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Choices Clinic of Laurel recognizes National Sanctity of Human Life Day

By Katie Grice

President Ronald Reagan issued a Proclamation creating the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day in January 1984 and it included these words: "We have been given the precious gift of human life, made more precious still by our births in or pilgrimages to a land of freedom. It is fitting then, on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision Roe vs. Wade (1973) that struck down State anti-abortion laws, that we reflect anew on the blessings and on our corresponding responsibility to guard with care the lives and freedoms of even the weakest of our fellow human beings."

In honor of National Sanctity of Human Life Day, Laurel Choices Clinic Executive Director Brittany Sherman, along with Jones County Sherriff Alex Hodge and local pastor and missionary Luke Johnson, came together on the steps of the Jones County Courthouse in Laurel to advocate the importance and value of human life.

The value of human life is intrinsic, for it derives from God, who made human beings in his own image (Gen. 1-26-27). Life is a sacred gift that is meant to be cherished and guarded. The value and dignity of human life is derived from God the Creator and is rooted in the fact that all humans have been created in God's image. As stewards of the life of God has given, we are to uphold its sanctity from conception to the grave. Based on God's love, we are able to extend self-giving compassion and care for those



Local pastor and missionary Luke Johnson speaks in support of National Sanctity of Human Life Day, which was observed this year on January 20. He is shown with Laurel Choices Clinic Director Brittany Sherman and Sheriff Alex Hodge. Photo/Katie Grice

who are suffering or vulnerable – preborn or born, young and old.

"A woman who experiences unplanned pregnancy, deserves to experience unexpected joy," once stated actress Patricia Heaton.

The Choices Clinic of Laurel stands firmly to remove the negative stigma of unplanned pregnancies out of wedlock. Choices Clinic is in existence to encourage, support, educate, and provide hope for women and men within the community that are faced with the challenge of unplanned pregnancies in a positive, patient-centered, and supportive environment.

The Choices Clinic of Laurel is a safe, welcoming clinic that offers confidential medical services, education of human life, peer counseling, and group meetings for men, women, and teens that find themselves face-to-face with unexpected pregnancies. These affirmative health care services are available for everyone that walks through the doors of The Choices Clinic.

The Choices Clinic of Laurel is located at 115 S. Magnolia Street in Laurel and serves a total of five counties in the Pine Belt: Jones, Jasper, Covington, Wayne and Smith. Appointments are always free and confidential, which is due solely to the gracious support of the community.

To schedule an appointment feel free to call (601) 428-4357 or text (601) 340-5927.

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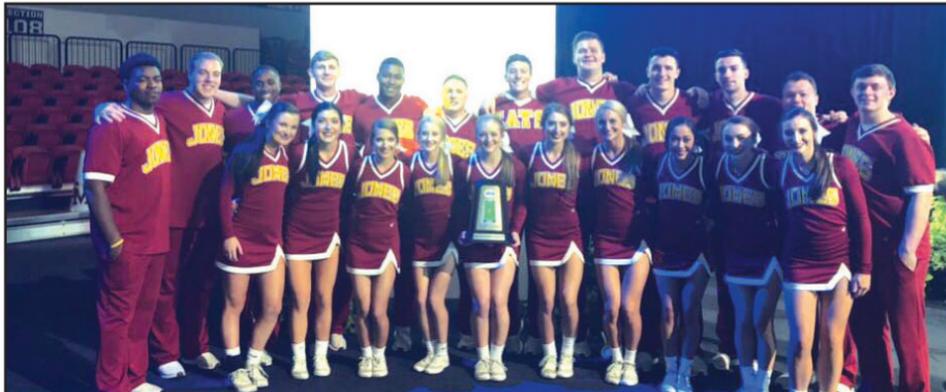
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Jones College cheerleaders earn high honors in UCA national competition

ORLANDO, Florida – The Jones College cheerleaders earned high honors at the UCA College Championship here Jan. 18-20.

In Game Day competition, Jones was the only junior college to make finals. The Bobcats finished fourth in the nation in Game Day competition out of 21 university and Juco programs. In Routine competition, Jones competed in the Open Coed Division against other junior colleges and two Puerto Rico universities. The Bobcats placed second in the Open Coed division. Members of the Bobcat cheer squad are sophomores Ty Adams (Germantown), Gabryele Battise (D'Iberville), Ali Coleman (Sumrall), Ivy Depriest (Brandon), Dakota Finerman (D'Iberville), Mackenzie Jordan (West Jones), Derek Ladner (Harrison Central), Blake Morrison (Mobile, Alabama), McKenzie Richardson (Tupelo) and freshmen Cryslynn Boman (Butler, Alabama), Kate Broom (West Jones), Hunter Henderson (Mobile, Alabama), Haley Kim (West Harrison), Andrew Kirkland (Petal), Dawson Lowery

(North Forrest), Baili Meadows (Richton), Jansen Parker (Stone), Drew Stanley (Stone), Logan Terwilliger (Harrison Central), Brianna Tisdale (Presbyterian Christian School), Reagan Verret (Perry Central), Sydney Whigham (Millry, Alabama), Briggs Cox (Forest-mascot), Garrett Griffin (Morton-mascot), Rogers Wesley (Warren Central-mascot) and sophomore manager Tara Williamson (Simpson Academy). Kayla Hankins is the Jones cheer coach and Jeremy and Ali Lumpkin are assistant coaches.



The Jones College cheerleaders finished second in Routine competition of the Open Coed division and fourth out of 21 university and junior colleges in the Game Day competition. Photo/Jones College Cheerleaders



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Such a small dash for such a full life. You were a wonderful Dad, Son, Brother, Uncle & Friend. You were a lover of life who brought so much laughter and joy to all you met; never meeting a stranger. We know, during that small dash between those dates, no one could have had a bigger heart! Now, there will never be another dash, because you live in eternity. One day we will meet again, on the other side of that dash, to be forever with Jesus and each other.

We love & miss you! Till we meet again... Momma, Daddy, Robin, Mike, Sherry, Phillip, Bryan, James Micah, Jason, nephews (special nephew Luke), nieces and friends.

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The Storyteller: I never knew her

By Martha McCarty

I never knew her, and I've always known that I missed a real treat. She knew I was on the way, and Mama said she was so pleased to know I was coming, but she died a few months before I got here. From all the tales Mama told of her, I know I'd have loved Mama's mother, and I do think she would have understood me really well.

Mrs. Bessie, as she was affectionately called, was quite a Southern lady. Her father, Lemuel Phillips Padgett, was congressman from Tennessee for eleven consecutive terms in the early 1900's, and Bessie had spent her teenage years on Embassy Row in DC. That is when her parents weren't on their place right out of Columbia, Tennessee. While her mother really enjoyed being the congressman's wife, Bess was very much down to earth in her beloved little country town tucked away in the hills of middle Tennessee.

Bess enjoyed her grandparents, Sims and Mary Cordelia Latta. Called Pappy and Dearie by the family, they had a nice big house near the square but spent most of their time on their farm on the other end of town. I remember being shown the farm house, which is gone now, but I saw enough to know that I would have liked to have spent time there myself. A large portion of Pappy's place he gave to Columbia Military Academy in order to organize the boys' school there. I've enjoyed riding through that campus and imagining what it must have looked like when part of his farm.

Several years before Mama died, she took Kenny, Liz and me to the Padgett home and introduced us to the current owner, who graciously welcomed us into the house. The lady remembered having known Mother years earlier, and she allowed Mama to show us around. So many of Mama's stories came to life as I saw the beautiful staircase and lovely rooms, ceilings and windows. I could envision Mama's playing there as a child and her mother's doing so before her. Yes, it had a long tree lined and branch covered drive stretching from the main road down to the house, an old kitchen building out back, and a spring house off to the side. It was on this place that Bessie was most at home and grew into the gracious lady and loving mother she became.

Mama shared how she had fallen in love with Nolan Gartner, whose family owned the carriage factory where the fancy buggies and surreys were made. He was the only child of his parents and worked closely with his father in the business. The Gartner home was in the country too, a bit further out past the Latta's on the opposite end of town.

After their marriage Nolan built Bess a brick house across the road from her parent's home, and it was in that house and on that place that they had and reared their family. Nolan Padgett was their only son. Then came Josephine Latta. She died at age two, three months after her sister, Ida



Philips, was born. Later came mother, Elizabeth Ann, and finally Mary Jane.

Mrs. Bessie early afternoon hours were reserved for and devoted to her social life. Her lady friends each 'received guests' one afternoon each week, and Tuesday was her day to 'receive' them. I suppose that couldn't have been every Tuesday, or she could have had only four friends. On these afternoons, the ladies visited in each other's homes for tea. Each hostess prepared her favorite pastries, spread her nicest table cloths with matching napkins and served form her finest china and silver service. Oh, my, how I would have loved to have attended such tea parties in their homes.

Mama's baby sister, Mary Jane, told me that on many afternoons, when weather permitted, Bessie took the buggy into town and picked up Nolan after work. She said that everyone on the street would stop to watch the handsome couple pass by. According to their daughter, they made a "fine looking pair."

Years later, after the deaths of both husbands, Bessie and her mother, Granny Padgett, as she was called then, both sold their homes in the country, pooled their resources and built a house in town, where they lived together. Both Mother and Mary Jane were still young and at home. The house they built backed up to the home of one of Bessie's brothers. It is still there and looks much like the one Daddy bought for Mother here in Laurel.

Mama shared that her grandmother Padgett could be a "stick in the mud" at times and had a tendency to be controlling. Mama laughingly shared that on one occasion, she and her mother, Bessie, pushed a bed mattress out of an upstairs window, climbed down the trellis and slept in the yard to get away from the bossy grandmother. Now, that sounds like something I might have done myself!

When Mother decided to enter nurse's training, Granny Padgett was horrified. She did not approve of a young lady's doing such a thing and did all that she could to stop her from going. Mrs. Bessie, however, encouraged her to go, so that she'd be able to care for herself if she might ever have the need to do so. Mother was head nurse on her floor when Daddy went to Vanderbilt as a medical student. Bess had no way of knowing just what the future held, but God had a plan, and He saw it through.

I look so forward to meeting Mrs. Bessie, and I know that before very much longer I will. I do believe that if we could have been children together, we would have had a world of fun, and to have her and Mother together will be such a treat! I feel sure that the mansion Christ has prepared for me has pretty furniture, linens and dishes in it, and between Mother, Grandma Bessie and me, we can set a mighty pretty table. When you get there, look us up, and we'll have tea! Oh, and as Mama used to say, "If you get there before I do, dig a little hole and pull me through!"

Jones County leaders meet to develop a Multidisciplinary Team

By Chataura Sanders

Jones County leaders met to organize a Multi-Disciplinary Team to serve children in Jones County. The multidisciplinary team (MDT) brings together experts from diverse disciplines that work together to develop a plan and process for responding to allegations of child abuse in their community. This team is made up of law enforcement, mental health personnel, victim advocates, district attorney's office, child protective services and medical personnel. This creates the opportunity for children to receive a quality investigation and specialized services in a way that reduces system-induced trauma while ensuring the child's safety and that justice is served.

Jones County is in the beginning stages of developing its MDT. Everyone in this community should be hopeful that Child Protection, local law enforcement, and the courts are all committed to creating a better response for children suspected of being victimized.

Tonya Madison- Chief Investigator for the Jones County Sheriff Department explained, "Laurel/ Jones County is in desperate need of a Child Advocacy Center. This center will benefit our entire area. We will be able to service more victims if this facility is available in our areas covering agencies such as: Laurel Police Department, Jones County Sheriff's Office, SOSO Police Department, Ellisville Police Department, Sandersville and other surrounding counties. This center will help victims be seen in a valuable amount of time and reduce travel cost for not only law enforcement but, child protective services and families." Three to four victims a week from Laurel and Jones County have forensic interviews in Hattiesburg, Meridian or Gulfport.



Members of the Multidisciplinary Team meet for discussion. Photo/Chataura Sanders

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar 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.

January 31

The South Side Alumni Association Community Outreach Organization will meet on Thursday, January 31 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Leona UMC Church, 689 Highway 503, Vossburg. Persons who graduated from South Side High School or have attended any school in the East Jasper County School District since the closing of South Side High are invited to attend this meeting. For more information, call Mandy Strong-White at 601-927-4165, Naretha Coleman 601-727-7442 or Jesse Jones 601-935-2565.

February 1

Bingo Night at the Y will be held on Friday, February 1st from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Bingo is quickly becoming a community favorite event! Family friendly and kids welcome. \$10 per person includes game cards for 7 games. Extra cards are available for purchase at \$5 each. Kassy's Kones and Concessions will be available on the street as well as fresh baked goods for sale inside.

The Laurel-Jones County Library System is pleased to announce that we are partnering with the AARP again this year to offer free tax assistance and preparation. The Tax Aid will be held every Friday between 02/01/19 – 04/12/19 from the hours of 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. While this service is open to the public, senior citizens, low-income, and disabled individuals/families will be given precedence. Services are offered on a first come, first serve basis. Please make sure that you bring ALL of the following items:

- Social Security Cards for ALL individuals that are being claimed on return
- Prior year's return
- Picture IDs
- All tax related forms such as pension and Social Security Statements, W2s, etc. If you have any questions, please call 601-428-4313 or email

m.jones@laurel.lib.ms.us.

February 2

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 71, Bay Springs, will be hosting its annual Sweetheart Bazaar on Saturday, February 2 in the old Neco parking lot in downtown Bay Springs beginning at 8:00 a.m. We are looking for vendors to sell their items just in time for Valentine's Day. Unit 71 will be selling hot food all day, and the proceeds will go to help our veterans, so no hot food vendors will be allowed. For information about reserving a space, call Peggy McCluskey at 601-323-3492 or email peggy.mccluskey@gmail.com

The Magnolia Boys Quartet will be in concert on February 2nd at New Bethany Baptist Church, starting at 7:00 p.m. The church is located on Hwy 588 west of Ellisville. Everyone is invited to attend.

February 2nd Calhoun Volunteer Fire Department will be having a 'Fill the Boot' drive at the intersection of Highway 84 and Highway 28 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This drive will benefit Kevin Jones, the Calhoun volunteer fire fighter recently diagnosed with colon cancer. Kevin has two small children and is self-employed. His intensive treatment plan will have him out of work for 8-10 weeks. Kevin has been serving the Calhoun community as a volunteer fire fighter for three years.

Pleasant Grove Moss MB Church invites you to our 2019 Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 2nd beginning at 8:00 a.m. We will have two dynamic speakers. There will be a registration fee of \$5. Your presence is highly appreciated.

The Community Center Church will be hosting a Musician's Appreciation Program February 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Some groups appearing in this program are the "Gospel Imperials" of Bay Springs, the "B&H Gospel Singers" of Syl-

varena and the "Junior Angels" of Shabuta and many more.

February 4

The Smith County Republicans will meet Monday, February 4, 2019, 7:00 pm at the Chancery Court Building in Raleigh. All Republican candidates are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity to speak. Everyone is welcome!! For more information call 601-725-4544.

The Jones County Federation of Democratic Women will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, February 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the Cook Avenue Center.

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AUCTIONS

Storage Wars at Storage World, February 7, 2019. We will auction to the highest bidder, any and all contents of Eleven units (07,09,23,33, 71,79,84,98,99,122,176) located at Storage World, behind Auto World, just off Hwy 84 East of Laurel. Sale will be at 10:00 am Thursday, February 7, 2019 at the site. All sales are absolute and final. Settlements must be in cash.

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GARAGE SALES

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Comments either for or against this service by such public, private, and paratransit operators will be received at any time within 10 days from the date of this notice. All comments should be addressed to DJ Transit, Inc., Attn: Executive Director, 130 Leontyne Price Blvd. Suite B, Laurel, MS 39440.

+/- 160 Acres Located on Bart Anderson Rd, Just West of Stalene, MS and Southwest of Buckatanna, MS in Wayne County, MS. This property consists of 10 year old Loblolly Pine Plantation that is growing well. Located on a low traffic blacktop road this tract offers serenity for those looking for a get away, hunting or recreational tract of land with Timber Investment. Power is available for a house or camp. Great Hunting in the area close to Chichasaway WMA and Big Creek which provides fishing and boating. Priced to sale!!

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+/- 160 Acres Located just off of Chicora-Greene Co Road in Wayne County this tract consists of 10 year old Long Leaf Plantation and Mixed Pine/Hwd. Has over 1/2 Mile of Big Creek Water Frontage which offers boating, fishing and relaxation on beautiful sandbars. Great Hunting Tract with endless possibilities. Access Pending. Adjoining acres

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+/- 183 Acres Very Secluded Located just South of Shubuta-Euccutta Rd, this tract offers +/- 44 acres of 15 year old pine plantation, +/- 20 acres of 12 year old pine plantation, +/- 10 acres of 8 year old pine plantation, +/-90 acres of natural timber, and +/- 20 acres of unthinned 22 year old pine. Has great topography and lake site. This property offers Great Hunting. Has gas line crossing property which is planted in wildlife plants. Has deeded Right of Way. Can't beat the Price!! \$275,000 Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more at mfm-land.com.

Greene Co. +/- 262 Acres. It is all about location for this property situated less than 1/2 mile from Turkey Fork Reservoir and DeSoto National Forest. Deer, turkey and small game thrive here. Indian Camp Creek flows through the site. It has 130 acres of pine plantation, 70 acres of natural bottom land and 53 acres of natural upland. This tract is an excellent timber investment, as well as a fantastic place for a home, weekend getaway or hunting camp. Priced at \$615,700. Call Walley Properties,

LLC at 601-477-3014 or visit walley-properties.com.

Wayne Co. +/- 362 Acres. Fishing, hunting, you name it, this property has it. Due south of Maynor Creek Water Reservoir, Maynor Creek flows through this tract. The 166 acres of mixed pine and hardwood natural bottom land, combined with the creek, provide an excellent home for wildlife. This property is less than 3 miles east of Desoto National Forest. The 160-acre pine plantation, makes this an excellent timber investment. The property has frontage on Moley Wise Road. There are plenty of spots for home or camp sites. Priced at \$814,500. Call Walley Properties, LLC at 601-477-3014 or visit walleyproperties.com.

Stone Co. +/- 46 Acres. Price Reduced! Quiet country living less than 30 minutes from the Gulf Coast. Located 5 miles west of Saucier, this beautiful property boasts a recently remodeled 3B/2B, 2,400-square foot home. Outside, are beautiful woods, trails to explore and a nice pond w/ dock. Now priced at \$330,000. For more info, contact Clifton 601-606-4336 at Walley Properties, LLC.

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Greene Co. +/- 97 Acres. Located in Hintonville, this property has frontage on Roberts Road and Pleasant Hill Road. An excellent timber investment, this tract contains a thinned pine plantation nearing maturity. Red Hill Branch and two of its tributaries flowing through the property and a nice interior road system in place, makes it a great spot for a hunting camp. Purchase options are: the entire tract for \$203,700 (\$2,100/acre); less than 40 acres at \$3,000/acre; more than 40 acres at \$2,500/acre. For more info, call Walley Properties,

LLC at 601-477-3014 or visit walley-properties.com.

Perry Co. +/- 12 Acres. With 1/4 mile frontage along the Leaf River, this listing offers an excellent spot for a hunting & fishing camp, a weekend retreat or a secluded homesite. The property features a mix of mature natural hardwoods and pines. With easy access from Old Hwy 24, the property is just three miles west of New Augusta. Priced at \$75,000. Call Phil 601-381-0678 at Walley Properties, LLC for more info.

Wayne Co. +/- 70 Acres. Brand New Listing! Featuring beautiful, mature timber and a location near DeSoto National Forest, this listing has great potential. Property has 1/3-mile frontage on Strengthford-Pleasant Grove Road. It is a nice spot for a home or hunting camp. As a timber investment, the trees are ready for harvest. For anyone interested in hunting or outdoor recreation, this tract is excellent. Bull Branch flows through the property providing a year-round water source for area wildlife. Priced at \$101,500. Call Walley Properties, LLC, 601-477-3014 or visit walleyproperties.com.

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Stringer's upset bid against the state's No. 3 team in 1A falls a basket short in final second

By James Pugh
Stringer fell a basket short in the final second Tuesday night.

Tied 41-41 in the final stretch of regulation, Leake County drained the clock to its last second before junior guard Tyrese Whittington sank a strong side corner three to hand the state's No. 3 team in Class 1A a 44-41 win over the Red Devils.

Stringer head coach Brandon Jennings said his team executed their predetermined game plan perfectly, despite the outcome.

"Defensively, we wanted to pack the paint," said Jennings. "They have a great rebounding team, and I thought we battled with them all night. Their kid made a tough shot in the end, but I thought we executed everything great. We were in the ball game at the end with a chance to win it."

Leake County remains unbeaten in Region 7-1A at 5-0 and improves to 19-4 on the year. Stringer falls to 13-7 overall and 1-2 in region play.

Down by eight (30-22) in the third period, Stringer fought its way back. A highlight reel dunk by senior forward Keyshawn Dease with 1:15 left in the period tied the game, 32-32. More a minute later, senior Tate McNeil closed out the third period with a three-point play - basket while fouled and made a free throw with exactly one-second left on the clock - to complete Stringer's 13-2 run and overtake Leake County, 35-32.

Leading Leake County in three-point baskets, junior guard Jamichael Banks collected his 41st of the season with 3:36 left to play to tie the game once again at 37 a-piece. Teammate Jamarie Weathers followed with a three-point play 10 seconds later for the game's eighth lead change.

The lead swapped back in Stringer's favor (41-40) precisely three minutes later on a fast-break layup by sophomore Omarion Bridges with 1:36 remaining in regulation.

Prior to Whittington's game-winner, Leake County tied the game of the sixth time, 41-41, on a made free throw basket with 50.3 ticks left on the clock.

Key factor in Stringer's loss
Stringer shot 45 percent from the line on 20 free basket attempts. Jennings said those missed opportunities were costly.

"We wanted to press some," said Jennings. "We usually do that off of made free throws. We ended up missing 10 or 11 free throws which cost us the ball game. But still, I'm super proud of the way our boys played."

Leake County went to the line just nine times Tuesday night, making six free baskets.

Point leaders
Seven players contributed to Leake County's win, but only one, Jamarie Weathers, managed double-digit points. Weathers finished with 10.

Stringer had a similar stat line as seven players scored baskets in the loss. Tate McNeil led the Red Devils with 14 points, the only player to reach double-digits.

Moving forward
As tough as the loss is for the highly anticipated matchup, Jennings said his team effort is to be commended.

"We knew we'd have our

Keyshawn Dease goes up for a layup against Leake County in Region 7-1A action. Photo/James Pugh

hand full," said Jennings. "Coming in they were the No. 3 team in Class 1A [across the state]. I'm just super proud of the way our kids played. We worked Sunday and Monday on our game plan, and we executed it to a T. I told them that if we executed, we'd be in the ball game. I think that showed them that we could play with even the best teams in the state."

Stringer will get another shot at Leake County on the first day of February. Leake County finished first in 7-1A last year as Stringer notched the number two spot heading into the district tournament.

"We're looking forward to going over there and playing," said Jennings. "Hopefully we can get a win and make some free throws."





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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - RURAL AREA PROGRAM

DJ Transit, Inc. of Laurel, Mississippi, is considering applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division, for assistance through its Rural Area Program to provide public transportation services within Jones, Jasper, Lawrence, Jefferson Davis and Covington Counties. Funding is available to state agencies, local public bodies and agencies thereof, non-profit organizations, operators of public transportation services in locations other than urbanized Area, and, under special circumstances, private operators of public transportation on a competitive basis to undertake eligible transportation activities.

The goals of the Rural Area Program are: to enhance the access of people in non-urbanized Area to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services and recreation; to assist in the maintenance, development, improvement, and use of public transportation systems in rural and small urban Area; to encourage and facilitate the most efficient use of all Federal funds used to provide passenger transportation in non-urbanized Area through the coordination of programs and services; and to provide for the participation of private transportation providers in non-urbanized transportation to the maximum extent feasible.

The purposes for which these funds can be used are capital purchases that include such items as support vehicles, communication equipment, wheelchair lifts, etc.; administrative costs that include such items as salaries, office supplies, insurance, etc.; and operating expenses that include such items as driver's wages, fuel, oil, etc.

More specific details regarding eligible activities, program requirements and the program criteria will be provided at two separate public hearings which will be held on **February 12, 2019** at the Laurel Train Depot Freight Room, 230 N. Maple St., Laurel, MS. A second hearing will be held on **February 12, 2019** at the Bay Springs City Hall, 39 6th Street, Bay Springs Ms. from 1:30pm to 3:00 pm.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application.



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Lady Mustangs experience deja-vu with another comeback win over South Jones to remain unbeaten

By James Pugh

Assistant West Jones girls basketball coach Jeremiah Keyes reminded head coach Sharon Murray her team had been this situation before. South Jones threatened to upset the Lady Mustangs and thus unravel their perfect season with a 50-45 lead in the final three minutes of Friday night's Region 5-5A regular season meeting - the second of its kind.

"Of course you think about the last game [and how it ended]. My coach on the bench, Coach Keyes, kept reminding me how we did this last game [and our girls could do it again]. It doesn't always happen like that, but I was excited that we were able to come back again and pull it out."

And like the teams' first meeting on Jan. 4th, West Jones rallied in the last minute and a half to beat county rival South Jones, 54-50, in Soso.

"I didn't know what was going to happen," said Murray. "I believe in my team, but South Jones did a great job tonight. They worked hard and stuck with their game plan."

"But we finally got shots to fall our way. Our defense made for some easy layups off of steals."

The Lady Mustangs outscored South Jones 9-0 in the final three minutes to keep the unbeaten streak alive through 21 games. Murray watched her team struggle shooting the second half - especially in the third quarter - was glad to see the layups and easy jumpers falling again.

"We went through some spells where we couldn't make a shot," said Murray. "And [South Jones] made a good run in the third quarter. We couldn't contain Kelsi Jackson [during that time]. They just kept scoring, and we couldn't score."

"I'm glad we made a run in the fourth quarter and got things going."

South Jones gained its first lead of the night with 17 seconds left in the third period after a three-point shot by senior guard and Jones College signee Jordan Clark. The Lady Braves continued to put West Jones in an uncomfortable position early in the fourth before deja-vu sat in.



Mia Moore shoots a jumper over a South Jones defender in Region 5-5A action. Photo/James Pugh

Point leaders

All starting five finished with double-digits for West Jones. Briana Carr and Mia Moore led the way with 12 points each, while Jurnee McLaurin, Brikayla Gray, and Imani Arrington netted 10 a-piece.

South Jones' Kelsi Jackson led all scorers with 24 points and six rebounds. Jernize Gammage also finished in double-digits with 16.

Boys game

South Jones picked up its first Region 5-5A win late Friday night.

Coming back from a five-point halftime deficit, the Braves pulled ahead in the third period and held on for a 54-47 win over county rival West Jones.

First-year head coach with the Braves Brian Butler said

the long-awaited win felt great.

"We've had a little bit of a drought," said Butler. "We're still learning from each other even though it's late in the year. We're maturing and getting better every day."

South Jones improves to 4-18 overall and 1-5 in Region 5-5A. West Jones falls to 8-14 on the season and 1-5 also in region play.

The seven-point victory gives South Jones the jump in seeding from four to three in Region 5-5A as the district tournament approaches. Butler said that was the goal coming into Friday night's game. West Jones won the first meeting between the two back on Jan. 4., 65-62.

"Any time you have to win a game by a certain amount of points for a district seed, it's tough," Butler said. "We set the goal. We had to win by four. We knew that, and they knew that. So late in the game, I think the strategies changed a little bit. We wanted to pull them out and make them run with us a little bit more. And they wanted to get a few more deep shots to narrow the deficit. They have some good shooters, and they got some good looks for them. Lucky for us, we came out on top of that because it could have gone either way."

South Jones outscored the Mustangs 17-6 in the third quarter to erase its halftime deficit.

"We came into this game expecting to perform well," said Butler. "We're just glad we came out on top of this one. Our guys are unselfish. They're friends outside of basketball. Their closeness is what makes them fun to be around, and it also makes them unselfish in games. We emphasized tonight that the guy driving the lane will not be the one who scores all the time."

Point leaders

Three Braves finished in double-digits. Jordan Miller led the team with 16 points, while Andre Thomas and Jackson Delk added 11 a-piece.

West Jones had two to score double-figures. Jared Naylor finished with 11 points, and Cedric Bender added 10.

Park Place Garden Club holds January meeting at home of Becky Brewer

Members of Park Place Garden Club were reminded of the necessary steps to take in order to have a beautiful lawn and bountiful garden during their January meeting held at the home of Becky Brewer.

Kimberly Hancock, Jones County Coordinator of the Mississippi State University Extension office gave a presentation to help members identify and solve common problems with one's lawns and gardens. Introduced by Jane Hayes, first vice-president of Park Place, the guest speaker shared many helpful hints in preparing lawns for the spring. She explained that taking a soil sample is a great start to learning how to have beautiful grass. The County Coordi-

nator also reminded members when mowing grass not to cut it too short.

When discussing gardens, the guest speaker told members if you do not have a space for a small garden in your yard, consider container gardening for fresh vegetables. She added it is a fun way to grow vegetables, for example tomatoes. Mrs. Hancock also shared tips on how and when to prepare the area and soil for one's garden. Killing weeds and spraying for insects is an important first step. During her presentation she distributed helpful information for members to have on hand, while reminding everyone that her office is always opened for those seeking help when it



Kimberly Hancock, Jones County Coordinator of the Mississippi State University Extension Office.

Photo/submitted comes to needing answers pertaining to lawns and gardens.

Following the program, President Brewer called the business meeting to order. Carol Henley read the minutes from the December meeting, and Nan Abernathy presented the treasurer's report. Various committee reports were then given.

Hostesses for the meeting were Becky Brewer, Mary Anne Sumrall, Sydney Swartzfager and Stephanie Robinson. Park Place Garden Club is a member of the Laurel-Jones County Council of Garden Clubs, The Garden Clubs of Mississippi and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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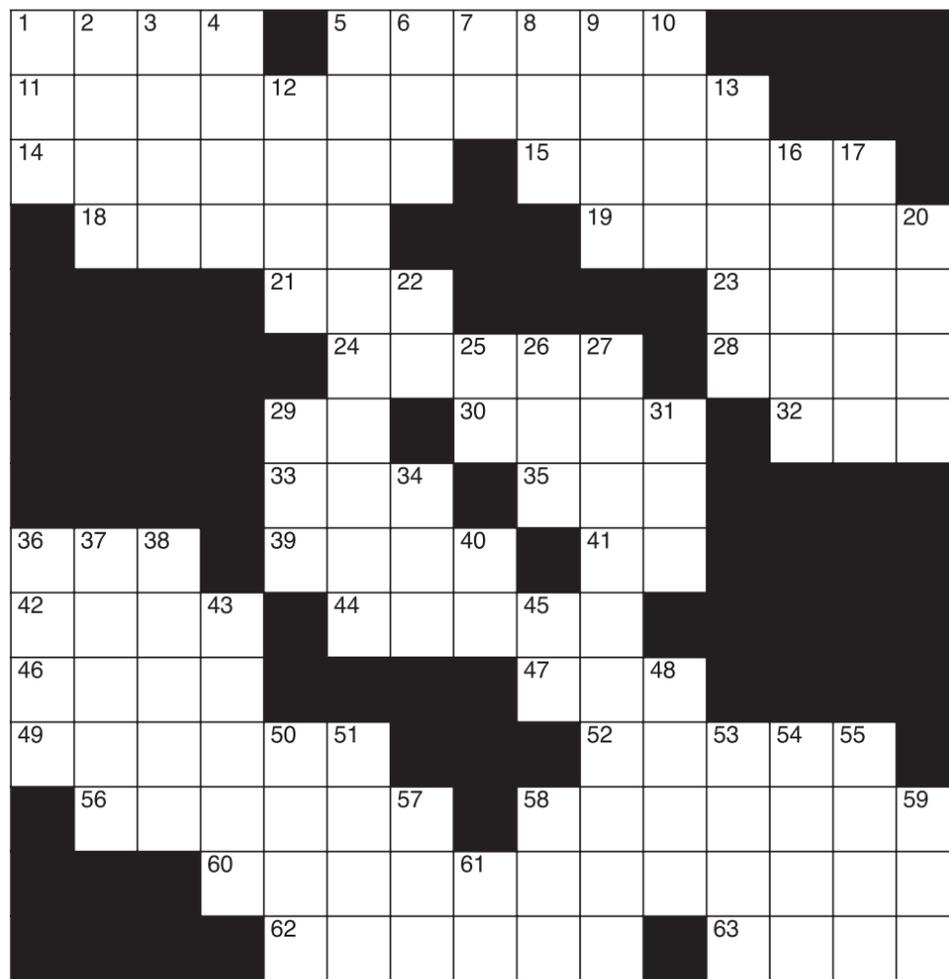
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 ARANCINI
 ARRABBIATA
 BRACIOLE
 BRANZINO
 BRUSCHETTA
 CACCIATORE
 CALAMARI
 CALZONE
 CANNELLONI
 CAPONATA
 CARBONARA

FARFALLE
 GNOCCHI
 LINGUINE
 MARINARA
 MINISTRONE
 MOZZARELLA
 ORZO
 PANCETTA
 PANE
 PASTA
 PESCE
 PESTO

PIZZAIOLA
 PROSCIUTTO
 RAGU
 RAVIOLI
 RISOTTO
 SALAMI
 SARDE
 SCAMPI
 TORTELLONI
 VITELLO
 ZITI
 ZUPPE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Sheep sounds
5. Turn up
11. Statements of support
14. Spells
15. Evildoer
18. One-time baseball stadium staple
19. Activities
21. WWII-era US President
23. Soft, flexible leather
24. Proverb
28. Wish (Hindu)
29. Injury treatment
30. Red Sox ace
32. "Deadliest Catch" captain
33. Baseball stat
35. Where marine life lives
36. Heartbeat test
39. Signs on the dotted line
41. Atomic #24
42. Bind securely
44. Swiss Nobel Peace Prize winner
46. Fragrant brown balsam
47. Where you were born
49. Sells a ticket for more

CLUES DOWN

1. Ballplayer's tool
2. Hairdo
3. From a distance
4. Belt one out
5. Revising a text
6. More (Spanish)
7. Beloved Spielberg alien
8. BBQ dish
9. Provoke
10. Within
12. Canadian flyers
13. Smugly smile
16. Buffalo
17. Lake in the Kalahari Desert
20. Grab
22. Rural delivery
25. Equally

26. It's sometimes passed
27. Citizens who are qualified to vote
29. Greek letter
31. Body part
34. Boxing result
36. Newts
37. Predatory semiaquatic reptiles
38. Cockatoo
40. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
43. Leguminous east Indian tree
45. News reporting organization
48. A nemesis of Batman
50. Legal term
51. Not all
53. A way to greet
54. Knot in a tree
55. Satisfy
57. Russian space station
58. A baby's mealtime accessory
59. Stitch together
61. ___ and behold



GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born in Iowa on January 28, 1981. I began my career as a child model and even appeared in a Paula Abdul video. I am best known for playing a hobbit in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Answers on Page 10

Sideline View: Big 3 all ranked in preseason baseball poll

By Dale McKee

Super Bowl LIII is set as the New England Patriots will battle the L.A. Rams in Atlanta. A team not even in the Super Bowl game is not happy about not going. New Orleans Saints fans are still yelling "wuz robbed," but to me it also cost us the ultimate quarterback battle between 41-year-old Tom Brady and 40-year-old Drew Brees. NFL head referee Bill Vinovich and his entire crew should be suspended for the famous "no call" against the Saints in the final two minutes. I only suggested suspension because we should have run them out of town on a stick or we could have tarred and feathered them in Jackson Square. Either way, it was a very bad call.



Super Bowl Teams

The Patriots are 5-5 in Super Bowls while the Rams are 1-2. If the Patriots win, they will tie Pittsburgh for the most Super Bowl wins at six. A loss would give them a Super Bowl record for losses with six. They and Denver presently have five wins each. The Broncos were 3-5 in Super Bowl games. The Rams and Patriots met in Super Bowl XXXVI in New Orleans with the

Pats winning on a late field goal, 20-17. The established team in New England has won 10 straight AFC Titles while the upstart Rams, who were 4-12 two years ago, tied the Saints for the best mark in pro football this year at 13-3. The game is a pick-'em in the gambling world.

Super Bowl Bound

Patriots wide receiver coach Chad O'Shea is a former USM coach under Jeff Bower. The rumor mill has O'Shea heading to Miami as the Dolphins' offensive coordinator under new head coach Brian Flores after the Super Bowl. Two Magnolia State players are Patriots placekicker Steven Gostkowski from Madison and Rams wide receiver Mike Thomas from USM. Thomas is on injured reserve and will not play.

Rivera is the best ever?

For the first time in 83 years the baseball Hall of Fame has had a player elected by a unanimous vote. Former New York Yankee Mariano Rivera, the all-time leader in saves, was named on all 425 ballots. Pitchers Mike Mussina and the late Roy Halladay and D.H. Edgar Martinez also joined the Hall of Fame. Lee Smith and Harold Baines will be honored with induction as the Today's Game Era Committee elected them back in December. Bobby Bonds, Roger Clemens

and Curt Shilling all fell short again but keep gaining ground every year.

Big 12 takes down SEC

Ole Miss lost to No. 24 Iowa State in the Big 12/SEC Challenge. The Big 12 won the event by winning six games in the games played Saturday. Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Texas A&M were the only SEC winners. It was odd to me that three of the better SEC teams in LSU, MSU and Auburn were not in the challenge. Having these three teams not play was not very good scheduling by the SEC brass. USM scored 101 points in whipping Marshall. The Golden Eagles are now (12-9, 4-5) for the season. The Lady Bulldogs whipped Ole Miss, 80-49, this past Sunday to improve to 7-0 in conference play.

College Baseball

Mississippi State came in at number nine in the Baseball America preseason baseball poll. Ole Miss was ranked 13th with USM 21st. The SEC led the way with seven of their fourteen teams ranked in the top 20. LSU (2), Florida (4), Georgia (15), Auburn (17) and Arkansas (18) joined MSU and Ole Miss. The Bulldogs, Golden Eagles and Rebels all open their season at home on the weekend of February 15-17.

This Thursday, William Carey will play

at home against Missouri Baptist to begin the college baseball season in Mississippi. Delta State hosts East Central University on Friday while Mississippi College hits the diamond on Saturday at Harding, Arkansas.

Contact Dale McKee @ddmckee18@yahoo.com

WCHS to honor Geary Jackson on Feb. 1

Wayne County High School will honor their former head basketball coach Geary Jackson on Friday, February 1. Coach Jackson won over 800 games as he coached most of his career in Waynesboro. He led the former Waynesboro Central High School to two state titles in 1981 and 1983. He was the first coach at Wayne County High School in 1989 and also coached at Meridian (1992-1999) before returning for the 2000-01 season to Wayne County High School where he coached until 2007. He then went on to coach at Wayne Academy. Jackson will be inducted into the Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame in June.

We would be honored if you would join us at 7:00 on Friday, February 1, when the War Eagles take on Oak Grove.

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