Chicago author with Laurel ties holds book signing...page 13

STD

IMPACT ECRWSS



Laurel • 601.649.1129 www.impact360.ms Volume 40, No. 29 • July 20, 2016

Serving Jones, Jasper, Smith, Wayne and Washington & Choctaw County, AL

44,602 total circulation **#1 in Advertising**

Laurel Sportsplex renamed The Laurel **Susan Boone Vincent Sportsplex**

By Linda Cranford

Former Laurel Mayor Susan Boone Vincent was honored Friday, July 15 with the dedication and unveiling of the sign that renames the Laurel Sportsplex as The Laurel

Susan Boone Vincent Sportsplex. Laurel Mayor Johnny Magee, Laurel Parks and Recreation Director Elvin Ulmer, former City Attorney Bill Mullins, local and state government officials, Laurel/Jones County

EDA, Chamber Ambassadors, and family and friends joined Vincent for the unveiling ceremony and reception sponsored by Neel-Schaffer.

Mayor Magee began the ceremony by thanking the EDA and Neel-Shaffer for their part not only in the dedication ceremony but also their part in the upcoming Dixie Youth World Series. "In a few weeks, as Mr. Ul-

mer likes to call it, the WOW series - the World Series of World Series, is going to be played here. It's going to be great, because a lady one day had a vision. She had the wisdom to realize what this could be. She talked about what you could do with a penny. There were some nay-sayers who said that it would never happen. But, like in the film 'Field of Dreams,' if you build it, they

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> will come. And, they do come and continue to come. They come because of the vision and wisdom of Susan Boone Vincent. Laurel thanks you for that because we have one of the best athletic and recreation facilities in the Southeast United States, and it's all because of Mayor Vincent."

Ulmer thanked Vincent for not only giv-

See VINCENT, page 16



L-R Melvin Mack, George Vincent, Susan Boone Vincent, Manuel Jones, Bill Mullins, and May-



AMERICAN MADE Ellisville Blvd., Laurel, MS :30 A.M.-5:00 P.M. SAT. 7:30 - NOON















ClassifiedIndex **Apartments for Rent** Attorneys **ATVs** 12 **Autos - Cars** 11 **Auto Services** 11 **Autos - Motorcycles** 12 Autos - SUVs 12 Autos - Trucks 12 12 **Boats Buildings** 11 **Campers** Carports 12 10 Commercial **Equipment Estate Sale** Farm Fish **Furniture Garage Sales** General Handyman Health and Beauty **Help Wanted Houses for Rent** 10 Houses for Sale Land Lost and Found Massage Mobile Home for Rent **Mobile Home Lots Mobile Homes** Musical Pets 10 **Pools** Portable Buildings 11 Services Offered



10

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Timber and Lumber

Vacation

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WHILE THE IMPACT makes every effort to verify the offerings made in these ads we cannot guarantee the integrity of every advertiser. We strongly recommend that readers investigate the companies involved before sending them any money

Classified and ROP Ad Deadline **Sunday Edition -**Wednesday at 12:00 Noon Wednesday Edition -Thursday at 3:00

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Watch **Batteries**

Guests hit comfort jackpot with Bok Homa's renovations

Guests of the Bok Homa Casino near Sandersville will notice a few updates and renovations on their next visit to the property. Jason York, who was named executive director of Development and Operations for Bok Homa in February, explained that guest comfort was a leading factor in making these improvements.

"New carpet with additional padding, new slot machine bases complete with foot rests and wider pathways between machines, were all done to enhance our guests' experience and comfort," York explained. "We completed the renovations at the end of June."

York added that with the property being over five years old now, a little TLC with fresh paint and some general maintenance was needed to keep the casino in top shape. With the updates came a few more games. "We already had about 720 slot machines, and now we have added roulette and dice tables in addition to our eight Black Jack tables, a Three Card Poker table and a Mississippi Stud table," he

Putting in new table games, York said Bok Homa would create approximately 25 new dealer jobs, bringing their total employment to around 250. They will host a dealer school near the end of July and those interested in taking the class and applying for a position should call 866-447-3275.



Looking for a quick treat while on the gaming floor? Lucky's, Bok Homa's snack bar, has expanded their menu as well, adding quesadillas, meatball subs and the "Bok Homa Dog."

"The 'Bok Homa Dog' is a bacon wrapped, deep fried hotdog," York explained.

Bok Homa Casino is part of the Pearl River Resort, a multi-million dollar, luxury resort owned and operated by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

LLT announces its 56th fabulous season

Submitted

Laurel Little Theatre has just announced their upcoming 2016-2017 season and begun their annual season ticket membership drive. Featuring a little bit of music, a little bit of comedy, a little bit of drama and a little bit of magic . . . there's a "little theatre" for everyone this coming season.

Starting it off is a full-length production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" running July 28-31 and August 5-7; it is directed by Lacy Cockrell. Disney's big hit musical, the 9th longest-running show in Broadway history, comes to the LLT stage with outstanding costumes and sets and a huge cast. Come see Gaston and the Beast fight for the attention of the beautiful Belle in this enchanting and exciting show. Sure to be one of LLT's biggest season openers ever, so there's two full weekends of perfor-

Fall arrives with LLT's annual comedy, only this time a Southern "political" comedy right in the middle of election season when everyone will need a little comedic relief. In "Running Mates" the mayor of a sleepy Georgia town is up for re-election, but this time he has to duke it out with his own wife on the ballot. All politics are local, especially if you live with your opponent! Running October 20-23, it will be directed by Missy Sanderson.

Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," under the direction of Sam Buchanan, will run March 30 - April 2, 2017. Based on the true-life stories of the Salem, Massachusetts, witch trails of 1692, this first appeared on Broadway in 1953 and won the Tony Award for Best Play that year. It was written as a comment on McCarthyism and the real-life

witch-hunts and blacklisting that was occurring in Congress that decade.

Closing out the season June 1-4, 2017, will be Disney's "The Lion Kings Jr.," directed by Katelyn Bryant. LLT is one of the very first community theatres from around the nation to be approved to present the junior version of this musical, which is now the third longest-running show in Broadway history. This will be LLT's annual 2017 Summer Kids' Camp production. Join Mufasa & Scar, Simba & Nala and Timon & Pumba in "The Circle of Life," and you'll see just how much 100 kids can make you smile and laugh and cry.

LLT offers a full season membership ticket that has savings up to 46 percent off single ticket prices. The 4-Punch LLT Season Member Ticket is \$35 (seniors or students), \$40 (adults), \$70 (two 4-punch season tickets for a couple) or \$125 (four season tickets for a family of four). You get four punches on each season ticket, allowing you to punch once per show, or you can even use up to two of your punches on any one production and bring someone with you.

LLT's 'Patrons' that contribute over the cost of a season ticket also receive a complimentary drink at each performance, a choice of seats from a special reserved Patrons' section, listings in each show program and on the LLT website, and tax deduction for their donations.

The annual season brochure has just gone out and you can request a copy of it by mailing LLTLaurelMS@aol. com or it can be downloaded from their website: Laurel-LittleTheatre.com.

South Central Cancer Center Welcomes Medical Oncologist, Nikhil Mukhi, M.D.



South Central Cancer Center

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JCJC offers CPR, first aid and automated external defibrillator (AED) class

Submitted

Jones County Junior College will be offering several CPR, first aid and automated external defibrillator (AED) classes at the Whitehead Advanced Technology Center in Ellisville. The morning class will meet on Thursday from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on several dates: August 18, October 13, December 15, February 16, April 13 and June 15. The afternoon class will meet on Thursdays from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. over the year during several sessions: July 14, September 15, November 17, January 19, March 23, and May 18.

The Heartsaver First Aid, CPR, AED is a one-day, five-hour classroom, video-based, instructor-led course that teaches students critical skills needed to respond to and manage a first aid, choking or sudden cardiac arrest emergency in the first few minutes until emergency medical services (EMS) arrives.

In this course, students will learn skills such as how to treat bleeding, sprains, broken bones, shock and other first aid emergencies. This course also teaches CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) use.

This course is for anyone with limited or no medical training who needs a course completion card in first aid, CPR and AED use to meet job, regulatory or other requirements. Upon successful completion of the course students receive a Heartsaver First Aid, CPR, AED course completion card by mail, which is valid for 2 years. The cost for this course is \$15. To register and to pay for the class come to the Advanced Technology Center at 72 Technology Blvd, Ellisville, or call Carmen Sumrall at (601) 477-4105 to register and to pay for the class. A CPR Card will be mailed to successful participants one week after the class.













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We would like to thank our family and friends for each and every act of kindness shown to our family regarding the passing of a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, George Michael Reid Sr.

Thank you to Memory Chapel Funeral Home for their most professional and caring service during this difficult time.

We would also like to thank the City of Laurel Police Dept., Laurel Fire Dept., Jones County Deputies and last but not least, Powers Volunteer Fire Dept. for escorting Mike to his final resting place. Mike considered it an honor to serve his community. Your sympathy and thoughtfulness will always be remembered and is greatly appreciated.

> With Love, Mike Reid Family

> > all to attend.

Baptist College. The times for

the services are: Sunday, July

24 at 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

and Monday, July 25 through

Wednesday, July 27 at 7:00 p.m. Our invitation goes out to

Enterprise

Church invites you to our

annual homecoming and

revival services July 24-29. The

homecoming service will be

Sunday, July 24 at 11:00 a.m.

with Rev. Nathan Laster bringing the message. Revival services will

run July 25 -29 at 7:30 nightly

with Dr. Percy Moore as the

Friendship Baptist Church

Ellisville) will be celebrating

Sunday. Sunday school starts at

9:30 a.m. with morning worship

29

services

guest evangelist for the week.

Hwy.

Homecoming

Baptist

July 20 Calhoun football's meeting will be on July 19 at 6 p.m., and registration will be on July 21 and 28 from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. All events will be at Calhoun Community Center.

You are cordially invited to a "Mad Hatter Tea Party" @ 1:30 p.m. at the George V. Harrison Multipurpose Building adjacent to the Ellisville Public Library. This event is presented by the Ellisville Public Library and hosted by the Friends of the Ellisville Public Library. Come meet Alice, the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts, the March Hare, the White Rabbit, Dormouse, and the Cheshire Cat! Join them for an afternoon of delicious refreshments, entertaining crafts, exciting games and awesome face painting! For more information, call 601-428-4313 ext. 106 or visit us on Facebook.

Antioch Full Gospel Church invites you to our 25th Anniversary Summer Camp Meeting July 21-24. Evening services will be at 7:00 and Saturday morning service at 10:00; lunch will be served Saturday. All are welcome to camp out; kitchen and hot showers are available. For more information, call 601-577-5347 or 601-433-7830.

July 22 Friendship Baptist Church will be having VBS "Cave Quest" July 18-22. Classes will be children ages 4 thru 18. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Classes start immediately after supper and will end at 8:00 p.m. If you need a ride call Jamie Davis at 601-498-9971.

The Waynesboro Church of Christ would like to extend an invitation for area-wide youth to attend Vacation Bible School! It will be held on Saturday. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. with V.B.S. starting at 10:30 a.m. There is no cost involved! The theme is: "Jesus, the Bread of Life, Feeding the 5,000." Ages are 2 years old through 6th grade. There will be food, games, study, and more! V.B.S. will conclude at 12:30 p.m. If you have any additional questions, please call 601.735.4086 or email at sethka63@hotmail.com.

Pineview Baptist Church, Magnolia Road, will be having homecoming today. Bro. Rory Dill will be the guest speaker; music will be under the direction of Scarlett East. Services will be at 10:15 a.m. and there will be dinner on the grounds following the service. All former pastors and members are invited to attend.

First Baptist Church of Calhoun will be in revival with Dr. John David Smith, director of Missions for the Baptist Missionary Association of America, as the guest speaker. Dr. Smith is a graduate of Southeastern



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MAX is an affectionate, playful kitten who is between three and four months old. He has been vaccinated and will soon be neutered. Max and several of his friends are available at the Animal Rescue League, located at 2511 Moose Drive in Laurel. ARL is open

Monday-Saturday, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. If you have any questions about adopting, volunteering, or donating, you can call us at 601-649-0821. You can also find us on Facebook as the Laurel Jones County Animal Rescue League or visit our website at http://arllaurel.webs.com.

ARL is currently in need of cat litter, Kitten Chow, laundry detergent, and bleach.

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Grand opening of St. Michael's **Urgent Care of Ellisville**

By Linda Cranford

Ellisville now has a new health care facility where the community can receive urgent care and after hour care when needed, including sutures, wound care, x-rays, minor illness treatment as well as sports physicals. Dr. Ikechuka H. Okorie, MD, of Hattiesburg opened the doors of St. Michael's Urgent Care of Ellisville in February and a Grand Opening ceremony was held Friday,

Mayor Tim Waldrup, Ellisville aldermen, Chamber Ambassadors, EDA staff, friends and family members joined nurse practitioners Dayna Hamm and Lauren Boone and staff members for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The clinic is open seven days a week until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday the clinic opens at 8 a.m. and on Saturday and Sunday

Hamm is a 2014 USA (University of South Alabama) graduate and Boone is a 2012 USM graduate.

St. Michaels Urgent Care of Ellisville is located at 85 Hal Crocker Road in Ellisville. For more information call 601-800-8425 or visit www.seeourprovidertoday.com.



Mayor Tim Waldrup, Ellisville aldermen, Chamber Ambassadors, EDA staff, friends and family members joined nurse practitioners Dayna Hamm and Lauren Boone for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Photo by Linda Cranford

The special guest speaker will be former youth minister Kyle Warren and his wife, Brooke. We will have our traditional Homecoming meal after the a.m. service, then an afternoon service beginning at 1:15 p.m.

The Turner reunion will be Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until at the Sandhill Community Center located on Sandhill Church Road. Bring photos and a covered dish. Come prepared to fellowship.

The Christian Valley MB Church would like to invite your youth and young adult choirs to come and worship with us as we celebrate our annual Choir Day and revival. Our Choir Day will take place on Sunday, July 24 at 3:00 p.m. followed by our Youth Revival July 25-29 with services starting at 7:00 nightly. The speaker for the week will be pastor James McGhee of Pine Grove Baptist Church, Meridian.

Laurel Little Theatre has just announced their upcoming 2016-2017 season and begun their annual season ticket membership drive. Featuring a little bit of music, a little bit of comedy, a little bit of drama and a little bit of magic - there's a "little theatre" for everyone this coming season. Starting it off is a full-length production of Disney's "Beauty and The Beast," which will be running July 28-31 and August 5-7 and will be directed by Lacy Cockrell. The 4-Punch LLT Season Member Ticket is \$35 (seniors or students), \$40 (adults), \$70 (two 4-punch season tickets for a couple) or \$125 (four season tickets for a family of four).

If you have a loved one buried at Fair Ridge Cemetery, then it is time for donations for mowing and upkeep. Make checks payable to Fair Ridge Association. Mail to 46 CR 155, Stringer, MS 39481

Gospel sing on Saturday with Calm Assurance, a group from Columbia, Miss., at Gitano United Methodist Church. There will be a light meal at 6:00 p.m. and the concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. The church is located on Highway 28 about three miles west of Soso. Call 601-785-585 for directions and/or more information. Come on out and join us for this night of celebration and fellowship.

July 31

July 28

The Magnolia Boys will be at First Baptist Church of Pecan Grove, Ellisville, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Trinity Baptist Church, Hwy. 15 North in the Shady Grove **Community,** invites you to our revival July 31 through August 3. Dr. Chad Grayson will be the evangelist and Joseph Walters will lead the music. Revival service Sunday will be at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with lunch served at noon. Monday through Wednesday services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

August 3 SCRMC's Summer Blood Drives will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Wellness Center, at the Medical Center on Thursday, August 4 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Friday,

August 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Medical Center. Donors will receive a free T-shirt while supplies last. The Jones County Cattlemen's Association will be grilling all beef burgers for all donors. All donors, 21 years old or older, will be entered to win a dream vacation to the destination of their choice (travel and lodging covered up to \$6000). All 16-20 year old donors will be entered to win a 9.7 inch iPad Pro. To make an appointment, go to www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: scrmc) or contact Bonnie Smith at 601-426-4704.

"The Laurel Christian Home Educators (LCHE) will be having their back-to-school sign-up event from 6:00 - 8:00 at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. There will be lots of vendor tables providing information on various homeschooling ideas, helps and activities. So mark your calendars and plan to join us! If you have any questions, you may contact Kristy Matthews at 601-283-9552.

East Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Laurel, cordially invites you to our annual revival, August 7-12. The Sunday morning worship service will begin at 11:30 with Pastor Sidney Tucker Sr. bringing the message. The afternoon message will follow with Rev. Erving King as the speaker. The evangelist for the week will be Rev. Frank Stovall, with services beginning at 7:00 nightly.

White Oak Baptist Church, located at 224 Ira G. Odom Rd., Ellisville, invites you to our Homecoming Service. The church will be furnishing lunch. Come fellowship with us. For more information, call 601-425-

Annual community-wide Back to School Kick-Off Weekend hosted by Springhill MB Church, Ellisville, will start Friday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m. with a special concert & comedy show. Saturday, August 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. is a youth conference and picnic and on Sunday, August 14 at 10:30 a.m. is the morning worship service. You don't want to miss this special event with free food & prizes. Deadline to register is Friday, July 29. Online registration available: www.springhillsms.com. For more info, call 601-477-8463.

August 13 The Magnolia Boys will be at the West Ellisville Baptist Church starting at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to a night of gospel music with the Magnolia Boys.

September 2 Pleasant Grove Moss M.B. Church is hosting a PGM Women's Conference at Camp Harvest in Columbia, MS, on Friday September 2 – Sunday, September 4. For more information, call minister Erma Newell at 601.577.2716 or sister Diane Carmichael at 601-729-2811.

Miscellaneous

On the last Tuesday of each month, Covington County Hospital hosts a cancer support group at 5:30p.m. in the hospital's classroom. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/covingtoncountyhospital or call 601-765-6711.

Al-Anon meetings are held each Monday night at 7:00p.m. at the 24-hour Society Club House at 626 N. Magnolia Street (corner of 7th Street, Laurel). Al-Anon is for families and friends for those who have addiction problems. Al-Anon hotline is 601-426-4688.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every week on Thursday, 9:15 a.m., at Magnolia Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1040 Wansley Road in Laurel. For more information, call or text 601-323-0830 or 601-319-

New Creation Apostolic Church, 204 Ford Street, Taylorsville, invites everyone to join us for Sunday School at 10:00a.m., Morning Worship at 11:30a.m. We also have a Prayer service on Tuesdays and Bible Study on Thursdays at 7:00p.m. The pastor is Rev Elder Bolton.

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LAND

New listing! Lamar county +/-230 Acres: Located in Baxterville, MS just south of Hwy 13 off Sun Oil Road. Timber has been sold but not yet harvested. Would be a fantastic opportunity to invest in some great potential timberland at a low price. Property has a good road system, electricity, and several places to build a camp/house. Price: \$287,500. Call Jeff today 601-297-1958 at Walley Properties, LLC. or visit walleyproperties.com for maps and info of this listing.

Lake Eddins: A Great Place to be!! Small offwater lots up to 5.5 acre lots. Waterfront lots, Camps and Homes. Call CrossRoad Realty for more info: 601-727-7653.

Continued on ... Page 6





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New listing! Clarke county +/- 60 erty consist of 35 acres 8 year old pine plantation, 17 acres mature hardwood timber, 2 ponds, excellent road system, and a camp house. The property has been well taken care of and will make a great weekend retreat. Located just north of

Shubuta MS right off Hwy 45 only 1/4 miles to the Chickasawhay River Priced to sell at \$147,000. Contact Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties, LLC. or visit walleyproperties com for maps and info of this listing.

Wayne County +/- 38 Acres. Home site/ Recreational property or small timber investment in south Wavne County with frontage on Chicora Stateline Road. Young Pine Plantation and mixed hardwoods. \$91,010. Call Bennett 601-913-0340 at Walley

Properties, LLC or visit walleyproperties.com for maps of this listing.

5 acres at corner of Springhill Road and Rebel Lane. Call 601-498-5789. Price reduced to \$49,000.

4 3/4 acre homesite, South Jones County, Blueberry Lane off Jordan Rd. between Ellisville and Moselle. Heavily wooded. No trailers allowed. 601-310-6525

I buy timber and timberlands. Call Shawn at 601 408 3570

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New listing! Jones County: +/-57 Acres: Located in South Jones County on Rainey Road. 10 Miles from Hattiesburg and Laurel right off the Sanford Road Exit on I-59. This property would be perfect for a home-site or mini-farm with plenty of recreational opportunities Price: \$153,500. For more details, call Bennett today 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties, LLC. Or visit our website walleyproperties.com for maps and more information of this

New listing! Jasper county +/-69 Acres: Located in Stringer, MS with over 1/4 mile road frontage on Hwy 15 this property offers many possibilities. Dirt work has been completed on two separate locations that could be used for possible development. The property has an excellent road system for easy access over the entire acreage. Food plots and shooting houses are in place with some mature hardwoods and planted oaks. Etehomo Creek runs along

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New listing!! Jasper county +/ 73 Acres: Located right off County Road 1731 and 3 Whi Trail; exactly 3.5 miles north of Stringer, MS and 8 miles south of Bay Springs, MS. This is a beautiful and scenic property consisting of 25-year-old natural pine and hardwood mix. The prop erty has a live stream on the north end. Access is on an existing Plum Creek (Weverhaeuser Road). This piece of land would be perfect for a great recreational property or investment tract. Price: \$124,100. For more information. Call Marc: 601-

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Covington County 85 +/- Acres. Price Reduced! Located in the Seminary School District 4 miles North of Seminary at the intersection of Hwy 535 and Lebanon Church Road Would make for a great home site Features a mix of young pine plantations and hardwood stands along the creek bottom. Excellent timber investment and hunting opportunity. \$191,250 Call Bennett 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties LLC Please visit walleyproperties.com for maps of this listing.

+/- 54 Acres Located on CR 220 just East of Heidelburg, MS this tract consists of 9 year old pine plantation with hardwoods in drains. Road frontage with power/water available. sultation, 601-408-0615, McCraw Forest Management, www.mfmland

+/- 35 Acres Located South of Quitman, MS on CR 276 just off of CR 250 in the Hale Community, this tract has Mixed Hwd/Pine Timber. Great Home or Camp Sites. Great Hunting Power/Water Available. \$49,000 Cal us for a free consultation. 601-408-0615. McCraw Forest Management, www.mfmland.com.

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Continued on ... Page 7

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Continued on ... Page 8

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BACK TO SCHOOL FLING FOR THE CHILDREN 10AM -2PM (JUMP AND SLIDE) **AUGUST 8**

MSDH DENTAL SCREENINGS 2PM-5:30PM (CHILDREN DENTAL SCREENINGS) **AUGUST 9**

DEACONESS HOMECARE 10AM-12PM DIABETIC TEACHING (WITH REFRESHMENTS)

AUGUST 9 BLOOD DRIVE 10AM-2PM

AUGUST 10 WALMART VISION CENTER 10AM-12PM AUGUST 11

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2007 Mercury Milan: \$7999 Auto Express. Call 844-402-3154 or text VV0O to 27414. See more at cars601.

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2006 Suzuki XL7 \$6945 at Mack Grubbs Hyundai. Call our Local toll free number 844-373-0806 or text 8Y6A to 27414. See more at Cars601. 2008 Chevrolet Suburban LT. 151,148 miles. Leather, Sunroof, 4WD, Third Row, Platinum, \$14990. Call 601-582-8781

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Over 200 attend JCJC Cheerleader Camp

Over 200 youngsters attended the annual Jones County Junior College Cheerleader Camp. Twelve cheer squads representing Moselle Youth, Myrick Youth, Raleigh Pee Wee, South Jones Youth, Moselle Pee Wee, Myrick Pee Wee, Raleigh Midget, South Jones Pee Wee, Moselle Flag Gold, Moselle Flag Blue, Raleigh Rookies and South Jones Flag were on hand for the camp. JCJC cheer coach Kayla Hankins and members of the 2016-17 Bobcat cheerleading squad led the camp. The campers learned drills, cheers, chants and other routines during the camp. The event took place June 29-July 1 in the Thoms P.E. Building on the JCJC campus. Photo/Shawn Wansley, JCJC Sports Information



Chicago author with Laurel ties holds book signing

By Linda Cranford

Jason Helveston, author of "Tell me Everything – How Jesus Told me His Story," was in Laurel recently at The Shop Around the Corner booth inside Southern Antiques for a signing of his first book. Helveston is the son of John and Lucy Helveston, who recently returned to Laurel after living in California for 25 years. Jason now lives in Chicago, Illinois, with his wife, Laura, and three children: Glori, Jedidiah and Micah.

"Laurel is the foundation to my character, faith and story," explained Helveston.

His mom said that although they lived in California for 25 years, their children always looked forward to and valued deeply the three weeks spent in the summer in Laurel every year. Jason's father is a member of the band Jagged EDJ (that was formed during his father's junior high years), which has a Summer Jam reunion each year on the third weekend in July. His dad is also a retired minister who now serves as an interim pastor where needed both locally and

Helveston and his wife live in a west side neighborhood of Chicago, where they oversee a location of Park Community Church, which is one church in nine different neighborhoods in Chicago.

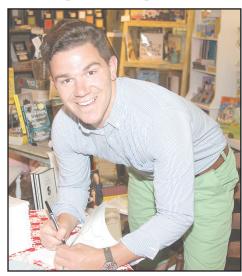
"It (Park Community Church) was planted about 27 years ago out of the historical Moody Church, which has been around for over 150 years," explained Helveston.

Helveston's book is his story of how he began to realize what it means to live the

"I grew up around faith all the time," said Helveston. He explained that sometimes the familiarity of growing up in a Christian environment doesn't necessarily mean that you understand it.

"So, for me growing up in a Christian context, the beauty and brilliance of the Christian story was not clear," exclaimed Helveston.

He came to realize that being a Christian involved listening and reading the story of who Jesus is and what he has done. "It is a story that He has invited me into," said Helveston. "So, faith, in many respects, is



Author Jason Helveston signs his first book "Tell Me Everything – How Jesus Told me His Story." *Photo/Linda Cranford*

about being invited into the story that God's telling."

"Tell Me Everything" is Helveston's memoir of sorts of his story of learning this paradigm.

"The Southern culture is very rich in storytelling," said Helveston's mom, Lucy. "I think Jason learned that from his dad, who is a story teller in the pulpit. He weaves in God's plans through those stories."

Helveston said that the title, "Tell Me Everthing," comes out of the fact that when you meet Jesus, "like a friend returning from a vacation, you want to sit down with Him and have him tell you everything."

"I wanted to have a book signing here in Laurel because Laurel is a very special place to us," said Helveston. "The love of this town with its brick roads and sweet tea has always been compelling to me. It is very different from the concrete jungle of Chicago that I live in. Time slows down here in the best possible way. My family and I think and feel differently and are connected to our larger story when we are here. It's a special place to us."

Helveston's book is available for purchase at The Shop Around the Corner booth inside Southern Antiques at the corner of Magnolia Street and Central Avenue in downtown Laurel.

Nolan wins Henry rifle

Congratulations to Chance Nolan on winning the Henry rifle from Masonic Fuller Lodge # 515, Hebron, Mississippi. And thanks to all who donated. Submitted



Thousands attend Bethlehem Community Church's patriotic bash

Submitted

On Sunday, July 3, over 6,000 people converged on the Sharon Community to celebrate America at Bethlehem Community Church's Independence Day Celebration. The free event consisted of concerts featuring gospel group Phillips, Craig and Dean; Country-gospel band Diamond Rio; and Duck Dynasty star Si Robertson. The celebration culminated with a large firework display.

"We wanted to host a free, fun, family event for our community," explained Bethlehem pastor Jamie Altman, "with one goal in mind, to reach people for the Lord and spread the Gospel."

Altman explained that events like this and other activities the church provides is

to make an impact in the community. "I stress to our people that we want to be a place our community looks to," he said. "If something happened and we closed our doors, we want the community to miss."

Altman said it was important to him that this event and other events Bethlehem hosts remain to be free to the community.

"I don't want to charge for people to hear the Gospel," he said. "If we can't fund it as a church, I don't want to do it."

Their next planned event will be a Fall Festival in October with rides, inflatables, a rock climbing wall, food and snow cones, and it is all free of charge. Bethlehem Community Church is located at 849 Lake Como Rd in Laurel.



Thousands turned out for Bethlehem Community Church's Independence Day Celebration.

Hendersons place first and second in 4-H Forestry Judging



Bo Henderson, son of Ray and Jennifer Henderson, placed 2nd as an individual in Senior 4-H Forestry Judging at MS State 4-H Congress. This competition includes tree identification, tree measurement, forest insect and disease identification and general forestry knowledge. On June 16, Bo accepted a scholarship from Ken James, president of the Wayne County Forestry Association to help Bo represent MS and Wayne County at the National 4-H Forestry Competition in West Virginia. Pictured: Ray Henderson, Bo Henderson and Ken James.



Right, Ashlyn Henderson, daughter of Ray and Jennifer Henderson, placed 1st at the Southeast District Project Achievement Day in Forestry Judging. In this competition there is tree identification, tree measurement and general forestry knowledge. Ashlyn Henderson accepting her award from Dr. Glenn Hughes Photos/submitted

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> Woolwine Ford 3080 Hwy 49, Collins (844) 332-1854

Southern Miss women's basketball announces signing of Amber Landing

Submitted

Southern Miss women's basketball coach Joye Lee-McNelis announced Thursday the signing of transfer Amber Landing from the University of Arkansas Little Rock. Landing, a 6-foot-3 forward from Sharon, Miss. saw limited action her freshman year for the Trojans. She appeared in eight games and made one start for the program.

"We are excited to have Amber join our Lady Eagle family," said McNelis. "We recruited Amber out of high school and felt like she could help our program. Amber has good size with length we need to help us inside. She possesses an uncanny ability to block shots. Coach Chatman, our strength coach will become Amber's best friend as he will help her develop strength and enhance her agility."

Landing played high school basketball for five seasons at Madison-Ridgeland Academy as a forward and center. She

is no stranger to success as she won four consecutive Mississippi Division 1 state championships in high school. She received All-State and All-Division honors along with making the All-State Tournament team multiple times. She averaged 13.5 points, eight rebounds and six blocks per game through her junior year.

"Every opportunity gives one an opportunity to grow," said Landing. "I learned much from UALR and I know I will make a giant leap in learning from Coach Mc-Nelis and her staff. I am excited about being close to home so my family can be a part of my college experience. Thanks to Coach McNelis and her staff for allowing me to be apart of The Lady Eagle Family."

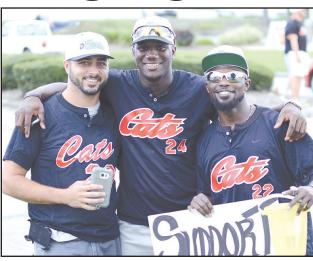
Along with success on the court, Landing excelled in the classroom graduating high school with honors, a 4.17 grade point average, and membership in the National Honor Society. She is a biology major and plans to go to medical school.

Laurel Black Cats ready to play on the big stage

By Zac Chamblee

July 10, the Laurel Black Cats semi-professional baseball team captured their first Magnolia State Tournament Championship. As a result, the team earned a berth into the National Baseball Congress (NBC) Summer World Series in Wichita KS. Making it to that stage, the pinnacle of their level, was the ultimate goal for these play-

"That's what this team has been playing for, for years," Johnathan Tyler Morgan, a 2009 graduate of Forrest County AHS and current Black Cat, said. "And they



(Hattiesburg High C/O 2014) and Steve Tate (Pascagoula) are among the handful of Laurel Black Cats headed to the NBC Summer World Series. Photo/Zac Chamblee

had never got a chance to go. We're gonna take that chance and pull through for them."

Starting July 29, Morgan and company will compete against 31 other squads from all across the country. The odds are undoubtedly going to be stacked against them. Should they be though? From the top to the bottom of this team's roster, you'll find players that either currently or once played at the college level or younger guys that certainly could someday. And the majority of them are from the Pine Belt.

"The Pine Belt has been a very, very good asset in providing me with some good players," Black Cat owner/manager Jody Babineaux said. "We're based in Laurel, but we build off of a lot of Pine Belt towns."

Babineaux took over the team back in 2010. In that span, the Black Cats have beaten teams from all across the Southeastern United States to the tune of 100 wins, a program record.

"We want to win and desire to win," Marcus Hardy, a 2014 graduate of Hattiesburg High School and current Black Cat, said. "They give it their all, and I give it my all."

A lot of their success comes from the closeness and family-like atmosphere they always seem to carry with them. Just ask Drue Carruth, a 2009 graduate of Petal High School. Carruth always recalls one infamous team trip to the coast for a tournament. "When you've got about eight people staying in a two-room hotel, needless to say it's gonna be a bonding experience," Carruth said with a laugh.

The Black Cats are hoping that experience translates to big wins in Wichita. Just going up there is no doubt going to be a fun experience, but the team is treating it like a business

"Every guy on this team can play, so we like to come out here and show what we got every game," Marshall Parrish, a 2015 graduate of Sacred Heart and current Black Cat. concluded. "We're hoping we have a lot of success up there."

Wayne County 4-H Horse Club news

The Wayne County 4-H Horse Club was represented in the 2016 Southeast District 4-H Horse Show that took place June 9-11 at the Lauderdale County Agri-center. Cheyenne James, daughter of Ken and Cindy James, represented Wayne County as our flag bearer for the 2016 Southeast District 4-H Horse Show Parade of Flags Ceremony. She also competed in poles, barrels and stakes, where she qualified for the State 4-H Horse Show.

Mister Harrison Daws son of Forrest Daws represented Wayne County as he competed in the Sr. Western Pleasure, where he placed 2nd in his class and qualified for the State 4-H Horse Show.

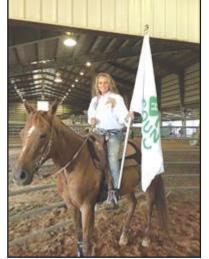
The 2016 State 4-H Horse Show that took

place June 21-25 at the Kirk Fordice Equine Center located in Jackson, MS, here our senior 4-H Horse Judging team of Rebekah Clark, Cheyenne James, Annah Kathrine Kleinpeter and Harrison Daws looked at four halter classes along with four performance classes.

We also had our Wayne County 4-H Horse Club t-shirt and art to advance from the district show to the state show. Daphanie White placed 2nd with "Charm," Emily Scarbrough placed 1st with "Kissing Under the Moonlight," and Annah Kathrine Kleinpeter placed

houette" at the Southeast District 4-H Horse Show. Miss Daphanie White placed 2nd with her acrylic painting titled "Charm" at the State 4-H Horse Show. We would like to congratulate our youth on competing in these events, producing a design for our club t-shirt this year and representing the Wayne County 4-H at the district and state level.

2nd with "Moonlight Sil-







Photos/submitted

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VINCENT, continued from page 1

ing him the opportunity to have a "dream job of a lifetime," but for continuing to be his friend and Friday night Laurel football companion. "As Mayor Magee said, this is one of the nicest facilities in the Southeast," exclaimed Ulmer. "A local team went to San Diego, California, last week to participate in the Major League All Stars. I started getting phone calls from several of the kids saying 'Mr. Ulmer, we really appreciate you. Our facilities are a whole lot nicer than what's out here in San Diego, California."

The Laurel Susan Boone Vincent Sportsplex is a 145-acre complex consisting of eight lighted tennis courts, six regulation soccer fields, six baseball fields, walking and nature trails, tennis pro shop, concession stands, press boxes, a 1.5 acre lake for irrigation, and a natatorium with a 50-meter Olympic sized swimming pool, which Ulmer and his Park and Recreation team take care of year round.

"It was amazing to see the project come together," exclaimed Mullins, who was city attorney during Vincent's 12 years as mayor of Laurel, "beginning with her vision (in 1994) to its fruition with the first ball game being played here in March of 1999."

Mullins outlined the steps that had to be taken to make Vincent's "field of dreams" come true. "The first step was to convince the City Council that it was a project worth pursuing," said Mullins. "The second step she took was to seek the assistance, guid-



Susan Boone Vincent with Laurel Parks and Recreation Director Elvin Ulmer. Photos/Linda Cranford

ance and support of the county supervisors, which wasn't necessary, but she sought that early on. We found out very soon that we had to have local and private legislation to allow this project to happen, which required one hundred percent of the legislators, both in the Senate and the House from this area, to be sponsors of that legislation. This failed in 1995, but in 1996 it was finally approved. The legislation not only authorized the project, but authorized it to be paid with revenue bonds issued by the city and to be paid for by a 2-cent food, beverage, and housing tax. During all this time the 145-acre parcel had to be put together, which was acquired ul-

timately by the city. We were required to get the approval of the United States Justice Department under the Voting Rights Act, and that was done. In 1997, the Mayor had to convince the citizens of Laurel to approve the new tax. Groundbreaking finally began in 1997 and in March of 1999 the first baseball game was played here. Without her vision, wisdom, leadership, integrity, and unyielding tenacity and salesmanship, it never would have happened."

After the unveiling, Vincent thanked everyone for coming and recognized the council members of the 1996 Laurel Sportsplex Initiative – David Ratcliff, Jones Brogdon,



Laurel Sportsplex now named The Laurel Susan Boone Vincent Sportsplex in honor of the former Laurel Mayor, whose vision for the Sportsplex began in 1994.

Manuel Jones, H. Gordon Myrick, Charles Bailey, Lula Cooley and Melvin Mack.

"I would like to thank Mayor Magee and the present City Council for enlarging our field of dreams," exclaimed Vincent. "We're going to have an eightplex softball complex here that will hopefully get started in a few months."

Vincent concluded the ceremony by taking the time to recognize her visionary partner, Randy Meadors, who loved Laurel and the Sportsplex just about as much as Vincent, and who worked with Neel-Shaffer until his death.

Southern Miss fan feature: Roger Cameron

Submitted

The strength of The University of Southern Mississippi's foundation is not found in its facilities nor the picturesque campus. Make no mistake, these facets are important and vital to the university. However, the true strength of the university comes from the incredible people who unite to create the tightknit family atmosphere that is unique to Golden Eagle Nation. The family attitude is unique and corroborated time and time again by the fans, students and student-athletes. The foundation of this family is built upon passionate people who have loved the university for decades. Roger Cameron is one of these important patriarchal members of the family who have sustained it for years. The key to the success of Southern Miss are people like Roger who came, invested, supported and continue to be

Born in Quitman, Mississippi, Cameron was the son of a Methodist minister which meant that his family moved frequently during his childhood. Over the years, they lived in Leaksville, Laurel, Glendale, Pike County, Utica, Raleigh and Hazlehurst. It was in Hazlehurst where Roger finished high school and met his lovely wife, Patricia.

After graduating high school, Roger studied at Copiah-Lincoln Community College from 1961-62. Originally, Southern Miss was not on his radar going into junior college. He knew he wanted to go into education and looked into the department at Mississippi State. However, some of his friends were going to USM and he agreed to visit campus. After visiting campus, Roger decided to join his friends in Hattiesburg to be closer to home. It was from that moment forward that his love for Southern Miss grew and he graduated from the university in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in education before earning a master's degree in 1967.

Throughout his life, Roger's career has varied from sales to architecture to education. He taught at Prentiss High School for four years and later spent time working for the state. For much of his adult life, Roger lived in the Jackson area working in business-to-business sales including 23 years selling medical equipment to hospitals. During those years, he raised a family while ardently supporting the Golden Eagles. Each weekend he and his family drove



Southern Miss fan, Roger Cameron and family

Photo/submitted

to Hattiesburg wearing their black and gold to support their beloved university for game days at The Rock.

Roger commented on game days at The Rock by saying, "I enjoy seeing friends I haven't seen in years. I enjoy seeing all the people getting out to support the team."

Across five decades of Golden Eagle football, Roger has seen several of the greatest moments in Southern Miss history. He watched the team climb to new heights with Reggie Collier and Sammy Winder. He watched the meteoric rise of Brett Favre in the late 1980s. He enjoyed the consistency of the Bower era with the impressive bowl streak and watching his Golden Eagles become dangerous giant killers throughout the 1990s. Given all of the teams and players throughout the years, Roger could only narrow down his favorite games and players to series and lists. Some of his favorite players are Sammie Winder, Cedric Scott and Adalius Thomas. His favorite series against an opponent were the unforgettable Louisville games in the late '80s and '90s. But the game that stood out the most from Cameron's 50 years of fandom was the Florida State game in 1989. With 20 seconds remaining in a tight game, Brett Favre added to his incredible legacy by throwing the game-winning touchdown pass that took down the Seminoles. Looking back, Roger commented on the '89 team saying, "We had two excellent running backs (Rickey Bradley and Tony Smith) that gave them trouble. We really had top

quality players on the field."

Throughout his lifetime, Roger has

been one of the most faithful fans for the Golden Eagles. He traveled from Jackson to home games for over 20 years and made his way to road games. To Roger, being at every game regardless of the opponent or season record is the essence of being a fan. He elaborated by adding, "It's important to show support - we have excellent players, coaches, and staff, and it is important to support them. I can't settle for just tailgating, and not actually attending the game"

Roger is excited about the 2016 season. He knew Coach Jay Hopson from his previous stints at Southern Miss as an assistant and raves about his abilities. Roger reiterated the importance of supporting the team by saying, "We need people to get out and support us. We have a new coaching staff, but our system and personnel are pretty much the same. You never know what will happen, but we just have to play. You play who you play and you beat who you beat."

Roger and his wife Patricia have two grown children, Daniel and Anne, who live in Hattiesburg with their families. Roger's grandson Hayden Chapman is a senior at Southern Miss and a member of ROTC. After graduation in the spring, the parents, kids, and grandchild will all be Southern Miss alumni. Love for Southern Miss runs deep in this family and Golden Eagle Nation is thankful for them. Roger Cameron has been the epitome of a devoted fan and we look forward to having him, and all of the Cameron family, join the rest of Golden Eagle Nation at The Rock this

Help plants survive sizzling summer heat

Submitted

Many people consider summer the most enjoyable time of year, as the summer sun and warm breezes make the season perfect for rest and relaxation. But the months of June, July and August, which are often characterized by rising temperatures and stifling humidity, can be tough to endure as well.

When summer heat becomes especially uncomfortable, humans can simply head indoors and beat the heat in air conditioned buildings and homes. Plant life is not so lucky, and homeowners may need to take steps to help the plant life on their properties survive the summer heat.

- Monitor soil moisture. Soil moisture, or a lack thereof, can help homeowners determine if their plants are struggling to survive the heat. To check soil moisture levels, use a ruler or even your finger, sticking either two inches into the ground where you suspect the soil is drying out. If the soil is damp two inches below the surface, then your plants are likely retaining enough moisture to withstand the heat. If the soil is dry two inches below, then you may want to give the soil a deep soak.
- Keep an eye on container gardens. Containers may have an especially difficult time staying moist in the summer heat. That's particularly true for containers that sit in direct sunlight. Water container gardens daily during summer heat waves, being sure to adhere to any local water restrictions.
- Lay down mulch. Mulch helps insulate and protect soil during summer, when soil can quickly dry out. When applied correctly (ideally before summer temperatures get too hot), mulch helps the soil conserve moisture and prevents weed growth. Weeds can rob soil of the water it needs to promote strong root systems, which can help plants get the nutrients they need to withstand summer heat. Mulched soils also do not experience the fluctuations in temperature that non-mulched soils can experience during summer heat waves, helping plants to grow evenly.
- Move plants when possible. Plant location can affect their chances of surviving summer heat. Driveways lined with flowers or other plants may look nice, but driveways exposed to the sun can radiate heat at temperatures that exceed the temperatures noted on the thermometer. If possible, move plants to locations on your property that are less exposed to the heat and/or less likely to be affected by the heat. Move container plants beneath trees on hot days, and consider summer heat waves before planting new flower beds.

 Summer heat can be especially harmful to plant life.

But homeowners can employ various strategies to protect the plant life on their properties when temperatures rise during the dog days of summer.