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Madeline Rowell and Allison Rowell are a sister duo from Stringer. They were excited to introduce their four-month-old Toy Poodle, Walter, at the Laurel Dog Park. The sisters' parents surprised the girls with Walter as a Christmas gift. Both sisters have in complete awe of him since. He's been an blessing to them. The sisters enjoyed seeing Walter interact and socialize with dogs amongst the park and look forward to make many memories with Walter at the Raising Cane's Laurel Dog Park. See more on P. 6. Photo/Katie Grice

## SEE MORE NATIONAL SIGNING DAY PHOTOS INSIDE



West Jones senior Triston Little signed a letter of intent to swim at Henderson State University in Arkansas. Pictured Front l-r: Paul Little - dad, Triston, Misty Little - mom; Elizabeth Little - sister Back l-r: WJ Supervising Principal Cooper Pope, LSA swim coach Warren Holladay, WJ swim coach Lyndie Lyon, and WJ Athletic Director Scott Pierson. Photo/submitted

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Some of the key performers in Jones College's musical "Hairspray" pose for pictures. Pictured seated, left to right, are Keara Altman of Quitman, Kassidy Chandler of Laurel, Davonzell Moncrief of Montrose and Kendra Stevison of Lucedale. Pictured in the back row are Avyana Russell of Houston, Texas and Lane Smith of Columbia. Photo/Teresa McCreery. See story below.

## JC's Theater Department to present "Hairspray" Feb. 28

By Teresa McCreery

Jones College's theater production of "Hairspray" is taking audiences back to the '60s when the beehive and the flipped-bob hairdo's were popular and social problems erupted. Star-struck teenybopper Traci Turnblad, played by Kassidy Chandler of Laurel, takes the audience on an adventure to see her dream of dancing on a TV show and dating the popular heartthrob, Link Larkin – played by James Bilbo of Ellisville – come to life. Along the way, Traci is exposed to a world with racial tensions and change on the horizon. While poking fun at the stereotypes of the era, JC's production of "Hairspray" with its catchy tunes and clever lyrics features a talented cast of more than 35 students, a live orchestra and a couple of seasoned pros. "Hairspray" is produced and directed by JC theater instructor Jennifer Bruton, and she is assisted by Broadway musical performer, Bruce Smith.

"We chose "Hairspray" because we wanted something familiar, fresh and really fun! This is a high-energy show with a big and very diverse cast. The students made our casting decisions very difficult since over 60 of them auditioned!" said Bruton.

This year, an additional performance includes opening night on Thursday, February 28 at 7 p.m. The cast will perform two shows on Saturday, March 2 at 2:30 and at 7 p.m. The final performance of "Hairspray" will be Sunday, March 3 at 2:30 p.m. in the M. P. Bush Fine Arts Auditorium on the JC campus in Ellisville. Tickets are \$5 for children 17 and under and \$10 for adults, with free admission for JC students and faculty with a valid ID. Tickets can be purchased at the door. The movie version was rated PG; however parents should use their discretion for children younger than middle school. For more information, please contact Jennifer Bruton at 601-477-2675 or email her at jennifer.bruton@jcjc.edu.

The Broadway musical "Hairspray" is based on the John Waters movie and is a winner of eight Tony awards. Set in Baltimore in the early 1960s, "Hairspray" challenges the audience to see all the characters as equals regardless of race, size or gender. While at the WZZT-TV studios, host Corny Collins, played by the seasoned performer Bruce Smith of Ellisville, and Motor-mouth Maybelle, played by JC student Denise McAddo of Bay Springs, spin the tunes that all the hippest kids are dancing to.

"I am so excited to be involved with Jones College Fine Arts," said Bruce Smith, who graduated from Jones in 1990. "The experience helped me prepare for a career in music and I am so excited to see this same thing happen for the students now. Jones was such a wonderful launching pad to prepare me."

Also, joining the student cast is former JC Theater and USM graduate Harlan Mapp of Hattiesburg as Traci's mother, Edna Turnblad.

"The role of Edna has always been on my list of roles I would love to play simply because it's so offbeat and different. She's a big woman and loads of fun!" said Mapp.

Tracy Turnblad is played by Laurel's Kassidy Chandler, who is debuting on the Jones stage; however, she is a familiar face to audiences attending productions at West Jones High School and the Laurel Little Theatre. The musical, "Hairspray" drew her back to performing Chandler explained.

"This is one of my favorite musicals of all time because it is a really fun show with a great message. After taking some time off from performing, I began to really miss it. When I found out the musical was going to be 'Hairspray' I knew this was the show I wanted to get back into performing in musical theater," Chandler said.

Another pivotal character, Velma Von Tussle, portrayed by freshman Lauren Hankins of Laurel, is the villainess of the musical. She is the racist producer of The Corny Collins Show and attempts to keep Tracy from integrating and dancing on the show.

## Laurel, Jones County part of effort to form crisis intervention teams

An immensely important transformation is sweeping the United States, and the Jones County Sheriff's Department and Laurel P.D. are spearheading the effort in our state. I'm referring to the formation of Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) that consist of collaboration between mental health professionals, law enforcement officers, court administrators, advocacy groups, and families of people challenged with mental illness. Thanks to our law enforcement teams and Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources, the Pine Belt area has become a CIT center of excellence.

CIT was initially developed in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1987 as a result of a terrible incident where a man was shot numerous times by police officers when he brandished a knife. He suffered from serious mental illness, and it appeared that nobody attempted to de-escalate him prior to the shooting.

The community was outraged and demanded action to prevent future incidents involving people with mental health issues. As a result, the University of Memphis helped develop a CIT training program, with the assistance of many other agencies, including the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

The Memphis CIT Model has flourished worldwide and was initially brought to Mississippi thanks to Sheriff Billy Sollie from Lauderdale County.

Sheriff Alex Hodge from Jones County was quick to embrace the concept here, and he even helped establish a training team to assist other counties and cities to benefit from the comprehensive 40-hour CIT course, emphasizing an ap-

preciation for the nature of mental illness and the appropriate ways to de-escalate individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

The Laurel Police Department quickly joined the training team and helped host courses to improve the outlook for citizens who experience mental health challenges, using this essential jail diversion method to improve the safety of all concerned. Numerous officers from the Sheriff's Department and local police units, including Laurel and Ellisville, became proficient in responding to mental health calls.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts, the skill development, and the compassion of the CIT graduates, this entire area of the state is much safer. Each jail diversion encounter provides appropriate treatment to the vulnerable people who need it, and the counties and cities save significant amounts of money.

It is much more expensive to incarcerate individuals than to provide them with much-needed mental health care. Once the people are stabilized and receiving correct medications, they are no longer a threat to themselves and others.

The members of NAMI congratulate the Jones County Sheriff's Office and the Laurel Police Department for their roles in developing and conducting CIT training in this area. The future of the program is assured thanks to several Federal grants that have been issued based on their success thus far. Persons interested in joining NAMI are encouraged to contact us at 601-550-8219.

Joe Kinnan, Colonel (USAF, Ret.),  
Secretary, NAMI-MS Pine Belt Affiliate

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# *The Story Teller:* “The special glow of lifelong friendships”



By Martha McCarty

I saw a pretty little dish the other day, and I started to buy it, or a couple of them, to give to friends. In a very neat script was printed on it, “If I were to count my friends, I’d count you twice.”

I didn’t buy them because I couldn’t give such a nice gift to only two friends, and there were only two of the dishes. I actually have more than two special friends. Aren’t I blessed?

Real friends don’t come along very often, and believe you me, when they do, they are not a dime a dozen. But I’ve managed to hang on to several who ‘go back’ quite a way. I’ve

actually got a few who’ve been mine since childhood, and they say that they still like me too. And, there is nothing more valuable or precious than a good, old friend.

I rode bikes with Betty Sue and ate mulberries with Emily. I walked to M&M Bakery with Shirley and shopped Kress with Marrienne. I made mud pies with Mayze and played softball with Richard and Rufus and cowboys and Indians with another Richard. Years later I giggled about boys with Anne and Patsy and cried on Tommy’s shoulder. I studied the Scripture with Eva and Terry and prayed and cried with Naomi when her husband got sick and died. Those friendships from long ago are special, precious memories now.

Barbara and I were the best of buddies in high school, and we even roomed together for a while in college. After her marriage, she went far away, and I didn’t see her for over forty years. We kept up as best we could when all we had was “snail mail,” but we stayed as close as being states apart and having busy families would allow. After forty years of sep-

aration, I got a surprise call to meet her at McAlister’s when she was passing through after a family funeral. As I sat down across the table there and we began to talk, it was as if we’d never been apart. The relationship we developed years ago had endured despite all of those years of separation!

And then, there was a fellow with whom I taught years ago who I thought was a fine man. As an educator, I learned much from him and believed him to be a godly man. Little did I know that he was so very different at home and to his family. It was a shock to find out how selfish and controlling my friend was away from school. Such pretense had hidden his real personality and discovering the truth pretty much destroyed what I had thought to be a true friendship.

And then there have been those friendships made more recently that I do think will stand the test of time. Bonnie moved right into my heart, found her place there and sat right down to stay. Even though we don’t see each other very often, when we do, our pleasure at “bumping into” each other

is genuine, and if we could get together more often, we surely would. We try to arrange lunch dates and to meet for coffee, and even though our meetings are rare, they are treasured. Such folks as she is are gems! I know that if I ever need them, they will be there for me, and I will do whatever I can for them as well. We are truly friends.

We all have many acquaintances, whom we see often and enjoy much. Apparently we like them fairly well and probably have something or someone in common. We’ll visit for a few minutes when we meet, but that short visit seems to be all we need from or offer to that “acquaintance.” There doesn’t seem to be much depth to such relationships, and those folks slip to the back of our minds about as quickly as we leave their presence. Could it be that more time together is needed there?

So, what it is about another that qualifies him to be a real friend? What is it about the ones we cherish as true friends? And why are only some drawn closely to us?

I do believe that our enjoying each other’s company and

our being comfortable with each other are both basic to building a friendship. Being accepted for who we are is key and being allowed to be ourselves is vital. Friends try to understand and even overlook faults and offer forgiveness easily. Our feeling free to talk, share, and trust will bond and seal a good relationship. Yes, there will be common interest and mutual ground, but it’s the appreciation of each other that means so much to both.

I’ve always told my children, at home and in the classroom, that the best way to make a friend is first to be one. And really, to do so isn’t that hard. When we show a genuine interest in another, we invite them to take an interest in us. Christ told us that we’d reap what we sow, so why not sow a little interest in another. Most folks could use a bit of that coming their way.

I can still hear Mama singing about her little light that she would not keep under the basket. She told us how important it was to let it shine, and friendships offered do have a certain glow about them.

I was blessed to be able to

teach in the schools where my children went, and we rode there and back together for years. Those short rides with my babies were special times for me. When they were very young I tried to instill in them how to be a friend who cared for others. And while on playground duty, I tried to be conscious of the children who seemed to “need a friend.” I remember telling mine to watch for the one who needed a smile that morning. They understood that smiles were always right behind their lips and easy to share. I encouraged children to offer to be another’s friend at recess and to ask the ‘loner’ to play. Young children are usually open to sharing themselves. Perhaps we need to polish up some old kindergarten skills ourselves.

I wonder how long it takes for a new friend to become an old one. If you were a new one yesterday, with a little conscious effort on both our parts, you can be an old one tomorrow. And if and when I can find more of those little dishes, I just might buy one for you. Sounds good to me.

What ‘cha think?



AT LEFT: For the past 9 years, the Junior Auxiliary of Laurel has hosted Girl Talk at the Laurel Middle School. This day is educational and fun for 7th and 8th grade girls. Girl Talk teaches the girls about the importance of making healthy choices for a brighter future. This year, on Friday February 8th, they had Sierra Davis as their keynote speaker along with 5 other topic speakers. Sierra Davis spoke to the young women about the importance of “knowing who you are”, “being who you are” and having a positive attitude. This one-day workshop also shared information on topics such as hygiene by speaker Delora Beech, cyber-security by Deputy Priscilla Breland, bullying by speaker Breanne Brooks, the power of words by speaker Lisa Cochran, and the importance of education by speaker Claire Ishee. They finished the day with Major Tedford teaching public danger and a performance by JCJC Jones on Stage! Thank you to all of the JA speakers and sponsors: Community Bank, North Laurel Family Dentistry, Family Dental Care, Choices Clinic of Laurel, Dunn Roadbuilders, Jones College - Claire Ishee, JCSO- Priscilla Breland, JCSO- Jamie Tedford, What If Just Ask-Breanne Bishop, Lisa Cochran- Studio R3, Sierra Davis, Paige McCardle, Crown Club and Jones on Stage. Photo/submitted

## Valentine’s gifts for your No. 1 guy

As Valentine’s Day approaches, the pressure is on to find ideal gifts for a special sweetheart.

The National Retail Federation indicates shoppers spent around \$19.6 billion on Valentine’s Day gifts in 2018, a dramatic increase from the year prior.

When gifting the men in their lives, others may be hard pressed to find an ideal gift for the guy who seems to have it all. Even though a small study published in *Psychology Today* determined that gifting men is seemingly easier than gifting women – regardless of who is doing the buying – there’s a prevailing stereotype that men are hard to buy for. That said, these suggestions for men’s gifts may get the creative gifting juices flowing.

- Leather gloves: Leaving home when the weather is frightful can be a challenge. But warm, stylish gloves may help the process along. Look for gloves that also have touchscreen compatible tips.
- Luxury shave kit: More men are realizing that indulging in quality grooming items does not require checking manliness at the door. In fact, it is quite trendy for men to use products entirely geared toward their skin and hair types, with more masculine scents to boot.
- Portable record player: If he’s a music buff and has collected vintage albums through the years, give him a modern way to play them. A wireless, Bluetooth-enabled turntable can be a heartfelt and practical gift.

- Ticket stub organizer: Whether he’s a sports fan, a concert-goer, or collects stubs to other events and outings, provide an organized way to preserve those memories.
  - Wireless phone charger: Tame that cord clutter with a gizmo that can quickly charge his phone and have him ready to take your calls or receive your texts.
  - Noise-cancelling headphones: Remove ambient sounds from his day, especially when commuting, traveling or working in his cubicle.
  - Stub Hub gift card: Gift him with the perfect way to catch up on live games.
- Gifting guys is a little easier with some Valentine’s inspiration. We hope these suggestions stir up a gift of the heart.

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# COMMUNITY CURRENTS

*The Community Events section is a schedule of activities for non-profit groups only – such as schools, churches and other not-for-profit organizations or family events. Send your events to: Admin@laurelimpact.com.*

## FEBRUARY 14

### “THEOLOGY AT THE COFFEE SHOP”

Pub Theology will meet on February 14 and February 28 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Lee’s Coffee and Tea. This is an open conversational group that meets on the second and last Thursdays of the month. Anyone interested in good conversation over a good brew is welcome to join us around the table for friendly conversation about relevant topics. No reservations are needed.

## FEBRUARY 16

### “PILGRIMAGE TO TOMB OF UNKNOWN SOLDIER”

The 3rd annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Civil War is set for Feb. 16. Presented by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Military Units to honor all on both sides that died in the Civil War. Wreath laying ceremony will be conducted at the Beauvoir Manor Cemetery, 2244 Beach blvd. Biloxi, at 11:00 am.

### “BIBLETONES AT MOSS SATURDAY NIGHT”

The Bibletones will be in concert Saturday night, Feb. 16, at Moss First Church of God. The church is located on Highway 537 (from Laurel turn right off Hwy. 15 onto 537 toward Moss). The concert is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m.

### “CUPID SHUFFLE-A-THON IN LAUREL”

Join us on Valentine’s weekend, February 16, for Cupid Shuffle-A-Thon in downtown Laurel. The race will benefit the revitalization of historic Boston Park in the Queensburg community. Join the Jones County Dream Builders, members of the 2018-19 Leadership Jones County program, as they shuffle and share about the great new projects coming to Laurel this year. There is a \$30 registration fee, and registration begins at 7 a.m. Race time is 8:00 a.m. Prizes will be given for best costume (Valentine’s attire). You may register online at [www.southernracetiming.com](http://www.southernracetiming.com).

### “JOB FAIR AT LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT”

The Laurel School District will host a job fair on Saturday, February 16 from 9 a.m. until noon at Central Office. We invite anyone interested in hearing about employment opportunities with the Laurel School District: teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers and more!

### “REV. COLLINS TO BE REMEMBERED”

Rev. L.C. Collins, former pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Laurel and civic leader, is scheduled to be remembered with a Resource Center in his honor on Saturday, February 16 at 11:00 a.m. at Calvary Baptist Church. The church is located at 143 Central Avenue. Following the dedication service, The Collins Family will host a voters registration workshop featuring Ricky Cole, former state Democratic Party chairman and executive director.

## FEBRUARY 17

### “BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM AT PLEASANT VALLEY AND NEW JERUSALEM FG CHURCH”

Pleasant Valley MB Church B.T.U. of Laurel will have their annual Black History program on February 17 at 3:30 p.m. The theme for this occasion is, “God Is In Control! Psalm 147: 3-5.” The guest speaker will be Pastor Markiet Lewis of Friendship MB Church of Laurel.

New Jerusalem FG Church, Laurel, invites you to our upcoming Black History program on Sunday, February 17 during the morning worship at 10:20 a.m. This will be hosted by the Youth Department. For more information, call 601-283-0163.

### “PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY AT MT. BETHEL”

Everyone is invited to Rev. Robert & First Lady Patricia Martin’s first year anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 17 at 2:30 p.m. at Mt. Bethel M.B. Church. The speaker will be Rev. George Dawson, pastor of Rocky Valley Church.

## FEBRUARY 21

### “BIBLE STUDY ON THE COMING OF JESUS”

First Baptist Church of Laurel will host a precept Bible study of the New Testament Epistle of Second Thessalonians entitled “So You Won’t be Deceived About His Coming.” This six-week study will begin Thursday, February 21 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. and will be led by Margie Hauenstein with a video lecture by Kay Arthur. An identical study will begin Monday, February 25 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and will be led by Danny West. For more information, please call Mr. or Mrs. Carey Hauenstein, administrators, at 601-428-4393.

### “FOOTBALL TRYOUTS AT JONES COLLEGE”

Jones College head football coach Steve Buckley has announced

tryouts will be held Feb. 21-22 at Bobcat Stadium/Sim Cooley Field. Registration will be at 1 p.m. each day, immediately followed by the tryouts. Cost is \$10 per participant – cash or check only. Participants must be a high school senior or a college student with remaining junior college eligibility. Players must bring their own cleats and a copy of their current physical. For more information, go to [jccathletics.com](http://jccathletics.com) and click on “Football” or call 601-477-1158.

## FEBRUARY 23

### “SPRINGHILL MB TO HOST PRAYER BREAKFAST”

Springhill Missionary Baptist Church family at 1403 Dubose Street, Ellisville, cordially invites you to be a part of our Prayer Breakfast services on Saturday, February 23 from 8:30 until 11:30 a.m. We ask that all who plan on being a part of these services to contact our church office at 601-477-8463, Monday through Friday, to sign up so that our church can make the necessary preparations for your attendance. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, February 17.

## FEBRUARY 24

### “WOMAN DAY PROGRAM IN HEIDELBERG”

Shady Grove M.B. Church of Heidelberg will have our annual Woman Day program the fourth Sunday, February 24, during morning service at 10:45 a.m. The guest speaker will be Reverend Kirk Keller, pastor of Union M.B. Church of Heidelberg.

### “PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY AT HILLS CHAPEL MB CHURCH TO CELEBRATE 15 YEARS OF MINISTRY”

Hills Chapel MB Church, Louin, MS invites you to help us celebrate 15 years of pastoral ministry for Pastor Kimble Windham & First Lady Lisa Windham on Sunday, February 24 at 11:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. The morning service guest speaker will be minister Amos McSwain Jr. of Miracle Temple Holiness Church of God in Christ in Richton, Miss. The pastoral anniversary guest speaker will be Pastor Steve Edwards of Word of Faith of Montrose, Miss.

## Does God wave a magic wand to take care of problems



By Dr. Bill Myers

Learning to wait on God’s timing. T-R-U-S-T.

Have you ever asked the question, “God, where are you?”

Honestly, all of us have probably been guilty of asking that question during a crisis or waiting period.. Our mind wants God to wave a magic wand to fix the problem instantly! Of course, that usually isn’t the case. God desires for us to trust Him, learn from Him, walk with Him, and have a deep relationship with Him. He will answer the problem, if we will trust Him and wait on His perfect timing!

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

There are many times when we feel like throwing our hands in the air and giving up believing for our miracle. I’ll admit it can be discouraging at times when our prayers seem unanswered. But God never ignores us. Never! He is working in our lives every day molding us into the image of Jesus. Yes, He loves us!

We should read this verse again and see the key words: “for at the proper time...we will reap a harvest...if we do not give up.”

“Those who know your Name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those

who seek you.” (Psalm 9:10)

Yes, God’s timing is always perfect – never early, never late! Our human nature tends to want our answers now, not later. Thankfully, we have a loving Abba Father (Daddy) that sees the big picture and knows the perfect timing to answer. God desires for us to learn to trust when He doesn’t answer the moment we ask. Another key phrase in this scripture is we “can’t give up!” His promises are true, and if we don’t receive our miracle the moment we ask,

we should trust Him and rest in His peace knowing He will answer at the right time. We must understand that He always does what’s best for us!

As we learn to walk with God daily, we understand He doesn’t always give us what we want. Again, He does what is best for us. If we pray for a “plan A” and he gives us a “plan B,” we should thank Him because He knows what’s best! Would you give your toddler a sharp knife to play with just because he or she asked for it? Of course you

wouldn’t! As a parent, you try to do what’s best for your child.

Friends, we might not see it at the time, but it’s usually revealed down the road of life. God always does what is best for us.

“Be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.” (2 Chronicles 15:7)

Please don’t give up on God because He hasn’t and never will give up on you! Yes, Jesus loves me this I know.

Jesus is the answer! Jesus is your answer! Amen!



Two West Jones High School juniors, Kolibi Holifield and Madalyn Stringer, served as pages at the Capitol during the week of Feb. 4-8. They were hosted by Representative Donnie Scoggin. L-R: Kolbi, Madalyn, and Scoggin. Photo/submitted



Congratulations to Jerry Ford, Jerry Ford Real Estate, REALTOR®, for 10 years of business! A surprise party was held January 25 at his office. Many co-workers and business associates honored Jerry for his years of dedication and hard work to bring his services to Jones County and the surrounding areas. Many of you know Jerry also from the baseball field. His agents and staff presented him with baseball tickets to the Cubs game this year! He was also given a photo album with many years of memories in business. Keep up the good work. We are proud of you! Shown above, left to right: Terri Stroud, Angie Griffin, Jerry Ford, Joanna Martin, Regina Withers. Photo/submitted



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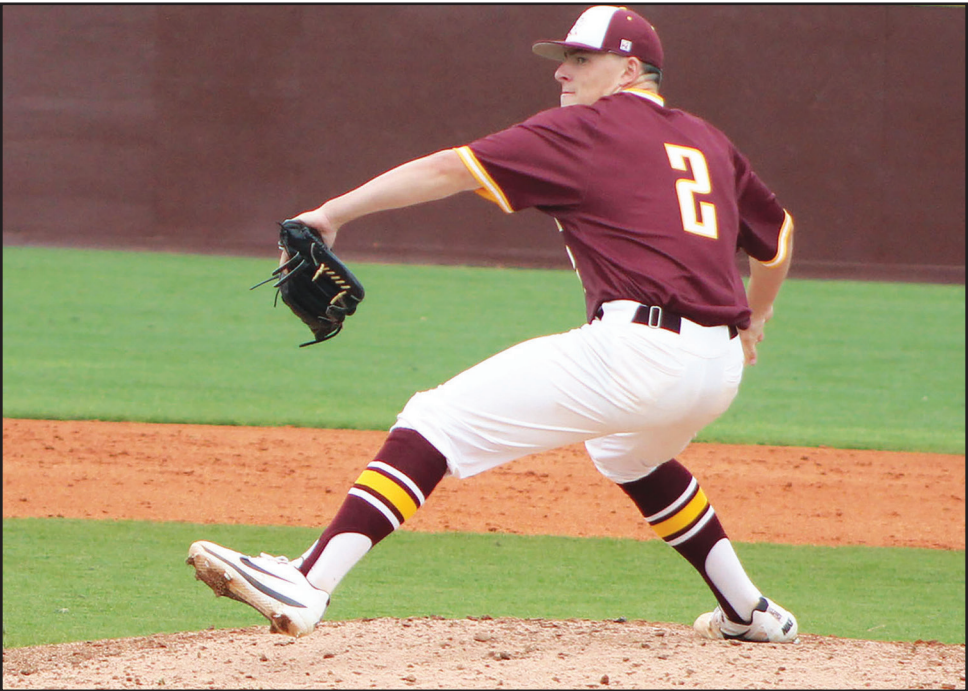
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# NEJ's Miles Smith big part of rotation for No. 8 Pearl River CC



Former Northeast Jones' star Miles Smith. Photo/PRCC Athletics

Yes, the reigning MACJC State Champs had three of its star pitchers in Colby White, Drake Nightengale and Camden Dusang sign with Mississippi State, South Alabama and William Carey. And yes, Coach Michael Avalon would love to have those workhorses back as the Wildcats embark on a their title defense. But the coach believes PRCC returns the perfect amount of experience to blend with a stellar crop of newcomers to form a more than formidable pitching staff.

"I think we're very comparable to last year's staff," he said. "We had several key pieces who moved on — major contributors — but I feel like we have addressed that. We have some really good arms we're counting on."

### LOCKED IN

The Wildcats entered preseason camp with four spots locked up. Several more roles have been solidified as we near Sunday's season opener. Leading the way will be a one-two punch of sophomores Shemar Page (Raleigh) and Miles Smith (Laurel; Northeast Jones). An All-Region performer as a freshman, Page will once again be deployed as a dual-threat for Avalon. On the mound, Page won 10 games and boasted a 2.73 ERA, striking out a team-high 77 in 59 1/3 innings. Smith wasn't far behind with six wins, 3.23 ERA and 50 strikeouts in 44 2/3 innings.

Avalon views the duo as two staff aces.

"Certain days it could go either way," Avalon said. "The cool thing is to see Shemar and Miles compete against each other in a good way. They push each other daily. That's something that drives them."

"There's no doubt with those two guys I feel like we can say we have a 1A and a 1B as far as two starters in this league."

### IN THE MIX

Since arriving on campus, Reece Ewing (Mobile, Ala.; Faith Academy) has solidified himself as not only a two-way player but the Wildcats' likely third starter.

"Reece Ewing is a guy who's very talented," Avalon said of the 6-foot southpaw. "Stuff-wise, you're left-handed with a mid-to-upper 80s fastball. I'm excited to see him compete as we face outside competition."

The fourth and final starter spot remains up for grabs, although Avalon has narrowed the field.

Had he not been injured in high school, Cade Hodges (Brookhaven; Loyd Star) likely would have solidified a starter's spot. But the 6-foot-4 right-hander is just coming back from Tommy John surgery and will likely be eased into a role.

One freshman who has forced his way into consideration is Evan Bynum (Soso; West Jones).

The 5-foot-11 right-hander has been one of the pleasant surprised of the preseason.

"We added him very late in the summer. He has without a doubt been one of our more consistent pitchers," Avalon said. "His stuff has been a surprise. We're very excited about him. One thing he does well is command the zone."

Freshmen Wes Starr (Auburn, Ala.), Kasey Donaldson (Gulfport; West Harrison) will also contend for a role in the staff; whether it's in the rotation or bullpen is to be determined.

Avalon described the 6-foot-3 Starr as a strike thrower who fills up the zone. Like Hodges, Donaldson is working his way back from Tommy John surgery.

"Kasey Donaldson will most likely be a reliever this year and has a chance to work some as a starter toward the end of the season," Avalon said. "It's always nice to have a lefty coming out of the pen and he would be our only one with Reece starting."

### LATE IN GAMES

Another swing possibility is sophomore Colin Danley (Lucedale; East Central). The 6-foot-2 right-hander earned three wins a year ago, but if things work out according to plan, Danley will combine with Jerod Meggs (Kosciusko) at the back of the bullpen.

"It's not very often that you have two potential plus stuff closers at the junior college level," Avalon said. "Both those guys have that stuff. The big thing with them is to make sure they're more consistent and mature on the mound."

The two will complement one another, Avalon said, and could either setup or close depending on their recent work load. Freshman Reid Golemon (Moselle; South Jones) should also factor into the late innings.

"They're all closer types," Avalon said. "That gives us a really good luxury we're not always afforded."

Trenton Lee (Picayune), Trace McNabb (Foxworth; West Marion), Reid Reynolds (Heidelberg; Northeast Jones) along with Deyton Lingle (Lake) will fill out the rotation.

For many of the younger arms, maturity will be key.

"I think the biggest adjustment some of these freshmen have to make is in high school there's 1-4 hitters who are tough," Avalon said. "At our level, when you're facing Jefferson College or LSU-Eunice, you don't have many holes in the lineup; 1-9 are all tough outs. The mental part of that, just competing and getting after it for nine batters versus just the top four and letting your stuff take over, that's where the maturity has to come in."



Jones College tennis coach Brooks Buffington recently received a statewide honor. Buffington was named the 2018 USPTA (United States Professional Tennis Association) Mississippi Chapter Coach of the Year. Buffington, who is in his third season as head coach of the Bobcats, also received the MACJC Women's Coach of the Year, Region 23 Women's Coach of the Year, Mississippi Association of Coaches (MAC) Coach of the Year and the ITA Region III Coach of the Year awards for 2018. He guided the Lady Bobcats to a 15-3 record, the 2018 state and region championships and a berth in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament. Pictured, from left, are USTA Southern Director of Player Development Bill Ozaki, Mississippi Tennis Association President Jeffrey Farris, Buffington and Executive Director of USTA Mississippi Geoff Norton. Photo/Submitted

# Outdoor improvements that boost home value

Whether home improvement projects are design to improve the interior or exterior of a house, focusing on renovations that make the most financial sense can benefit homeowners in the long run. The right renovations can be assets if and when homeowners decide to sell their homes.

So how does one get started? First and foremost, speak to a local real estate agent who is knowledgeable about trends in the community. While a swimming pool may be something coveted in one area, it may impede sales in another. It also helps to study generalized trends and data from various home improvement industry analysts to guide upcoming

projects.

The following outdoor projects are just a few renovations that tend to add value.

- Fire pit: A fire pit is a great place to gather most months of the year. Bob Vila and CBS news report that a fire pit realizes a 78 percent return on investment, or ROI.
- Outdoor kitchen: Many buyers are looking to utilize their yards as an extension of interior living areas. Cooking, dining and even watching TV outdoors is increasingly popular. Outdoor living areas can be custom designed and built. In addition, prefabricated modular units that require a much smaller commitment of time and money are available.



Outside dining options, especially near a pool, can create fun spring and summer experiences and add value to a home.

- Patio: Homeowners who do not already have a patio will find that adding one can increase a home's value. Patios help a home look neat, add useable space and may help a home to sell quickly. The experts at Space Wise, a division of Extra Space Storage, say that refinishing, repairing and building a new patio offers strong ROI.
- Deck: Deck can be as valuable as patios. A deck is another outdoor space that can be used for entertaining, dining and more. Remodeling magazine's 2018 "Cost vs. Value" report indicates that an \$11,000 deck can add about \$9,000 in resale value to the home, recouping around 82 percent of the project's costs.
- Door update: Improve curb appeal with a new, high-end front door and garage doors. If that's too expensive, a good cleaning and new coat of paint can make an old door look brand new. These easy fixes can improve a home's look instantly.
- New landscaping: The National Association of Realtors says an outdoor makeover that includes well-thought out landscaping can net 105 percent ROI. Installing a walkway, adding stone planters, mulching, and planting shrubs are ideas to consider.

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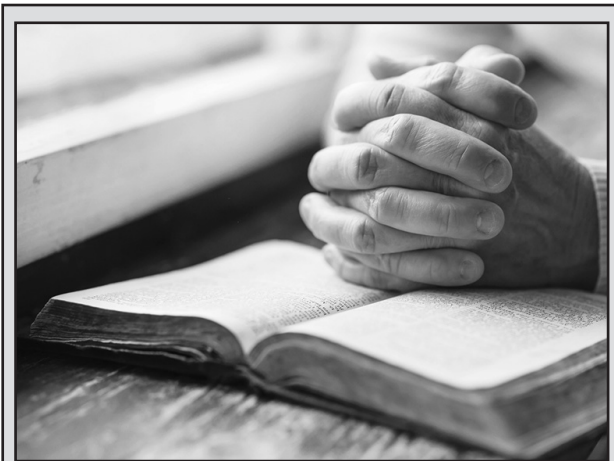
# Laurel Dog Park Opens to Large Crowd on Saturday



“Dogs aren’t our whole lives, but they make our lives whole.” - Rodger Caras. The ribbon cutting to launch the grand opening of the Raising Cane’s Laurel Dog Park was a fun-filled day with wholesome activities centered around families with furry friends. The vision of creating a dog park in Laurel was first formed at a LJC retreat. The Leadership of Jones County team was called “Leader of the Pack.” Members include Sandy Brownlee, Cindy Jenkins, Chris Phillips, Trey Crumpton and Betsy Ivey (Pack Leader). Team members reached out the the local community for fundraising opportunities to support the construction of the Raising Cane’s Dog Park. The project orginally began in August 2017 and opened to the public this past Saturday, February 9. Families with furry friends now have a place to discover, socialize, explore, play, and enjoy the outdoors at Raising Canes Dog Park in Laurel. The park is fully equipped with fire hydrants, water fountains and doggy clean up bags. There is a special section for large dogs and an area for smaller dogs. The Raising Cane’s Laurel Dog Park welcomes all families and furry friends to enjoy a safe, friendly environment. The park is located in Mason Memorial Park at 550 W 18th Street. Pictured from left to right: Sandy Brownlee, Councilman Tony Wheat, Cindy Jenkins, Betsy Ivey, Amber Herring (with Raising Canes), Chis Phillips, Mayor Johnny Magee, Cooper Chambless (with Raising Canes) and Trey Crumpton. Photo/Katie Grice



Whitney Fowler and Brett Wood are from Jones County. Whitney once discovered a “free puppy” post on Facebook complete with pictures of the bulldog/boxer mix puppies. Whitney instantly fell in love with Zoie’s big blue eyes and knew she had to have her. The couple have had Zoie since January 2018, and since then the couple has taught Zoie how to shake, high-five, and sit. The couple describe Zoie as social, and energetic. She thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the other dogs and people at the opening of the Laurel Dog Park. Photo/Katie Grice



**1 IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. 2 HE WAS WITH GOD IN THE BEGINNING. 3 THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE; WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT HAS BEEN MADE. 4 IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL MANKIND. 5 THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.**

**JOHN 1:1-5  
NIV**

## 8th annual MSB Chili Cook Off a nice success

Saturday morning, Feb. 9, in Laurel was cool enough to make one reach for a jacket, which is just the kind of weather that accomodates a good chili cook off.

Laurel Main Street kicked off its year of evnets with the 8th Annual Magnolia State Bank Chili Cook Off on Saturday! The event was held in downtown Laurel with music, beverages, and teams competing to be the winner.

All entries were cooked on site and judged by a team of professionals. Winners were: “Most Spirited” - Molar Mafia; “People’s Choice” - Team Free Chili; Traditional Style Winner: Ring of Fire, 2nd: Three Amigos, 3rd: Chili Ray Cyrus; Homestyle Winner: Fat Kid Rock, 2nd: Chili Wild, 3rd: Mo’ Smoke.

Watch inside Impact and check out the Laurel Main Street Facebook page for upcoming events in downtown Laurel.



Marie Pryor is the general manager of Phillips Drive of (PDI) in Laurel and cheerfully represented the PDI tent at the Magnolia State Bank Chili Cook Off event. The people of PDI strive to present a creative and unique touch to the Chili Cook Off event each year. Marie, along with her husband and her good friend, created the Chili Pepper Costume with craft supplies. Pryor was happy to wear the felt in the chilly air, as it served as a focal point of the tent and kept her nice and warn. This year Marie focused on giving children an opportunity to participate in the event by providing them the with the option to whack the piñata to receive a special sweet treat. Pryor said, “The interactions with children is what made the event memorable to me.” Phillips Drive In (PDI) is a casual place to grab a bite-to-eat that has been is business in Laurel since 1948. Photo/Katie Grice



Newly weds Ta and Alexandra Allred of Laurel with puppies Carter and Ellie. The Allred’s are owners of the two miniature Dachshunds. They often refer to themselves as “Doxie Parents.” Carter is three years old. He’s a long-haired Dachshund. The Allreds agreed that “He is the king of the House.” Carter has been very welcoming to the newest edition of their family, Ellie, a ten-week old, short-haired Dachshund. The couple describe Ellie as spunky and sweet as pie. The Allred’s look forward to making memories at the Laurel Dog Park. Photo/Katie Grice



Jason and Jennifer Caire representing Humana at the Magnolia State Bank Chili Cook Off event. Jason is a agent at Humana in Laurel. Photo/Katie Grice



Jones County native and Veteran John Parker representing the Southern Hospitality Tent at the Magnolia State Bank Chili Cook off event. Photo/Katie Grice



## Ellisville Garden Club's Yard of the Month



The Ellisville Garden Club selection for the Yard of the Month of February is the home of Kassie and Kent Reid, 1295 Hwy 588, Ellisville. The Reid's recently moved to the 7-acre homestead. The rustic fencing surrounds the home along with mature pines, magnolias and sweet gums. The front of the home is lined with box woods, crepe myrtles and a small cedar trees. The Ellisville Garden Club encourages everyone to help keep your community beautiful! *Photo/submitted*

## Alcorn State University Extension and USDA to host Outreach Workshop

The Alcorn State University Extension Program in partnership with the Mississippi USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency and other state and local agencies will conduct an outreach workshop on March 7 at 5:00 p.m. at the R. L. Prater Tri Community Center located at 9 Prater Road, Laurel.

The outreach workshop will help land-owners in Jones County and surrounding counties understand how various USDA programs can assist them in managing their farming operations. Veterans, new and beginning farmers, limited resource farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers and other agriculturalists interested in gaining better awareness and knowledge of available programs through the USDA are encouraged to attend.

Some overall objectives of the outreach workshop are to: assist producers and land-owners with understanding the importance of decision-making and risk reduction associated with agriculture production; improve the sustainability of the producer's farming operation through the utilization of appropriate USDA programs and resources; and to assist in the evaluation, planning and implementation of sound science-based conservation practices designed to protect natural resources, thereby improving the overall economics of the farming operations.

For more information and to pre-register, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the Jones County Soil and Water Conservation District at (601) 425-4622, ext. 3 or visit the office at 3536 Hwy 15 North Suite C, Laurel.



## Jones College's Symphonic Band kicks off concert season

*By Teresa McCreery*

Jones College's Symphonic Band recently performed before 500 middle and high school students from the region at the annual Southeast Mississippi Band Director's Association's (SEMBDA) annual band clinic. This annual event kicks off the concert season for the 60 member group which will conclude with a Thursday, April 4 performance at 7 p.m. in the M.P. Bush Fine Arts Auditorium at Jones College.

This past weekend Jones College hosted its own Band Clinic for area middle and high school musicians. The JC Jazz band will be performing while students audition to learn their band assignments. The JC Band Clinic's concert will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 9, at Jones College. For more information contact Jones College's Director of Bands, Dr. Ben Burge at 601-477-4095 or email [burge@jcjc.edu](mailto:burge@jcjc.edu)

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## WJ's Dyess signs with Meridian Community College



West Jones High School senior, Ethan Dyess, signed a letter of intent to play golf at Meridian Community College. Pictured are: Front l-r: Deanna Goodnight-mom, Ethan Dyess, Mark Dyess-dad, Janna Dyess-stepmom. Back l-r: WJ Supervising Principal Cooper Pope, Steve Goodnight-stepdad, Dennis Clark-grandfather, Dianne Clark-grandmother, Morgan Dyess-sister, Gracelyn Dyess-niece, Marley Hoover-sister, Sophie Hoover-sister, Jack Hoover-brother, and WJ Athletic Director-Scott Pierson. *Photo/submitted.*

## WJ's Aguilar signs with Southwest CC



West Jones senior Carlos Aguilar signed a letter of intent to play soccer at Southwest Community College. Pictured front l-r: Maria I. Ramirez - mom, Carlos, Juan C. Aguilar - dad; back l-r: WJ Supervising Principal Cooper Pope, WJ soccer coach Craig Winship, WJ soccer coach Josh Sullivan, and WJ Athletic Director Scott Pierson. *Photo/submitted*

## WJ's Habersham signs with ECCC



West Jones senior Ian Habersham signed a letter of intent to play football at East Central Community College. Pictured l-r: Brenda Broadhead - grandmother, Ian, Shaun Brown - mother, Jaily Brown - sister; back l-r: WJ Supervising Principal Cooper Pope, Beau Brown - brother, John Brown - father, Jasmine Brown - sister, and WJ Athletic Director Scott Pierson. *Photo/submitted*

## WJ's Coats signs with Southwest Tennessee CC



West Jones senior Katie Coats signed a letter of intent to play soccer for Southwest Tennessee Community College. Pictured are Nina Rhea Coats, stepmom; Coats, Lesa Gardner, mom. Not pictured--Kyle Coats, dad. Standing: WJ Athletic Director Scott Pierson, WJ Supervising Principal Cooper Pope, and WJ basketball coach Sharon Murray. *Photo/submitted*

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## Thompson signs to play football at Ole Miss



West Jones High School senior, Walker Thompson, signed a letter of intent to play football at Ole Miss. Pictured front, l-r: Brad Thompson-dad, Walker, Jenny Thompson-mom, Leighellen Thompson-sister. Back, l-r: WJ Supervising Principal Cooper Pope and WJ Athletic Director/Head Coach Scott Pierson. *Photo/submitted*

## WJ's Young signs with University of Alabama



West Jones senior Byron Young signed a letter of intent to play football at the University of Alabama. Pictured front, l-r: Melissa Young - mom, Byron, Kenny Young - dad, Shavon Young - sister; back, l-r: WJ Supervising Principal Cooper Pope, Kendrick Young - brother, Regrick Young - brother, Aunt Emma, and WJ Athletic Director/Head Coach Scott Pierson. *Photo/submitted*

## WJ's Cunningham signs with Southwest CC



West Jones senior Damion Cunningham signs a letter of intent to play football at Southwest Community College. Pictured are front, l-r: Faith Ulmer - friend, Damion, Veronica McLaurin - mother, Zharia McLaurin - sister, Voncile Davis - grandmother, Zhangela McLaurin - sister; back, l-r: Allen Jones - brother, WJ Supervising Principal Cooper Pope, WJ football coach Cody Windham, WJ Athletic Director/Head Coach Scott Pierson, WJ retired football coach Junior Smith. *Photo/submitted*

## SJHS football standouts sign with community colleges



South Jones football standouts Vakeilon Campbell (left) and Chad Moses (right) signs with Southwest Community College (Campbell) and Mississippi College (Moses) as coaches look on. *Photo/James Pugh*

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# Three-pointers, bench play propel Stringer past Sebastopol

By James Pugh

Stringer built leads, and Sebastopol cut into them. The continuous carousel last until the third quarter Thursday night inside Stringer's gymnasium in both team's regular-season Region 7-1A finale.

Back-to-back-to-back three's by senior guard Carson Stringer on Senior Night and sophomore Omarian Bridges built a moderate Stringer lead midway through the third period that lasted the remainder of the night. Stringer wraps up the regular season with a 57-45 win over Sebastopol.

"We had some big-time guys that came off the bench for us," said Stringer head boys basketball coach Brandon Jennings. "Guys like Carson Stringer and Gavin Goldman don't usually see big minutes. I thought they played great. Reece King also contributed."

Stringer's two threes, with Bridges' three sandwiched in-between, built Stringer a 38-25 lead with 4:15 left on the clock in the third period.

Stringer constructed leads of eight and 10 points in the first and second quarter. Sebastopol fought back both times nearly bringing the game to a tie.

"We have to get better at handling the basketball at the end of the quarters," said Jennings. "But I thought Carson Stringer did a good job with the basketball, and a monster dunk by Keyshawn Dease got us going."

Jennings said part of the problem in the first two quarters was caused by its lack of outside shots.

## Scoring

Senior Keyshawn Dease led Stringer on the board with 22 points, but it was the play of sophomore guard Omarion Bridges

that made an impression. Bridges, who usually averages 9.7 points a game, finished with 20.

"With Bridges as a sophomore, our goal this summer is to get him stronger," said Jennings. "He handles the ball well, and he's been shooting the basketball well over these last two games. He handles things as well as anyone being that he's left-handed. He also creates opportunities for other guys. He's just a great basketball player."

Bridges made consecutive shots late into the third period and early in the fourth to help Stringer maintain its double-digit lead.

Goldman, Stringer, Tate McNeil, Landon Elkins and Reece King also aided with points.

## What's Next

With the regular season completed, Stringer (18-9, 5-3) will enter the Region 7-1A Basketball Tournament set for next week as a two-seed.

"I think Region 7-1A is the toughest district in 1A, north or south," said Jennings. "Teams [in our district include] Piney Woods, Sebastopol, Leake County and Mount Olive. Going in as a two-seed we hope to win that first game and have a chance to play for the district championship and see where we go from there."

## Girls Game

Stringer fell to Sebastopol 50-42 in the girls game.

Hanna Chancellor land Breanna Ansley led Stringer with 12 points each. All of Chancellor's points came in the second half.

Stringer girls fall to 2-18 as the regular season comes to a close.

# West Jones girls soccer sees season end at Long Beach

By James Pugh

Not every team is meant to finish the playoffs with a win. So was the case for West Jones early Wednesday night. The Lady Mustangs fell to Long Beach 3-0 under extreme fog in the MHSAA Class 5A South State Girls Soccer Championship game.

"I love our team," said Lady Mustangs head coach Craig Winship. "I could not be more proud of them. Tonight we just weren't the best team. Long Beach came out and played fast. They limited our opportunities. We didn't adjust as well as they adjusted to us."

West Jones finishes the 2018-2019 season 14-8 overall.

Winship said expectations coming into the year was to be right where they landed.

"I felt like we had the talent to go as far as we went," said Winship. "These girls set their goals high. The big thing is we started three or four seniors this year. We had 28 girls on the team that lettered this year. So everyone had an opportunity, and it was one of those cheesy letters. Most of them played half of the games. We have a ton of experience coming back."

One of the most notable losses will be Bre Carr. Carr led the team in goals scored with 12. Other seniors include

Brinley Bullock, Alyssa Ezell, Lyndsey Bryant, and Lizbeth Oliveras, who combined for five additional goals. That's a small percentage considering the Lady Mustangs finished with 90 goals.

"I have most of these girls for another three or four years," said Winship. "I'm excited about our future. But this loss stings right now. We had some of the best senior leaders I've ever coached. Their presence will be missed as much as their talent."

Long Beach scored back-to-back goals early in the second half to squish comeback hopes for West Jones.

While the extreme fog was an issue for both teams, making visibly 20-30 yards downfield difficult, it was Long Beach's midfield play that separated them from West Jones.

"Long Beach dominated the middle of the field," Winship said. "They pressed us hard every time we touched the ball. At times there were one and even two girls that collapsed on us. That made us play faster than we normally do and we're a fast playing team."

Long Beach advances to the 5A girls' title game and will play Lafayette Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. at Brandon High School.

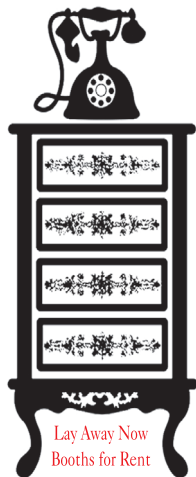
# Heart attacks linked to e-cigarettes

One quick Google search of "electronic cigarettes and teens" and you can find yourself in a sea of videos of young people playing smoke games while inhaling and blowing huge scented clouds of smoke. Mix that so-called fun with the fact that the Tobacco Industry has been creating the perception that electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are a healthy alternative to tobacco consumption, and you get a dangerous increase in people using a device with many unanswered questions regarding its overall safety and long term impact.

According to a new analysis of a survey of nearly 70,000 people, led by researchers at UC San Francisco, daily e-cigarette use can nearly double the odds of a heart attack. The study, which was published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, also found that dual use of e-cigarettes and conventional cigarettes – the most common use pattern among e-cigarette users – appears to be more dangerous than using either product alone.

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"E-cigarettes are the most commonly used smoking products, especially among youth," said Amy Winter, director of the Office of Tobacco Control at the Mississippi State Department of Health. "With so many unanswered questions about the potentially harmful effects of e-cigarettes, the consequences could be immeasurable."

There was a nine-fold increase in e-cigarette use from 2011 to 2015, according to the Journal of the American Heart Association. There is increasing evidence that e-cigarettes release significant levels of toxicants. Such evidence not only suggests that smokers may be harmed, but nonsmokers too.

"Vaping is a national epidemic," said Wendy Magee Director of the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Forrest, Jones and Perry Counties. "It has greatly surpassed the use of other tobacco products such as cigars, hookahs and chewables. Adults and parents have to stay educated on these devices for themselves, their children and youth as a whole."

For help with quitting and information on the health dangers of tobacco products visit [www.quitlinems.com](http://www.quitlinems.com), or call the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.



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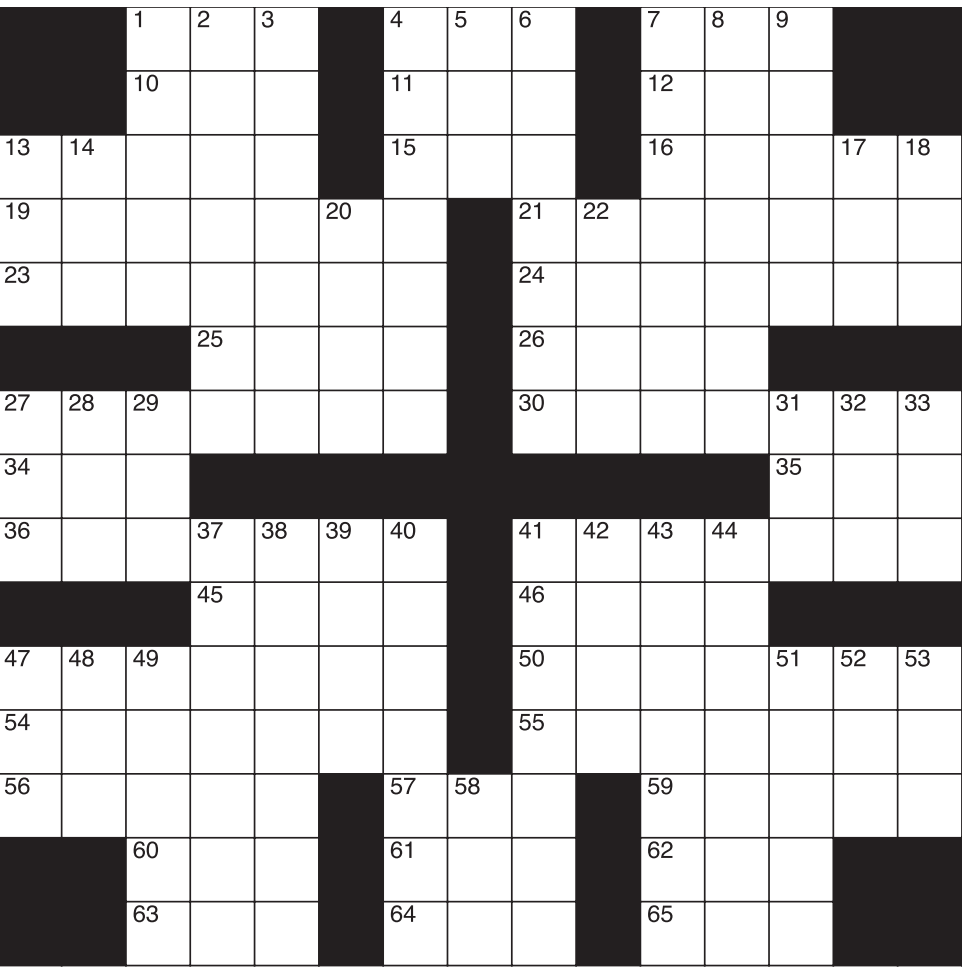
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- Community Education





**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Chop or cut
- 4. Political action committee
- 7. Male parent
- 10. Doctors' group
- 11. Ottoman military commander
- 12. A metal-bearing natural material
- 13. Lively ballroom dance
- 15. Male Gypsy
- 16. Once-popular card game
- 19. Occurred just once
- 21. \_\_\_ Streisand, singer
- 23. Shiny yellow minerals
- 24. Get hitched again
- 25. See (Latin)
- 26. Lies between the Caspian and Persian Gulf
- 27. Scourges
- 30. Sentence
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Bar bill
- 36. Alfalfa
- 41. Type of dishwasher soap
- 45. Witnesses
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 47. Newspapers need them

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Czech monetary unit
- 2. Able to arouse feeling
- 3. Elk
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Earlier
- 6. Lightweight fabric
- 7. One who greets
- 8. Soldiers sometimes wear one
- 9. Officially prohibit
- 13. US political party
- 14. Used of a number or amount not specified

- 17. Make a mistake
- 18. Biopic starring Jamie Foxx
- 20. Ancient Media inhabitant
- 22. About aviation
- 27. Popular American sports league
- 28. Cologne
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 31. When you'll get there
- 32. Not pleased
- 33. One point east (clockwise) of due north
- 37. Respects
- 38. Shake up
- 39. Ethiopian river
- 40. Intrinsic nature of something
- 41. Principal parts of the brain
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships dock
- 44. One who wassails
- 47. Shock treatment
- 48. Popular average
- 49. Things
- 51. A type of "bear"
- 52. Utilize
- 53. European Economic Community
- 58. Swiss river

**Answers on Page 15**

# PUZZLES

## PASTIMES



## VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- |             |          |              |
|-------------|----------|--------------|
| ANNIVERSARY | FEELINGS | MEMORIES     |
| ARROW       | FLIRT    | MUSIC        |
| BOUQUET     | FLOWERS  | POEM         |
| CANDY       | GIFTS    | RELATIONSHIP |
| CARDS       | HEARTS   | ROMANCE      |
| CELEBRATION | HOLIDAY  | ROSES        |
| CHOCOLATE   | HUG      | SAINT        |
| CUPCAKE     | JEWELRY  | SERENADE     |
| CUPID       | KISS     | SWEET        |
| DESSERT     | LACE     | TRADITION    |
| DOVES       | LOVE     | VALENTINE    |
| EMBRACE     | MARRIAGE | WOO          |





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Continued on ... Page 15

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# Sideline View: Cowboys QB in line for a big raise

By Dale McKee

Mississippi State, Ole Miss and Southern Mississippi will open their 2019 baseball seasons this weekend. All three teams are considered top twenty teams by the media that cover college baseball. Vanderbilt University was predicted to win the 2019 SEC baseball championship as voted on by the league's 14 head coaches in the annual preseason poll. The Commodores were named on six first place votes, while LSU had five votes. Florida and Arkansas also received first place votes. LSU was selected the top team in the West followed by Ole Miss, Arkansas, Auburn, Texas A&M, Mississippi State and Alabama. Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri followed Vanderbilt in the SEC East.

## Rebels can hit

Ole Miss will open the season this weekend by hosting Wright State in a three game set. The Rebels, coming off a West Division title and SEC tournament championship, have to replace their entire weekend pitching rotation. The Rebels have seven returning players who hit over .300 last year. Rebels first baseman Cole Zabowski was selected to the All-SEC first team while Rebel third baseman Tyler Keenan, DH Chase Cockrell and closer Parker Caracci were named to the second team.

## Mangum back

Jake Mangum, Tanner Allen, Ethan Small plus newcomer T.J. Ginn will lead the 2019 MSU Bulldogs. The season begins this weekend as Youngtown State comes to Starkville. Excitement abounds as the \$55 million renovation of Dudy Noble Field is complete. The 2018 Bulldogs baseball season was a roller coaster of a ride. They were swept by Southern Mississippi to open the season and then lost their head coach the following week. The Bulldogs turned it around late in the season and made the SEC tournament only to be bumped early. Then the impossible NCAA tournament run inspired by their rally bananas ended up in of all places Omaha, where they won two games before falling to national champion Oregon State.

## Wall Banger

Southern Mississippi baseball has a preseason All-American in Matt Wallner. The Minnesota native has hit 35 home runs in his first two seasons in Hattiesburg. The Golden Eagles centerfielder will also spend time on the pitching mound. USM is ranked as the team to beat in



Conference USA. Wallner has plenty of help as second baseman Matthew Guidry returns along with first baseman Hunter Slater. Stevie Powers and Walker Powell will be the weekend arms for the Golden Eagles. USM opens by hosting Big 10 opponent Purdue this weekend.

## Odds & Ends

MSU softball pitcher Alyssa Loza hurled a perfect game as the Lady Bulldogs (4-1) blanked Valparaiso, 10-0, in five innings this past weekend.

The Ole Miss Rebels basketball team won twice in SEC play to improve to 6-4 in league play and 16-7 overall. The Rebels are tied for fifth place in conference play. The Bulldogs (16-7) lost at home against LSU and Kentucky to fall to seventh place in conference play at 4-6. USM won its fourth straight game to move into fifth place in C-USA play. The Golden Eagles also had their best crowd in four years as nearly 5,000 fans showed up, including Saints star Alvin Kamara.

The Lady Bulldogs (22-1) had a big win over Tennessee to improve to 10-0 in SEC play and extended their conference winning streak to 26 games.

Not too many high school football players in Mississippi ink with Ivy League schools. Lamar Academy quarterback Joseph Hutchinson did just that as he signed with Princeton University.

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott is the 55th highest paid quarterback in the NFL. The former MSU star is making only \$725,000 a year from football and wants a big raise.

Contact at Dale at ddmckee18@yahoo.com

## Answers to Today's Puzzle Page

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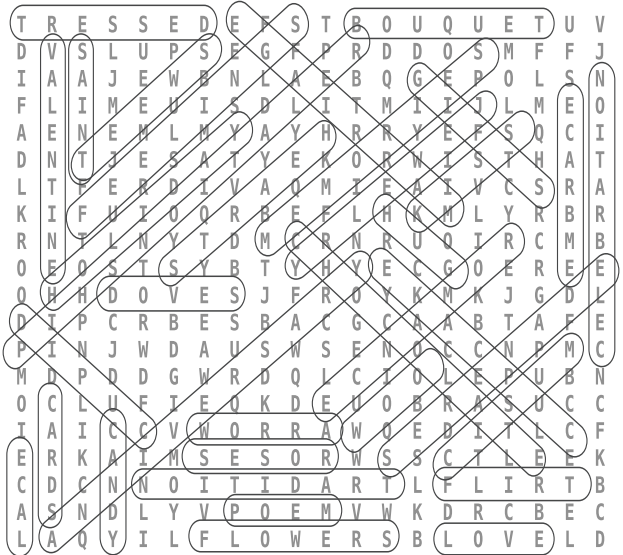
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# LHS football players sign with community colleges on National Signing Day



Laurel High School football standout Zias Perryman signed a letter of intent with East Mississippi Community College as part of National Signing Day. Perryman was named to the 5A All-State Team as a Second Team Running Back and was named to the 5A All-Region 3 Team. He is an Honor Roll student and active in the Beta Club, Key Club, robotics team and track team. He plans to major in business management. Pictured (seated L-R) are his father Tony Perryman, Zias Perryman, mother Buffy Barnes, (standing L-R) Principal Dr. Michael Eubanks, Head Football Coach Todd Breland, Coach Casey Herrington, stepfather Fredrick Barnes and Assistant Principal Dr. Jaymar Jackson. *Photo/submitted*



Laurel High School football standout Brian Cooley signed a letter of intent with East Mississippi Community College as part of National Signing Day. Cooley, a Principal's List Scholar, was named to the 2017 5A All-Region 3 Team. He plans to major in sports communication. Pictured (seated L-R) are his mother Nicole McSwain, Brian Cooley, father Brian Cooley Sr., (standing L-R) Principal Dr. Michael Eubanks, Head Football Coach Todd Breland, Assistant Principal Dr. Jaymar Jackson and Coach William Clay. *Photo/submitted*



Laurel High School football standout Levi Walker signed a letter of intent with Northwest Mississippi Community College as part of National Signing Day. Walker is an Honor Roll student and a member of the track team. He was named to the 5A All-State Team as a First Team Return Specialist and was named to the 5A All-Region 3 Team. He plans to major in criminal justice. Pictured (seated L-R) are his mother Jennifer Walker, Levi Walker, father Levi Walker Jr., (standing L-R) Principal Dr. Michael Eubanks, Head Football Coach Todd Breland, Assistant Principal Dr. Jaymar Jackson, Coach Ryan Milner and Coach Mason Moss. *Photo/submitted*



Laurel High School football standout Jontarius Henderson signed a letter of intent with East Mississippi Community College as part of National Signing Day. Henderson was named to the 5A All-State Team as a First Team Wide Receiver and was named to the 5A All-Region 3 Team. He is a member of the basketball and track teams and is an Honor Roll student. He plans to major in business management. Pictured (seated L-R) are his father Johnny Henderson, Jontarius Henderson, grandmother Doris Brunson, (standing L-R) Principal Dr. Michael Eubanks, brother Jaleen Walker, Head Football Coach Todd Breland, brother Jeremiah Henderson, Assistant Principal Dr. Jaymar Jackson and Coach Kylan Pollard. *Photo/submitted*

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