gloria Gammage, Pam Graham, Jacquelyn Martin and Samilla Walker-Chaplain.

Photo/submitted

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**2019**

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# Wellness Center

A Division of South Central Regional Medical Center

# Rubie's Home Furnishings hosts "Chill With Santa" event

On Saturday, December 15, Rubie's Home Furnishings cheerfully hosted "Chill with Santa" event.

The event was sponsored by Shop 16th Patrons: Brian Ginn State Farm, City Home Center, Dickey's Barbecue Pit, Hill's In-House Jewlers, Dairy Queen, Laurel, Mississippi, Laurel Impact, Let's Make Something, LLC Mimi's Bridal, Pine Tree Village, Pretty Please, Sake Cafe, and Rubie's Home Furnishings.

The Patrons of Shop 16th, along with Mr. and Mrs.

Pugh wish each and every person a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Shop 16th offers a one of a kind shopping experience in Laurel, Mississippi. Patron's of Shop 16th take great pride by partnering together to create a shopping district that covers a variety of shopping needs.

For more information, visit Shop 16th on Facebook and Instagram.



Rubie's Home Furnishings business partner, Karlyn Pugh, alongside her husband Kelly Pugh pictured as Santa.



Madison Downs and her little brother, Wyatt Baker along with their mother, Tonya Baker, enjoyed their outing Rubie's Home Furnishings to see Santa in person. Madison, is a proud big sister and enjoys do it yourself projects. She cheerfully told Santa that she hopes to receive a Do-it-yourself bathbomb kit on Christmas morning. Little brother, Wyatt, was interested in the bright colors of the Christmas decor, but was a little hesitant when it came to Santa. Tonya Baker, cheerfully stated that she looks forward to see growth, wonder, and adventure in both Madison and Wyatt throughout the Christmas season and into the New Year.



Rubie's Home Furnishings graciously hosted "Chill with Santa" Event. People were welcome by an array of Christmas decor complete with a wide selection of home furnishing merchandise. Children had the opportunity to meet Santa in Person and enjoy a warm cup of cocoa.

Ava Bankson, (of Laurel, Mississippi) expressed some uncertainty about seeing Santa in person, but proudly introduced herself and spoke to him with courage. Ava cheerfully said that she hopes to receive a variety of lip gloss, nail polish, lotion, body spray, and maybe even some slime. Her mother, Debbie Pierce was beaming with joy to hear her daughter speak with Santa (Kelly Pugh) in person. Photos/Katie Grice

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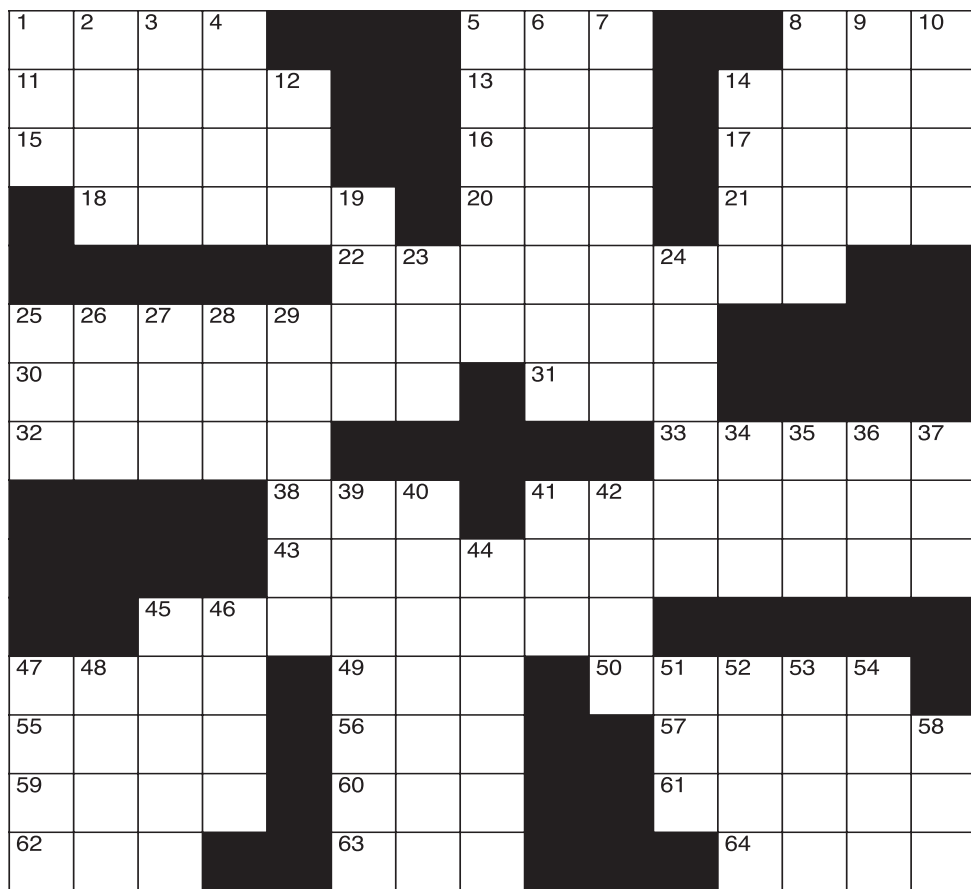
**IMPACT**



# WINTER'S CHILL WORD SEARCH

H C C O P Z G R I K U E W B L A N K E T  
 W O G I T O T E Z E R O S T O O B R Y E  
 G L A O T D L L P H P Y B G B G P E C P  
 B D S B D C H A P U Z C W R A R A T S O  
 O N L E R M R E R M P R F L I S G N N W  
 T E E L S E R A J A C K E T P S S I O R  
 S S B E B Y B B L U S T E R Y D K W W Z  
 Z W N R R T T M S J H U G R E B E C I D  
 P W E E E G O R E R V C M R S T S N E T  
 K R S A T T R I T C A W I D S Z L P S S  
 A P N H T T T E F L E E C E T H E R T A  
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 O M L B I K R M B E E I E P U O N C K R  
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 A P I E V A I T I N S A D E D B L T G V  
 O V C D J G E W V F D E L S K N F T L O  
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 U H F R O S T B I T E S O C O A T J I P  
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 L O A U L E V O H S S Z C C K S N Y C I

- |          |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| ANORAK   | EVERGREEN | JACKET   |
| ARCTIC   | FIREPLACE | MITTENS  |
| BITTER   | FLANNEL   | OVERCAST |
| BLANKET  | FLEECE    | POLAR    |
| BLUSTERY | FRIGID    | SHOVEL   |
| BOOTS    | FROSTBITE | SKI      |
| BRISK    | GALE      | SLED     |
| CHILL    | GLOVES    | SLEET    |
| COAT     | GUSTS     | SNOW     |
| COLD     | HEATER    | SWEATER  |
| DECEMBER | ICEBERG   | WINTER   |
| DREARY   | ICICLE    | ZERO     |



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Thick piece of something
  - Increase motor speed
  - Queen of Sparta
  - North, South and Central
  - Churchgoer
  - Russian empress
  - Female daredevils organization
  - Relating to music
  - Female body part
  - Tyrion Lannister
  - Honored
  - Argentine footballer
  - Novices
  - Wings
  - Doctors' group
  - Packers' QB
  55. Qatar capital
  56. Unpleasant noise
  57. Lovable elephant
  59. Sleeping
  60. Lute
  61. Weight of a liter of hydrogen
  62. Crimson
  63. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
  64. Employee plan
- CLUES DOWN**
- Helps little firms
  - Type of curtain
  - Online stock exchange
  - Irish castle
  - Audio-system
  - Places to grab a drink
  - What's coming
  - Designed chairs
  - Stepped on
  - Genus of birds
  - Consume
  - Ancient Syrian city
  - Australian brewery
  - Not present
  - Necktie
  - What part of (abbr.)
  26. Type of compound
  27. Jogged quickly
  28. Roth is one type
  29. Mineral
  34. Purpose
  35. Financial term (abbr.)
  36. Orange is the New Black character
  37. Used to cut and shape wood
  39. Bullfighter
  40. Top of the line
  41. Hill
  42. Greek mountain
  44. Angola's capital
  45. Expressed pleasure
  46. Fermented honey beverage
  47. Month in the Jewish calendar
  48. Frontal is one type
  51. Basics
  52. Uncommon
  53. Broad kimono sashes
  54. European defense organization
  58. Box score term

## Thirty Jones College practical nursing student graduates- ready for work

By Teresa McCreery, JC Media & Public Relations Director  
 After three semesters of classes over the last year, 30 Jones College students are ready to become licensed practical nurses. After successfully completing the program these graduates are ready to pass the licensing test, NCLEX-PN, and go to work as LPN's. Most of these students are already working in a medical setting and look forward to being able to serve patients in their expanded roles.

"When I think about practical nursing, I think of service. Every student here today has put themselves aside to serve others. Regardless of the situation, you have made a commitment to touch countless lives that will span over your career. There is no doubt that each of these students here today has a heart of service which will be a treasure to others," said Rod Tolbert, Jones College Career and Technical dean.

During the pinning ceremony and celebration of the classes' journey to become nurses, three Jones College students were recognized for exceptional work. Kandace Russell of Waynesboro earned the Perfect Attendance Award for not missing or being tardy for a clinical. Students compiled 635 classroom hours and 345 clinical hours over the year. Kimberly Squires of Sumrall earned the Highest Average Score Award and JaMiracle Rayborn of Petal was presented with the Florence Nightingale Award for exhibiting integrity and the selfless qualities of Nightingale. During the Crimean War (1853-56), Nightingale fundamentally changed the role of nursing in hospitals which is to provide a safe and caring environment that promotes patient health and well-being and introduced new, professional training standards.



Jones College's Practical Nursing program administrators recently held its pinning ceremony for thirty graduates of the program. Pictured in random order are graduates Morgan Ainsworth, Ellisville; Courtney Arrington, Laurel; Jennifer Barnett, Ellisville; Cody Boyles, Waynesboro; Shaterica Brown, Biloxi; Talonda Genae Brown, Laurel; Makayla Burks, Ellisville; Megan Coston, Laurel; Briana Elizabeth Dixon, Stringer; Elizabeth Ellzey, Purvis; Daisy Danielle Fisher, Woodville; Jacqueline Griffith, Magee; Korriana Janae Hardy, Leakesville; Ashley V. Harris, Monticello; Korina Hayes, Mendenhall; Kayla King, Ellisville/Collins; Sierra Symone King; Shaw; Courtney Abril Lee, Poplarville; Rebecca Lynn Malone, Lucedale (Not Pictured); Keri Alexandra McDonald, Waynesboro; Jerrica Mims, Lucedale; Ariel Rawls, Seminary; JaMiracle Rayborn, Petal; Kandace Russell, Waynesboro; Kimberly Ann Squires, Sumrall (Not Pictured); Kaylyn Rose Walters, Moselle; Kristin Watts, Magee; Briante' Darnette White, Natchez (Not Pictured); Alicia Williams, Meridian; and Melissa Yelverton, Laurel.  
 Photo/ Teresa McCreery



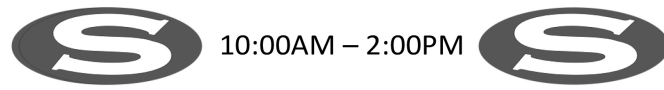
## GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in England on December 28, 1934. I studied drama at the Oxford University Dramatic Society. I have appeared opposite Robin Williams and I am well known for a recurring role in the "Harry Potter" film franchise.

Answers on Page 10

### 8th ANNUAL STRINGER WINTER BASEBALL CAMP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019



10:00AM – 2:00PM

STRINGER HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD

FOR ALL BOYS & GIRLS IN GRADES K-8



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- SETH HESTER** – FORMER SOUTHERN MISS PITCHER. APPEARED IN THE COLLEGE WORLD SERIES
- JOHNATHAN JOHNSTON** – FORMER SOUTHERN MISS PITCHER. APPEARED IN THE COLLEGE WORLD SERIES.
- IAN SHARP** – FORMER WILLIAM CAREY BASEBALL PLAYER AND CURRENT WAYNE COUNTY BASEBALL COACH.
- WADE WEATHERS** – FORMER SOUTHERN MISS PITCHER AND CURRENT STRINGER HEAD COACH

\*\*CONTACT STRINGER HEAD BASEBALL COACH WADE WEATHERS VIA EMAIL ([wwathers@westjasper.k12.ms.us](mailto:wwathers@westjasper.k12.ms.us)) FOR REGISTRATION FORM AND MORE INFORMATION.

ALL CAMPERS SHOULD BRING A GLOVE AND PROPER CLOTHING. BATS, HELMETS, AND CLEATS ARE OPTIONAL, BUT ENCOURAGED.

Cost of camp is \$35 and includes lunch and a camp tee shirt

# Over 100 youngsters helped at Ninth annual FCA Christmas Party

By Shawn Wansley

Jones College Sports Information Director

ELLISVILLE – The Ninth annual Jones County Fellowship of Christian Athletes Christmas Party turned out to be the largest ever.

A total of 108 children received gifts, a meal and fellowship with others on Dec. 5 on the campus of Jones College.

“This year we adopted 108 children, which is our largest Christmas party so far,” said Jones County FCA Director Scott Pittman.

The party process starts early in the fall semester. The FCA contacts counselors in elementary schools in the city and the county. They provide names of children and families who could use some help.

Coaches of each sport of each school involved are then contacted and each team determines how many children they can adopt.

Participating schools this year were Jones College, Northeast Jones, South Jones,

West Jones and Laurel Christian School. Churches, businesses, Jones College clubs and departments and others are then given an opportunity to adopt a child.

A meal was provided by FCA board members at the JC Banquet Hall for the children and their families. Agape Church Pastor James Hill shared the Christmas story with everyone.

“He knocked it out of the park,” Pittman said.

In the Bush Fine Arts Auditorium, everyone gathered for a time of worship and FCA members talked about why and how they serve the community.

The youngsters then went to A.B. Howard Gymnasium and the Thoms P.E. Building to receive their gifts.

Pittman said it is a major team effort to pull off such a large event.

“I could not do it without Suzanne Manning at West



Members of the Jones College softball team pose with their adopted children at the Ninth annual Jones County FCA Christmas Party in the Thoms P.E. Building. Photos/Shawn Wansley, Jones College Sports Information

Jones High School, Katie Herrington at Jones and our FCA Board of Directors,” he said. “I am also very thankful to our coaches who use their influence to teach their athletes how to give back and serve others. It really does make a difference.”

The first Jones County FCA Christmas Party was held in 2010 in the P.E. Building and eight children received gifts.

A child takes her first ride on her new bicycle at the Ninth annual Jones County FCA Christmas Party in the Thoms P.E. Building.



This youngster is excited to receive gifts from the Jones College football team.



Members of the Jones College men's tennis team prepare to let their adopted child open gifts.

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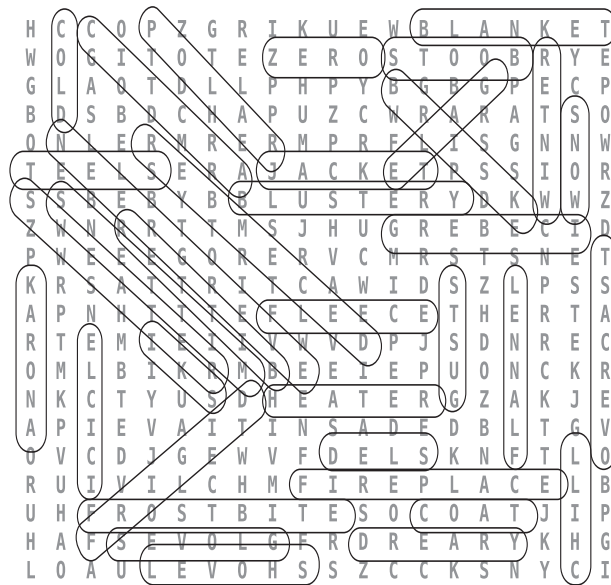
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Acrylic Partial.....\$300.00	Cast Metal Partial.....\$800.00	
Gold Tooth on Dentures/ Partial.....\$175.00	Extractions.....\$150.00 (X-Ray included)	

### Answers to Today's Puzzle Page

S	L	A	B		S	T	P		E	T	A					
B	A	R	I	E		T	A	R		E	A	R	L			
A	C	C	R	A		E	V	E		B	M	O	C			
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P	A	R	I	S	H	I	O	N	E	R						
C	Z	A	R	I	N	A		S	W	A						
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A	B	E	D		O	U	D		C	R	I	T	H			
R	E	D			R	M	A		E	S	O	P				



Today's "Guess Who?" answer:  
**Maggie Smith**

# Mississippi all-stars stop Alabama for second year in a row

By Zac Chamblee

Jarod Conner was far from satisfied with his final performance in a Hattiesburg uniform back in November. That and his Tigers' early exit of the Class 5A playoffs only fueled his determination to represent his state and go out a winner in Monday night's Mississippi-Alabama All-Star Game. When the clock struck zero at Montgomery's Cramton Bowl, Conner had amassed 116 rushing yards and two touchdowns. The Ole Miss running back commit earned MVP honors, as he led Team Mississippi to a 24-20 victory and a second straight win in the rivalry.

"I knew I had to rep Mississippi across my chest and had to come out and play hard for my team," said Conner. "For Mississippi and Hattiesburg, too. I knew the coaches wanted to win bad, so I had to come out and play and have my mind focused on the game to run hard."

After Alabama struck first in the first quarter off a Bo Nix-to-George Pickens touchdown connection, Conner found the end zone late in the second quarter on a two-yard run to tie the game, 7-7. On the scoring play, he took the hand-off from Oak Grove quarterback John Rhys Plumlee, who played alongside Conner most of the night and finished with 116 yards (77 passing, 39 rushing).

"That was a lot of fun," said Plumlee of teaming up with Conner. "We got to know each other over the week pretty well. We hadn't really talked a whole lot before the week started, but I'd call us pretty close now. He's a really cool guy for sure."

With 9:44 left in the third quarter, Team Mississippi took a 14-7 lead off Conner's second touchdown run of the day—a six-yard scamper. Conner and Tupelo standout Jacquerrious Williams ran wild much of the second half.

"We saw they were getting tired," said Laurel offensive lineman Charles Cross, who started at left tackle for Team Mississippi. "We were hitting them every time and hitting them in the mouth with it."

Mississippi often brought defensive lineman Nathan Pickering (Seminary) and Byron Young (West Jones) in as extra blockers, too.

"For me to get back there, I'm ready...let's go. It was fun," said Pickering. "To be honest, I wasn't expecting them to do it because I'm pretty sure they picked someone who actually does that for a living at high school. But it was amazing for me to get back there, it was fun."

Defensively, Pickering and company locked down after surrendering that early score in the first quarter.

"We did some adjustments at halftime," said Pickering. "We just told them, 'Hey, you can't let them beat you deep and you gotta play aggressive'. That's what they did. The d-line, we kept doing what we were doing in chasing him [the quarterback] and basically agitating the offensive line."

Early in the fourth quarter, Team Mississippi extended their lead to 21-7 off a 13-yard touchdown run from Williams, who finished with 97 yards. Shortly after Alabama cut the lead to seven points, Mississippi put the

game away with 35 seconds left, as Clinton's Tucker Barefoot connected on a 43-yard field goal, making it 24-14 Mississippi.

"It was a really neat experience to be able to put the pads on one more time as a high school guy and win it," said Plumlee. "It really meant a lot, especially with all these guys. These are some extremely talented guys, and they're really good guys off the field as well."

As time expired, Alabama scored on another Nix-to-Pickens touchdown connection, but it was too little too late. "It's very emotional, but for me to end it like this is very honoring," added Pickering, who finished with five tackles. "To come out and compete with the best teams in Mississippi, it's just an honor for me to be here and showcase my talent."

As previously mentioned, it's Mississippi's second straight win in the rivalry. "When we came, the first thing they told us was that this was a business trip," said Byron Young. "We knew we were gonna come over here, and that there would be a lot of hard work. We had to have our heads on right and be prepared to win this football game."

Other local standouts who participated in the game were Sumrall wide receiver Dannis Jackson, who finished with one catch for nine yards, and Hattiesburg defensive lineman Jaren Handy and defensive back Hakeem Vance. Local coaches Tony Vance (Hattiesburg), Kenny Robinson (Mize) and Todd Mangum (Wayne County) participated as well.



West Jones' Byron Young breaks through toward the Alabama quarterback during the MS-AL All Star game. Young has committed to Alabama. Photos/James Pugh



Jarod Conner of Hattiesburg plunges into the end zone in the MS-AL All Star game. He was named game MVP and has signed with Ole Miss.

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