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Downtown summer activities kick off June 4
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Volume 39, No. 23 • June 3, 2015

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 #1 in Advertising

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Laurel Mayor proclaims June 6, "R.H. Watkins Class of '65 Day"

By Linda Cranford

Fifty years ago, the first class to attend all three years of high school in the new R. H. Watkins High School facility in Laurel, which was named in honor of longtime Superintendent of Education, Professor R. H. Watkins, graduated a record setting 297 students; a record that has not been broken. Thursday, May 28, Laurel Mayor Johnny Magee signed a proclamation proclaiming Saturday, June 6, as "R. H. Watkins Class of '65 Day." The Mayor was joined by R. H. Watkins Class of 1965 members Charles Foster, Bill Carter, Seleta Hankins Cochran, and Teresa Wallace Pierce.

The Class of 1965 will come together once again on June 5 and 6, to celebrate their 50th Graduation Anniversary. Although somewhat scattered as are most



Members of the Class of 1965 join Mayor Magee for the proclamation signing. L-R, Teresa Wallace Pierce, Charles Foster, Magee, Bill Carter, and Seleta Hankins Cochran.
 Photo/Linda Cranford

classes after graduation, the 1965 Class maintains a remarkable number of members with close ties to Laurel, and have over sixty percent of the graduating class that still live in Mississippi. According to the members present for the proclamation,

the other classmates are scattered from "California to Florida," and one lives in Australia. They've been able to locate all but 20 of the 297 class members, and to date, 57 have passed away.

"We have several class members who have gained notoriety in the community," said Foster. Some of those mentioned by Foster include Dick West with West Quality/KFC, Realtor Chris Wilson, former

City attorney, David Ratcliff, and former postmaster, David Wolgamott.

A large number of the 240 surviving class members have gathered together before to celebrate their 10th, 15th, 20th, 40th and a half, and 45th. They're expecting their largest attendance this year.

The reunion will include a Friday night 60's themed dance at Dixie Golf Club with a "Twist" contest, tours of the City Saturday morning, and a dinner Saturday night at Sandersons Farms' Corporate Office banquet room.

"Charles thinks he's going to win, (the "Twist" contest)," exclaimed Teresa Wallace Pierce, laughing. "He's been practicing!"

The class members said that since their 40th and a half reunion they've been able to keep in close touch with almost 50 classmates who live in and around Laurel with periodical get-togethers. "We've gone from classmates to friendships," said

See CLASS OF '65, page 13

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2015 Candidates

JONES COUNTY



Bart Gavin
Chancery Clerk
Jones County



Sylvester Busby
Sheriff
Jones County



Tommy Parker
Superint. of Edu.
Jones County



Concetta Brooks
Circuit Clerk
Jones County



Wayne Myrick
Chancery Clerk
Jones County



Alex Hodge
Sheriff
Jones County



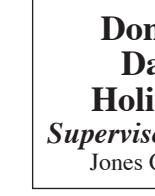
Jerel Wade
Superint. of Edu.
Jones County



Ryan Griffin
Circuit Clerk
Jones County



Johnny Burnett
Supervisor Beat 1
Jones County



Donald Dale Holifield
Supervisor Beat 3
Jones County



Andy Dial
Supervisor Beat 4
Jones County



Kirk Landrum
Circuit Clerk
Jones County



Mark Tucker
Supervisor Beat 1
Jones County



Joshua I. Taylor
Supervisor Beat 3
Jones County



Glen Robertson
Supervisor Beat 4
Jones County



Becky Firmert Stewart
Circuit Clerk
Jones County



Richy Seals
Supervisor Beat 2
Jones County



Chad Walters
Supervisor Beat 3
Jones County



David Scruggs
Supervisor Beat 4
Jones County



Daniel W. Johnson
Constable Dist. 3
Jones County



Danny Roy Spradley
Supervisor Beat 2
Jones County



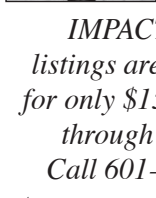
Chris Hodge
Mississippi Rep.
Dist. 88



Willie T. Walters
Constable Dist. 1
Jones County



Terry Graham
Constable Dist. 3
Jones County



Gary Staples
Mississippi Rep.
Dist. 88



Ronald Sumrall
Constable Dist. 2
Jones County



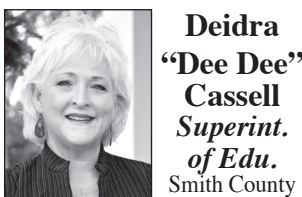
David Livingston
Constable Dist. 3
Jones County

JASPER COUNTY



Bobby Phillips
Supervisor Beat 1
Jasper County

SMITH COUNTY



Deidra "Dee Dee" Cassell
Superint. of Edu.
Smith County

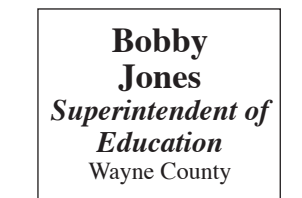
WAYNE COUNTY



Jody Ashley
Sheriff
Wayne County



Darryl Woodson
Sheriff
Wayne County



Bobby Jones
Superintendent of Education
Wayne County



Julie Walker
Superint. Of Edu.
Wayne Co.

STATE/DISTRICT

IMPACT's paid listings are published for only \$150 and runs through July 29. Call 601-649-1129 to reserve a spot today.

Downtown Laurel summer activities kick off Thursday, June 4

By Linda Cranford

Fresh vegetables, homemade bread, arts and crafts, a movie, and two grand opening are all happening in downtown Laurel Thursday, June 4, as the city kicks off its summer activities.

The day begins with a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at 9 a.m. to officially open Knight Butcher, the city's latest downtown business, which opened its doors in early May. Master butcher Chad Knight and his wife, Terri, opened the business to provide the community with freshly ground burgers and sausage, different types of beef cuts, stuffed pork chops, a variety of jerkies, and for our furry friends, dog treats. Terri's "Knight Sugar" items include fudge in all flavors including pistachio, classic chocolate and chocolate and pecans, peanut butter, and M&Ms. You've got to keep check on these two on a daily basis to keep up with the day's special offerings.

The afternoon activities begin at 4 p.m. with the opening day of the annual Farmers Market next to Studio 550. Get your taste buds ready for



fresh locally grown produce, handmade breads, honey, jams, ice cream, kettle corn, handmade crafts and more. The market will be open every Thursday from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. and will run through July 30.

At 5:30 p.m., Laurel Main Street invites the public and market shoppers to stroll down the street to the corner of Central Avenue and Magnolia Street in the old First National Bank building for the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of Laurel's first Welcome Center. Visitors to

the center will find information on sights, activities, lodging, and restaurants in Laurel and Jones County, in addition to Laurel Main Street events.

At 8 p.m., pack up the kids, lawn chairs, blankets, and snacks and head downtown to the Pinehurst Park for the kickoff of Agape Church and Central Sunbelt Federal Credit Union's Downtown Movie Night with the showing of "Big Hero 6." Downtown Movie Night Thursdays will continue through July 30. The remaining movie schedule includes June 11, "Finding Nemo;" June 18, "How to Train Your Dragon 2;" July 2, "Back to the Future;" July 9, "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day;" July 16, "Paddington;" July 23, "Planes: Fire & Rescue;" and July 30, "The Penguins of Madagascar."

Good things are happening in Laurel thanks to such organizations as the Laurel Main Street, and the many volunteers and businesses that support the activities. Have fun this summer, and support our local businesses.

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continued on page 6 >>>

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Project Vote workshop and banquet



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Project Vote workshop and banquet will be held Saturday, June 6 at the Ramada Inn, 1105 Sawmill Rd, Laurel. There will be a political workshop from 1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m., a reception at 6:00p.m. and banquet at 7:00p.m. Tables are \$300 (8 people), individuals \$37.50, this price includes workshop and banquet. Booths are available to candidates for \$25. For more information contact Tracy Smith at 601-433-6765 or Rita Anderson at 601-382-6566.

June 3

The Laurel Housing Authority (LHA) will participate in its 9th year of the Summer Food Service Program partnered through the Mississippi Department of Education – Office of Child Nutrition. Meals will be provided to all children ages 18 and under without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at the sites and times as follows: James A. Townley Center, 516 S. 13th Ave., 11:00am-1:00pm; Brown Circle, 50 Brown Circle, 11:00am-1:00pm; Windsor Court, 20 Windsor Court, 11:00am-1:00pm; St. Paul Methodist Church, 517 Jefferson Street, 11:00am-1:00pm; L.T. Ellis Center, 610 Munson Street, 11:00am-1:00pm. Program is held from June 1, 2015 – July 31, 2015 and closed July 3, 2015. For more information concerning program, please contact Felicia Jackson or Barbara Gavin at 601-425-4651.

New Seasons Family Worship Center cordially invites you to our annual "Making A Comeback Crusade." Mitchell Wilson, Pastor of Sweet Home Christian Center in Kenner, La., will be our evangelist. Services

will be held at 102 Nth. 38 Ave., in Hattiesburg, June 3-5, beginning promptly each night at 7:00 p.m. For more information please call 601-543-8295.

June 4

First Baptist Church of Laurel will host a Precept Upon Precept Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark. This six week study will begin Thursday, June 4 from 9:30a.m.-11:30a.m. led by Alice Rayner. An identical study will begin Thursday, June 8 from 5:30p.m.-7:30p.m. with Danny West teaching. For more information call Mr. or Mrs. Carey Hauenstein at 601-428-4393.

June 4, 2015 @ 1:30 p.m. -Ellisville Public Library - The Ellisville Fire Department and the Ellisville Police Department will be at the library with their cars and trucks. The officers/firemen will talk with the children about the important role they play in our community. The children will be allowed to get on or in the vehicles. USDA will provide a free lunch for the children at 1:00 pm in the George V. Harrison Center which adjacent to the library.

Laurel First UM Church's "June Thirty-Niners" luncheon is Thursday, June 4 at 10:45 am and will feature Missy Sanderson &

Katie McCraw "Songs to Remember". All are welcome! For more information contact Lola Fortner, or the church office.

June 5

Tickets are now available for the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art's 22nd Annual Blues Bash to be held on Friday, June 5 from 6:30 – 10:30 p.m. on the Museum's front lawn. Enjoy the soulful sound of the blues with music by The House Rockers of Jackson, MS and barbecue by Hog Heaven. Guests should bring a lawn chair or blanket. Tickets are \$25 and are now available for purchase through Wednesday, June 3. Tickets may be purchased at the LRMA front desk or by contacting 601.649.6374 or info@LRMA.org. To purchase online, visit www.LRMA.org and click on "Events."

Park Haven Baptist Church, 3110 Hwy 15 North, Laurel, will be hosting a Rummage Sale on June 5th & 6th from 7a.m. til. On Saturday, June 6th the youth will also be offering a carwash. All proceeds raised will go towards the youth for summer camp.

June 6

Eucutta Volunteer Fire Department will be having a Political Rally, Saturday, June 6 from 10:00a.m. -2:00p.m. There will be hot dog plates and cake auction. All Politicians are invited.

Open "Mich" nights Saturday, June 6th & 20th at the Catfish Wagon Restaurant and Music Hall on Hwy 42; ½ mile west of Runnelstown. Doors open at 6:00p.m. and "Open Mich" starts at 7:00p.m. You may sing Southern Gospel, Bluegrass Gospel or Contemporary Gospel. Bring your own instruments or CD tracks, soloist, duets, trios, quartets or mixed group from your church. For more information call Ron Hamilton at 601-357-0653.

The Veteran's Memorial Museum first D-Day 5K and 2 mile walk will be held Saturday June 6 at 7 a.m. The race will begin at the Museum. Registration is \$30 and can be done at www.southernracetimeing.com or at the event.

The Walker Family Reunion (descendants of Tom & Emma Walker and children) will be on Saturday, June 6, at the Sharon Community Center/Cafeteria from 11:00a.m. until. Bring food, old family photos, stories and recipes. Drinks will be provided. For more information call 601-649-0468.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Project Vote workshop and banquet will be held Saturday, June 6 at the Ramada Inn, 1105 Sawmill Rd, Laurel. There will be a political workshop from 1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m., a reception at 6:00p.m. and banquet at 7:00p.m. Tables are \$300 (8 people), individuals \$37.50, this price includes workshop and banquet. Booths are available to candidates for \$25. For more information contact Tracy Smith at 601-433-6765 or Rita Anderson at 601-382-6566.

New Jerusalem FG Church invites you to help celebrate our Senior Pastor Dr. Iola Hines 11th Annual Appreciation Banquet (Formal/Semi Formal) on Saturday, June 6 at 6:00p.m. Venue: Cameron Center of Laurel, upstairs banquet hall. Climax, Sunday June 7, at 3:30p.m. at North Cook Avenue. Laurel.

The Annual Pryor Reunion will be June 6 at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Life Center from 10:30a.m. until. All family and friends are invited to come and bring your favorite food and enjoy the day.

Benefit Yard Sale for the family of Kuper Parish will be held June 6th from 6:00a.m. until, at 1049 Springhill Road, Laurel. All proceeds will go to the family for living expenses while Kuper is in Baston's Children's Hospital, Jackson. We will have books, baby clothes, plus size women's clothes, baked goods and crafts.

June 7

St. Elmo MB Church invites you to celebrate with us Pastor Richard M. Ward's 1st Year Anniversary on Sunday, June 7 at 3:00p.m. Reverend Vernon Graves, pastor of Calvary MB Church, will be the guest speaker. Any questions call Sis. Charlotte Williams (601) 498-2190 or Bro. Dwight Tolbert (601) 498-3035.

The Community Unity Scholarship Program Banquet will be Sunday, June 7 at 6:30p.m., Bay Springs City Hall. The speaker will be Dr. Josephine Posey of Alcorn State University. Tickets will be on sale at Mama's Kitchen. Join us in support of the students.

First Baptist Church of Sharon will be having Vacation Bible School for children who have completed Kindergarten-6th grade on June 7-11 at 5:00p.m.-8:30p.m. Supper will be provided nightly starting at 5:00p.m and activities will begin at 5:40p.m. This year's theme is "Fun Run".

Pineview Baptist Church 291 Magnolia Rd Laurel will be having VBS on June 7th-12th from 5:30p.m. - 8:00p.m. Come enjoy the fun, fellowship and learning about Jesus. For more information call Sarah Walters at 601-433-9010.

West Shady Grove Baptist Church, Wayne Co., will be having Homecoming Services on June 7. Lunch will be served following the morning worship service. The speaker will be Pastor Mitchell Smith. If you need any info call 601-648-2716 or 601-735-4152.

Sandersville Baptist Church will be having VBS on June 7th -11th from 5:15p.m. to 8:00p.m. for ages Pre-K through 6th grade. The church is located at 417 N Front Street, Sandersville. For more information call 601-428-7845.

Mt. Pleasant M.B. Church, 22 Andy Knight Rd., Soso, invites you to the 29th Pastor Anniversary Services of Rev. Percy Moore on June 7th at 3:00p.m. The guest speaker for the occasion is Bishop L.W. Bolton, Jr., pastor of Greater Faith Church.

Grace Baptist Church 39th Homecoming Celebration. We invite you to celebrate with us June 7th. After 11:00 a.m. worship we will have lunch and fellowship. We are located at 62 Big Richardson Road off Hwy 84E. For more info call 601-649-3993.

Mt. Horeb Baptist Church will be having Homecoming Services on June 7th at 10:00a.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Jimmy Hood of Centerville Baptist Church. A covered dish luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

June 8

Trinity First Baptist Church in Wayne Co., behind Beat 4 School off Hwy 84, will be having VBS from June 8th-12th from 5:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. Summer Surge & VBS registration will be June 6th from 2:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. If you need any info please call 601-735-5311, Mon.-Thurs., 8:00a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Pine Grove Baptist Church VBS will be held June 8th-12th from 5:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. for ages 3 years old through 6th grade. We are located in Ellisville on Hwy 590 exit 85. For more information call Greg Gavin, pastor, at 601-498-0280.

Oakland Grove Baptist Church will host VBS on June 8th -11th from 6:00p.m. to 8:30p.m. Please let your children join us for a week of fun and games, excitement, food and more importantly, wisdom from the Bible. We are located at 2475 Pleasant Grove Road. For more information call 601-428-8009 or 601-425-3971.

June 9

The Sears Retiree Club of Laurel will meet Tuesday, June 9th, 11:30a.m. at Eatza Pizza on 16th Ave. We invite all former employees to join us for good food and fellowship.

The DMA (Don't Mention Age) group will meet Tuesday, June 9 at the YWCO, at 11:00a.m. Our speaker will be George Massi from the Museum of Art. Lunch will be served at 12:00p.m. If you have any questions call the "Y" at 601-428-5694.

Animal Tales out of Pensacola, Florida, will be at the Laurel Jones Co. Library on June 9th at 1:30p.m. on presenting, "Animal Avengers-Heroes of the Wild". They will bring animals for the children to see and touch. USDA will provide a free lunch at 1:00p.m. in the auditorium.

June 11

SCAR (Southern Cross Animal Rescue) will be at the Ellisville Public Library on June 11th at 1:30p.m., sharing with us the important work they do for animals in our area. We will be holding a pet food drive for the shelter. They will also have few pets with them that are up for adoption. The USDA will provide a free lunch for the children in the George V. Harrison Center next door to the library.

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November 3rd Vote Sylvester Busby, Sheriff - Jones County.

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New Classified Deadline: Effective May 28 (for the June 3 edition of Impact), the deadline to submit a classified ad for the Hattiesburg Impact is 4:00 p.m. on Thursday.

Need Prayer? Sick? Depressed? Financial Problems? (21) I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt. (22) If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. Matthew 21:21-22. Call us anytime free of charge. 24/7. We are here for

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continued on page 6 >>>

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continued on page 7 >>>

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continued on page 8 >>>

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Investment Opportunity! 23 acres located in the Shady Grove Community of Jones County. This parcel is located on Houston Road less than 1/4 mile east of Highway 15 North. This rectangular parcel has approxi-

mately 680' on Houston Road, 1600' on Howard Smith Road, and 660' of frontage on Jerry Webb Road. This parcel could be developed into a subdivision, mobile home park, mini storage, or a business location, \$103,500. Call 601-477-3014 or visit www.walleyforestry.com.

10 acres for sale in Lamar County, Sumrall school district, paved road, 5 miles NW of Oloh on Slade Road. Wooded land, all high ground. \$89,900. 601-606-9044

20 acre farm/ranch in Janice, Ms. With custom built home, wrap around porch, Pond, horse stalls, fenced and cross fenced, huge shop. Bordered on two sides by National Forest lands. Lots of wildlife call Shawn, Southern Coastal Realty, LLC 601-408-3570.

35 acres located on County Home Road, Jones County, \$164,500. Call 601-477-3014, http://www.walleyforestry.com.

Covington County - 5 Acres, Inter-sections Hwy. 84 & 37 & Oakwoods Creek, excellent commercial site for truck stop & deli, \$50k. Adjoining North 35 acres for \$87.5K. Has untested sandy gravel deposits Call owner: 601-517-6940

Leaf River Estates, Moselle. 3.35 acre corner lot, \$19,000. 601-410-4643.

94 acres. This tract is located in Jones County and borders the Leaf River and Snow's Creek. Excellent home site or weekend getaway. \$2,550 per acre. Call Dennis at 601-248-4396. www.walleyforestry.com.

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Hunters Paradise! 70 acres. Duck, deer, turkey... Lake, sand bar, Buckatunna creek. Can be split. Wayne County \$4000/acre obo. (601 755-0182)

7 acres in Grandview Estates on Sharon-Moss Road. Gated community, 601-319-2708.

PRICE REDUCED! 36 ac Jones Co. Orange Drive Myrick (\$100,800.00). Call Marc at 601-670-5429. www.walleyforestry.com.

68 acres located just north of the Springhill Road/Highway 15 intersection. This is a project ready industrial site with over 1/4 mile of frontage on Hwy 15 North. Approximately 29 acres of the site is open with 14 acres on grade with minimal site work. The balance of the acreage is a small natural lake creek area that would offer excellent recreational opportunities, \$184,000. Call 601-477-3014 or visit www.walleyforestry.com.

83 acres South Jones, minutes from Ellisville, County Home Road, 15 acre lake, unthinned pine plantation (\$348,600) http://www.walleyforestry.com or call 601-477-3014.

I have waterfront lots in Ocean Springs, Waveland and Bay St. Louis starting at \$9900. Call Shawn at 601-408-3570 - your Southern Coastal Connection.

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Hunter's Paradise! 120 acres located in Clarke County MS. This tract consist of pine plantation, hardwoods, and cutover with excellent road system. This property offers an abundance of wildlife that will satisfy any hunter. Call Marc at 601-670-5429 or visit www.walleyforestry.com.

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Now taking applications for lube bay technicians. Apply in person. Spee Dee Midas, Highway 98, Hattiesburg. No phone calls please.

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continued on page 9 >>>



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Hattiesburg 598 North 25th Ave 2BR/1BA, \$400 Deposit, \$600 per month. 601-319-2938.

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New Classified Deadline: Effective May 28 (for the June 3 edition of Impact), the deadline to submit a classified ad for the Hattiesburg Impact is 4:00 p.m. on Thursday.

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continued on page 11 >>>

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Camp Camellia's Second Annual Bereavement Camp to be July 10-12

Submitted

Camp Camellia, a bereavement retreat hosted by Camellia Ministries, will hold its second annual bereavement camp July 10-12. Children ages 6-14 affected by the loss of a loved one are invited to enjoy the weekend camp for free.

The camp is held in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and provides a fun-filled weekend while helping children through the grieving process.

"Children can participate in activities such as water slides, hiking trails, crafts, swimming, a dance party and so much more," said Ashley Sneed, Camp Camellia Director. "We enjoy having a great time and teaching the kids valuable life lessons about the grieving process."

Campers will receive free lodging and meals throughout the weekend. They will only need to bring: pillows, sleeping bags, towels, toiletries and clothing (including swim attire) for the weekend.

"Our Camellia Healthcare employees organize Camp Camellia. Most volunteers are nurses and social workers who are actively involved in patient care and family relations, so all of the kids are in great hands," said Heather Darby, Camp Camellia board member.

Camp Camellia is made possible through sponsors' generous donations and our volunteers. For more information on how you can help, please email camp@camellia.com.

Camellia Ministries is a nonprofit foundation of Camellia Healthcare. At Camellia, our purpose is, "To make a positive difference in the lives we touch and the communities we serve." Camellia Ministries takes in financial contributions to pay for professional home health and hospice care for those who cannot afford it. 100% of contributions go towards patient care.

For more details, please visit <http://www.camellia.com/campcamellia> or call 601-544-2900.

10U Girls Taylorsville SWAT Fast Pitch Softball Team



The 10U Girls Taylorsville SWAT Fast Pitch Softball Team. This group of ladies finished the season with a record of 15-0, being the only undefeated team in their district.

The team was coached by Gabe Horn, Andy Starbuck, and Eric Jordan.

Pictured bottom row, left to right: Kadence Rogers, JaKella Barnes, Bailey Blakeney, Mary Bradley McCardle, Cheyenne Stewart, Anastasia Anderson

Top row, left to right: Coach Gabe Horn, Gracie Jordan, Katelyn Horn, Emma Kennedy, Coach Eric Jordan, Destiny Crosby, Maria Briones, Maelee Starbuck, Coach Andy Starbuck

Not Pictured: Maddie Owens. Photo/submitted

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Foster.

For two days, these former classmates will step back in time and reminisce about a time when stamps cost five cents, LBJ was President, "My Fair Lady" won the Oscar for Best Picture, "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" was a hit song, and the day Kennedy was shot. Downtown Laurel was thriving back then, with businesses like Fine Brothers Madison, Carter Heidi, and Williams Department Store. There were four walk-in theaters, four hospitals, and tales will be told of the times spent at PDI, Garbo's, and the Orange Bar. They will reminisce about the good ole days and being 18, reliving activities at the

Animal hoarding is a complex issue that affects communities

By Kelly Atwood, SCAR Board member

Animal hoarding is a psychological phenomenon that shocks communities, overwhelms animal rescue groups and kills animals every year. These cases have happened nationally, in our state, and in our local communities

Animals in these cases are often found in filthy conditions, covered in fleas, surrounded by feces and urine, having little or no food or clean water, sick, and sometimes dying. The owner is usually living among the animals, absolutely convinced that he/she is taking care of the animals and that they are all happy and healthy. This person who means well usually has dozens upon dozens of animals living in their home, silently suffering while little to no people in the community are aware of the situation.

Family and close friends of the hoarder who are aware of the situation are the ones we must rely on to speak up. People need to pay attention to their loved ones and notice when the act of loving animals changes to the act of hoarding animals. That's when animals take up all a person's time, money and emotion; the person begins to shut off from friends and family.

Animal hoarders fulfill their emotional needs with their love for their animals. They deny their deplorable living conditions. They can't or won't get the animals veterinary care, sometimes refusing to believe anything is wrong with the animal. Animal hoarding can come from several mental or emotional states that can include disorders of obsessive compulsiveness, attachment or delusion.

According to the ASPCA, there are up to 2000 new hoarding cases reported every year. The site also states that animal hoarders are like addicts and will usually repeat the offense without intervention. Rather than prosecute, judges can impose conditions that can help the hoarder and the community. The best thing for an animal hoarder is counseling sessions, limited animal ownership to one or two pets that must be spayed/neutered, and required visits by animal welfare groups or a probation officer to check to make sure the recovering hoarder is complying with the animal ownership rules.

Wisner Building, dances at the Y where the dance floor covered the swimming pool, summers at Daphne Park Swimming Pool, "the water tower," Homecoming parades, and the Prom Dance in the gym. They will exchange stories about high school principals C.D. "Rat" Boyd and Allan McClure, athletic director Barney Poole, and the numerous teachers who touched their lives. If they're like many of us, their only problem will be trying to remember the names to go with the faces.

Anyone wishing to find out more information about the reunion may contact Charles Foster at 601-428-7764, or Teresa Wallace Pierce at 601-428-6508.

What should you do if you know of someone who is hoarding animals? Know that the problem is only going to get worse, and the animals will only suffer more and possibly die. Remember the best thing that can happen is for both the person and the animals to get the help they need. Contact law enforcement and local animal groups to begin the process. Sometimes, some of the animals can be spayed/neutered and returned to the owner if proper care can be provided. You could also volunteer your time at a shelter that takes some of the animals where you could help socialize them, walk them, or foster to assure yourself and the recovering hoarder that the animals are well or are on the road to recovery and a new life.

Members of SCAR have helped with hoarding cases, and it's always upsetting to find animals in bad shape and in filthy conditions. We've shared photos of sickly animals we've found in the hopes we can find donors or fosters for their care, and we've had the hoarders call us distraught that we're saying the animals are sick and need medication. The hoarders are in such denial about the health of their animals that they will be angry with us for stating anything that goes against their perception of reality.

It's such a sad situation not only for the animals but also for the hoarder, who truly feels love for each animal and wants every one of them back. Regardless of how much we feel for the person, if we allowed the hoarder to continue to neglect the animals, no matter how good the intentions, we would be allowing the person to commit animal cruelty.

This is also a public health and mental health issue. The animals shouldn't live in these conditions, and neither should the person. Getting help for all of them should be the goal for everyone in the community. We hope if you see something that you will speak up and help do your part to help animals, your community and its people.

(Southern Cross Animal Rescue is a non-profit animal rescue located on Highway 184 West. They can be reached at 601-433-5807 or scarofms@gmail.com. Visit their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernCrossAnimalRescue>.)

Mission At The Cross to hold 2nd Annual 5K Run & 2 Mile Walk

Submitted

The Mission At The Cross will hold our 2nd Annual 5K Run & 2 Mile Walk on Saturday, June 27nd at 8:00 AM beginning at the Mission located at 324 South Magnolia Street in Laurel. This event is a fundraiser for the Mission which provides housing, food, vocational training and biblical teaching and instruction to homeless men and men of addiction. Since December of 2008, over 700 men have called the Mission "home" at some point in their lives. We can house up to twenty-one men and generally are full to capacity on any given night.

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Sideline View: Busy week for sports

By Dale McKee

Lots of sports news this past week and more exciting sporting events planned for this week. Saturday is, of course, a day to remember in American history as D-Day took place 71 years ago. We need to always remember the great sacrifice of the 9,300 Americans who lost their lives on June 6, 1944, on the beaches of Omaha and Utah in Normandy. There are no greater heroes in my eyes than those who give their lives for their country. God Bless each and every one of those 9,300 Americans.



Dale McKee

This Saturday, we have two notable events on the campus of JCJC. The fast-pitch softball Mississippi High School Coaches Association will sponsor the fast-pitch softball all-star games. They will be played beginning at 10 a.m. at Community Park. Also the fourth annual Jason Campbell Football Camp will be at JCJC for ages 7-17. Free registration is from 8-9 a.m. with the camp to follow.

The first ever D-Day 5K and 2M Walk is Saturday, June 6, at 7 a.m. at the Laurel Veterans Museum. The Museum is located at 920 Hillcrest Blvd. next to Dixie Golf Club. \$30 registration fee is required.

Willie Nelson would approve

Willie Nelson would be proud of the first ever Biloxi Shuckers baseball team. Nelson's famous recording "On the Road Again" would be a fitting theme song for this team. The Shuckers will finally come home for "opening day" this Saturday. The first pitch is slated for 7:10 p.m. in MGM Park.

The Shuckers are the AA affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers and are leading the Southern Division of the Southern League despite playing every game away from home. They were the first team to register 30 wins in the league. They have been in first place for all but 12 playing dates.

Hopeful Triple Crown Winner

American Pharoah will attempt to make a little history by claiming the Triple Crown of horse racing this Saturday at Belmont Park. He has won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, but Belmont is a longer race. Expected at Belmont are 90,000 racing fans who, along with millions of sports fans around the world, want to see him claim the first Triple Crown in 37 years since Affirmed won the same series of races. American Pharoah

will join racing legends like Seattle Slew and Secretariat, and let's add the hope of the depression era Seabiscuit.

Ole Miss & MSU given some football hype

The prediction magazines are out, and Ole Miss and MSU are getting mixed results. Lindy's, Phil Steele, Kickoff, Street & Smith and Athlon's are just a few that will be hitting the racks in the next month. Ole Miss is ranked 11th nationally in Athlon's while MSU is 21st. The problem is Bama was #2, Auburn #4, LSU #15 and A&M #20th. All these teams reside in the West of the SEC, so it will be another demanding schedule, and injuries will again determine who wins what when the results are in Thanksgiving weekend. In the end, all seven teams in the West of the SEC will be top 25 teams. Street & Smith is my generation's favorite football pre-season magazine, while today I think Phil Steele, who does most of his own work, is the most informative. Lindy's is a Birmingham based football publication and has Ole Miss sixth in the West followed by MSU. I think Lindy's has ranked OM and MSU low for several years. Alabama and Auburn were 1-2 in Lindy's West. Maybe that is an Alabama thing.

SEC West Division team?????

Bama is missing eight starters on offense and will have to break in a new signal caller. Arkansas does not have many question marks going into the season. They are loaded with nine starters back on offense and should be a solid threat to all comers. Auburn is missing their leading rusher and will have their third quarterback in three years running their fast-paced offense. LSU will have a great rushing game but no solid quarterback in the picture as of right now. A&M will have a potent offense with their quarterback returning, and hopefully the addition of LSU defensive coordinator John Chavis to their staff will help get the Aggies to Atlanta. Ole Miss has a great defense, and if the Rebels can get some solid play at quarterback, they could play on New Year's Day again. The Bulldogs will have the league's best quarterback in Dax Prescott returning, but they have some holes to fill on both sides of the ball. It will be awfully hard to match the 2014 football season results of these two. The Magnolia State has never had so much football fun. But, in 93 days, we will find out what is in store for us in 2015.

Contact Dale at ddmckee18@yahoo.com



FCA Update

Got a minute? Wanted to update you on a few things coming up in the next three weeks for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes...right here at home.

June 4th-7th...FCA Leadership Camp at Belhaven. ...

This summer camp is designed to help spiritually equip student leaders of high school campuses in Mississippi for the next school year. So far, over 200 youngsters from all over the state are coming to Belhaven University. Looks like, over 1/4 of these kids are from Southeast Mississippi! (Meridian to the Coast)

God is so good....

June 6th....4th Annual Jason Campbell FCA Football Camp. This free football camp for kids aged 7-17 is facilitated and directed by high school coaches in behalf of former Taylorsville native Jason Campbell of the Cincinnati Bengals. The morning camp focuses on teaching the fundamentals of football, but also encouraging our youth...to play the right way. All info at pinebeltfca.org. T-shirts, lunch and a bible will be given to every participant. Thanks to JCJC, Lifeway Christian Bookstore, Dickie's Barbecue, Coca-Cola of Laurel, Hattiesburg Clinic and Supervisor Jerome Wyatt of the Jones County Board of Supervisors for their support of this free camp and opportunity every year!

June 11th-18th...FCA Mission Trip to Guatemala. About 20 student-athletes, coaches, staff and FCA volunteers head to

Rabinal to help a missionary who feeds 150 children a day, not counting the widows who request food everyday for their households. We hope to work on several projects, provide assistance to a very poor community and bring a little hope in Jesus. :)

Got two prayer requests. Pray the Lord will give us favor for the FCA Leadership Camp, Jason Campbell FCA Football Camp and the mission trip to Guatemala in the next three weeks. These efforts are designed to help encourage the next generation. One soul at a time.

And secondly, pray about helping to spread the word about supporting FCA right here at home. Check out pinebeltfca.org and see what God has done in the last 12 months. FCA could use your help, as we grow. You know, there's always a need for opportunities in area athletics to reach a child for Christ. Always a need.... to share God's Word, at a time when our youth face so many distractions. So many.

FCA prepares for 2015-2016 with great hope and expectations and we are eternally appreciative of the support God sends our way. If you have aided FCA in anyway this past school year, know this. Your witness in Christ, makes a difference wherever you are,... either in prayer, in person or in substance. Thankful for that. We hope to continue to have your help, your influence, your sacrifice and your prayers.

See you at a game soon...

JCJC hosts MAC All-Star Softball Games on June 6

Submitted

For the fourth straight season, Jones County Junior College will serve as the host site for the annual MAC 1A/2A/3A and 4A/5A/6A All-Star Softball games.

The first 1A/2A/3A game begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Community Bank Park, followed by the first 4A/5A/6A contest around 11:45 a.m.

After that game at approximately 1:30 p.m., the entire North and South rosters

for all four teams will be introduced. The second 1A/2A/3A game will then begin, followed by the second 4A/5A/6A contest.

Complete rosters are listed at www.mscoaches.com.

Players are scheduled to report to JCJC on Thursday afternoon with practice sessions slated for Friday.

General admission tickets will be \$5.

JCJC softball camp attracts 23 youngsters

By Shawn Wansley, JCJC Sports Information Director

Rain did not deter the annual Jones County Junior College Kids Softball Camp.

There were 23 youngsters ages 6-12 who participated in the camp May 26-27 at Community Bank Park. Because of rain, the campers stayed in the JCJC hitting facility on the opening day of the camp, but were able to get outside on day two.

The youngsters learned basic fundamentals of the game, such as batting, throwing, fielding and running at the camp.

JCJC head coach Chris Robinson, associate head coach Bob Herrington, assistant coach Carlos Castro and several members of the Lady Bobcat team were instructors at the camp.



JCJC shortstop Lauren Holifield shows a camper the proper way to hold the bat during the annual JCJC Kids Softball Camp. Photos/Shawn Wansley

JCJC outfielder Savannah Lyon watches a youngster prepare to hit the ball during the annual JCJC Kids Softball Camp.



JCJC outfielder Savannah Lyon watches a camper rip one off the hitting tee during the annual JCJC Kids Softball Camp.

“Impossible goal” attained by new JCJC graduate, Jami Taylor

By Teresa McCreery,
JCJC Media & Public Relations Director

Among the hundreds of Jones County Junior College graduates recently was 57-year old Jami Taylor of Ellisville. Faced with unemployment when the sewing factory in Laurel and Richton closed where she had worked in accounts payable for 18-years and sewed for 10-years, she didn't know if she could find another job. She discovered, through the help of family and friends, an opportunity to return to college and get “re-trained.” Having only a 10th grade education and not feeling confident in her educational skills, Taylor was very hesitant about taking college courses.

“I was scared to death at the thought of coming back to school! I have to support myself so I really didn't have a choice. College wasn't in my plans but God opened the doors,” said Taylor.

Among some of the “Guardian Angels” at JCJC, as Taylor calls her teachers are Jane Jones, Kimberly Bradshaw and Teresa Robertson. She said they helped her every step of the way. Taylor explained, growing up she never went to the same school for an entire year because her parents constantly moved. In second grade she failed reading and was terrified of taking Algebra.

“I have to have help. I thought college was too big of a goal for me to reach,” shared Taylor. The difference she said was, “Some teachers went above and beyond to help me, tutoring me, wiping my tears, counseling me and even working with me until I fell asleep,” said Taylor. “Jane Jones held my hand and prepared me to take the ACT again. Without these teachers I would not be here today, graduating!”

The upbeat single mother of two adults, Wendy Allen of



At 57-years of age, Jami Taylor received her college diploma from JCJC President, Dr. Jesse Smith at the spring commencement ceremony. Photo/Teresa McCreery

she received an invitation to join the international honor society, Phi Theta Kappa. As an active member, she generously gave her time helping with community and campus activities. Taylor also earned a couple of scholarships through the Non-Traditional Student Association.

“I had no desire or even thought I could do this. Now, I can't wipe the smile off my face because I can't believe I graduated with honors! If I can do it, anyone can do it,” said Taylor, who is grateful for the JCJC teachers who made her realize anything is possible.

While the teachers made a huge impact on her, Taylor said the kids also made an impression on her too. Jatari McCann of Laurel is one of the many new friends she gained over her two years who encouraged Taylor, and vice versa.

McCann said, “I just reminded Jami, ‘We got this!’ every time she got stressed.”

Now with a smile on her face, Taylor says proudly, she is a graduate of JCJC and would recommend Jones to anyone because everyone was so helpful. “I never thought I'd graduate from college!”

Her daughter Laura Parker of Ellisville admitted, while preparing for the commencement ceremony, her mother's success has inspired her to think about getting her college degree.

“I'm extremely proud of my mom. She worked hard with lots of late nights studying. I'm thinking about coming back to school now that my kids are older,” said Parker.

Taylor found a job about three weeks ago at a local transportation company in accounts receivable. She said she's also hoping she will be able to help her daughter Laura reach her college goals while spending some fun time with her grandkids.



JCJC alumna, Wendy Allen (left) and her sister Laura Parker (right) proudly pose with their mother, Jami Taylor (middle) as she prepares to receive her college diploma after overcoming some obstacles. Photo/Teresa McCreery

Petal and Laura Parker of Ellisville, took on the challenge for two years and “did nothing” but study. Her hard work paid off because she graduated with a 3.96 GPA. Last fall,

Strong Schools equal Bright Future!

As we begin the first days of summer, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the school year that just ended and to give a special thank you to the citizens of Laurel for all you have done to support our schools. This is a very special time in the history of Laurel. Cities across the country face the challenge of either re-defining themselves or suffering a decline that is difficult to reverse. There is no question that the current energy and vibe coming from the revitalization of our historic city shows that Laurel is on the move. As you know, the quality of the school system plays a huge role in the health of a community. I would like to share some data with you that hopefully gives you confidence in the future of our great city. Please see the highlights below from the 2014-15 school year.



Dr. Chuck Benigno

1. Laurel High School graduated 178 seniors. The Class of 2015 was the largest graduating class in twelve years.
2. Student enrollment increased by 150 students to give the Laurel Schools an overall enrollment of 3,200 students.
3. Third Grade Reading Test - Laurel's passing rate of 86 percent exceeded the state average.
4. Nora Davis Magnet School was one of only eleven schools out of 420 state-wide to have a 100 percent passing rate.
5. High school students took over 100 Advanced Placement (AP) tests for college credit.
6. Laurel Middle School started a Pre-AP program for academically talented middle school students.
7. ACT Scores are on the rise with numerous students scoring 20 or above.
8. Football won the 5-A State Championship.
9. Track athletes won the 5-A State Championship in the girls' 110 hurdles and the boys' 220 meter dash.
10. Boys' Basketball went to the “Big House” for the fourth straight year.
11. Boys' Soccer won the district championship.
12. Tennis won the district championship.
13. Boys' Track won the district championship.
14. JROTC increased from 80 cadets to a current enrollment of 172 cadets.
15. Choir was rated All-Superior.
16. Band was rated All-Superior marching band.
17. Archery program continues to grow and excel.
18. LMS Advanced Art students won the State Scholastic Art Award.
19. Laurel Schools received the Governor's Award of Distinction for partnership with the Laurel Police Dept.
20. Culinary Arts has won the ProStart State Championship two out of the last four years.
21. Laurel Schools received recognition from the State Auditor for a clean financial audit.
22. No millage increase in the past four years and no plans for an increase this upcoming year.

There are many other areas of distinction that I could share with you. There are also several areas that need much improvement. We are not a perfect organization by any means. However, we are a healthy family filled with adults who truly believe in our students. I cannot say enough about our teachers and staff who work tirelessly to make sure the children of Laurel receive a high quality education. Please know that we take this responsibility seriously and we know that the future of our city depends on a strong school system. I am so excited about our future and I thank you for providing us with the resources we need to accomplish this important task. Working together, we can create a city that is truly a shining star in Mississippi and throughout the nation.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect our schools!

Chuck

Dr. Chuck Benigno
Superintendent
Laurel School District

LLT presents “Disney's Aladdin Jr.” this weekend

Submitted

Laurel Little Theatre's annual summer Kids' Camp kicked off last week with 106 students in daily workshops and rehearsals that will end with four performances this weekend of the current Tony Award winning Broadway hit “Disney's Aladdin Jr.”

Performances will be Friday, June 5 at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 6 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m.

Under the direction of Katelyn Bryant, Angie Hodge and Jackie Thomas, LLT's wonderful young actors will welcome audience members to Agrabah, City of Enchantment. Jasmine, the Sultan, the Genie and all the rest of the cast will treat everyone to those favorite Disney songs such as “Arabian Nights”, “A Whole New World” and “Friend Like Me.”

This is the ‘junior’ version of the musical with a running time of just around an hour, and it's perfect for both adults and kids of all ages.

LLT's reservation line is now open at 601.428.0140 and answers 24 hours a day. The Kids' Camp productions are always a sell out, so reservations should be called in right away.

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2012 Chevy Impala LTZ	\$15,995	\$14,650
2012 Nissan Altima 2.5	\$18,480	\$15,980
2012 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ Crew	\$34,750	\$32,250
2014 Nissan Altima 2.5S Only 9K miles	\$21,880	\$20,880
2013 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT Ext. Cab	\$24,488	SOLD
2013 Nissan Frontier SL Crew	\$30,488	SOLD
2013 Toyota Corolla S	\$17,980	\$15,480
2014 Ford Fiesta SE	\$14,480	\$13,880
2014 Chevy Cruze	\$17,500	\$16,900
2014 Volkswagon Passat Diesel 40MPG!	\$21,995	\$20,500
2014 Chevrolet Equinox LTI	\$24,380	\$21,880
2014 Sonata GLS	\$18,480	\$15,980
2014 Chevrolet Malibu LT2	\$20,480	\$17,980
2014 Chevrolet Equinox LTI	\$24,380	\$21,880
2014 Nissan Altima 2.5 S	\$21,880	\$20,880
2014 Toyota Camry SE Sport	\$21,680	\$19,380
2014 Chrysler Town & Country	\$26,888	SOLD
2015 Nissan Versa SV	\$16,995	\$15,995
2015 Chevy Captiva Sport	\$20,980	\$19,900

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June 11
The 16th Annual MSQC Gospel Music Convention will be held on June 11-13 at Lamar Co. Shelter Building in Purvis. This 3-day gospel event will host over 30 artists of varying styles. No Ticket is required, we are asking for a \$5 donation at the door (for facility cost). There will be concessions, door prizes and silent auctions. Booth spaces are available; call us at 601-466-4343 or like us at FB: Mississippi Quartet Convention.

June 13
Gospel Sing Saturday, June 13 beginning at 6:30p.m. at the Sanford Community Center, 663 Old Hwy 49, Sanford. The featured guest will be "Gospel Grass Revival", "Faith Walkers" and "Faithway Singers". Admission is free. A love offering will be received. For more info call 601-765-6485.

Moselle Memorial Baptist Church on Hwy 11, Moselle, will hold Vacation Bible

School the week of July 13-17 at 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. Registration at the church is on June 28 from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. For registration information call 601-520-0860.

June 14
The annual Walker Reunion will be Sunday, June 14, 2015, at the Depot located at #203 Eureka Street (behind Trustmark Bank), Taylorsville, MS. Please come and bring a well-filled basket along with a family memory or story. Lunch will be served at 12:00 Noon.

June 15
The Jones County Agriculture teachers will be sponsoring a Private Pesticide Applicators course at South Jones High School, Agricultural Department, on June 15th at 6:00p.m. There will be a \$10 charge for certification. Please call the MS State Extension Office at 601-428-5201 to pre-register or registration can be completed on site.

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