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Ellisville honors Citizen of the Year...page 2

AEE Where are they now:
Johna Ellzey Hill...page 2

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Jones County 4-H/FFA Jr. livestock show and sale

By Linda Cranford

Last year's Reserve Champion European Steer, owned by Ann Rileigh Holder, weighed 1,185 pounds and sold for \$2.25 per pound. The Jones County 4-H/FFA Jr. Livestock Association will host their annual show and

sale this weekend, Friday, January 13, and Saturday, January 14, at the South Mississippi Fairgrounds Magnolia Center and Conliff Show Barn in Laurel. The Market Animals show will be held during the day on Friday with cattle weigh in between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and the show beginning

around 1:30 p.m. inside the Magnolia Center. The Market Animal Goat/Swine show will begin around 10 a.m. on Saturday, with weigh-in between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. The Market Sale will be held Saturday night beginning at 6 p.m. in the Conliff Show Barn behind the Magnolia Center. The Welcome Meal and Buyer Registration will be held from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. in the Magnolia Center.

Over 50 youth, age 8 to 18, will participate in the 4-H/FFA Jr. Livestock Show and Sale to see how their past months of hard work and dedication will pay off. These youth depend on the support of local individuals and businesses that participate in the sale or offer donations to help them offset the expenses involved in working with their animals, and/or help them fund the

following year's project. Anyone interested in supporting these youth may contact Kim Hancock at the Jones County MSU Extension Office in Laurel by calling 601-428-5201.

2017 Jones County 4-H/FFA Livestock Exhibitors include: Rowdy Anderson, Rustin Anderson, Landen Barham, Annalyn Bradshaw, Jacob Broome, Gabe Campo, Coley Clark, Emily Clark, Kade Cotton, Karley Cotton, John Dobson, Leah Dobson, Zach Eldridge, Colby Ellzey, Colleen Ellzey, Brianna Fenton, Tanner Fenton, Cynsleigh Gatlin, Amanda Grice, Jacob Hancock, Sarah Hancock, Grace Harrison, John Harrison, Matthew Harrison, Ann Rileigh Holder, Megan Hudson, Anna Claire Owen,

See LIVESTOCK SHOW, page 2



Jr Livestock Market Ann Rileigh Holder. Photo/Linda Cranford

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Classified Index

Apartments for Rent	9
Appliances	6
Attorneys	3
ATVs	10
Auctions	7
Auto Parts	9
Autos - Cars	9
Autos - Classic	9
Autos - SUVs	9
Autos - Trucks	9
Buildings	7
Business Opportunities	6
Carports	10
Commercial	9
Estate Sale	6
Farm	3
Firewood	6
Fish	7
Furniture	6
General	3
Handyman	6
Help Wanted	10
Houses for Rent	8
Houses for Sale	8
Insurance	7
Land	3
Lost and Found	6
Massage	6
Mobile Home for Rent	8
Mobile Home Lots	8
Mobile Homes	7
Musical	6
Pets	6
Portable Buildings	7
Services Offered	6
Sporting Goods	3
Timber and Lumber	7
Wanted to Buy	7

ELLISVILLE HONORS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - The City of Ellisville honored the public works and first responders of the year along with the Citizen of the Year at the Mayor's annual Christmas lunch held Dec. 22. Pictured with Mayor Tim Waldrup is Officer of the Year, Scott Wuertz, Fire-fighter of the Year Ronnie Haigler and Public Works Employee of the Year Felix Thomas. Pictured with Mayor Waldrup is City Attorney and Ellisville Citizen of the Year Freida Collins.

Photos/submitted



AEE Where are they now: Johna Ellzey Hill

Submitted

The Association for Excellence in Education "Where Are They Now" features former Mississippi Scholars/Tech Master Scholars on what they are doing since graduating from high school. AEE recognizes these former students and updates the public on what they have accomplished.



Johna Ellzey Hill is a 2010 graduate of South Jones High School, where she was an honor graduate and a Mississippi Scholar. She attended Jones County Junior College, where she received her associate's degree in 2012 and received her bachelor degree in biology from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2014. Johna recently received her master's degree in secondary education from Southern Miss in 2016. Johna is now teaching Biology I and Human Anatomy and Physiology at her Alma mater of South Jones. She and her husband, Forest Hill, live in Ellisville.

LIVESTOCK SHOW, continued from page 1

Jacob Owen, Tyler Owen, Cole Knotts, Madalyn Lack, Briana Middleton, Lindsey Middleton, Adison Mauldin, Jamie Mayo, Reed McKay, Charity Miller, Brooke Moore, Gus Murry, Kendall Myrick, Bailey Parker, Britlyn Phillips, Todd Rogers, Bobby Shipp, Lanie Shows, Will Show, Anna Grace Todd, Maggie Claire Todd, Noah Tolbert, Jacob Watson, Chaz Welborn, Opal Welborn, Preston Welch, Hope White, Emma Williams, Jacob Williams, Lara Beth Wright.

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GENERAL

People with Disabilities Take Part in Study- Compensation. The University of Southern Mississippi is currently conducting a study examining mental health-related outcomes in individuals with various physical disabilities. Participants will be asked to answer questions about different aspects of their disabilities, beliefs, and mental and physical health. Accessibility software and equipment will be provided so that individuals with various forms of physical disabilities can use our laptop computers. Participants needing an American Sign Language Interpreter will be provided one by study staff. Financial compensation in the form of \$45 Amazon gift cards will be provided. Participation in the study will take place at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. For more information about this study, or if you are interested in participating, please contact us at 214-236-6106 or usm.disability.study@gmail.com

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PB145

January 12
The West Jones Football athletic banquet will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Life Church, Laurel, on Hwy 84 west. Tickets are \$20 per person. Tickets are available at West Jones High School Office or you can contact Mike Smith at 601-433-8012.

January 14
Gospel sing on Saturday beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Sanford Community Center, located at 663 Old Highway 49, Sanford. Featured guest will be "The Floyds," "The Trustys of Da Va Crossing," and "Faithway Singers." Free admission; a love offering will be received. For information call 601-765-6485.

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from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at "The Gathering Place," 3227 Audubon Dr. in Laurel. God has given Sandra a word just for you! Amanda Jones will lead worship. Bring your friends and come expecting your miracle! There are no admission costs! For more information, call 1-800-579-7350 or see our webpage at www.sandrahancock.org.

January 16
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Breakfast will be held at the Heidelberg Multi-Purpose Building, Heidelberg, at 8:00 a.m. Dr. Samuel Jones from Richton will be the speaker. Admission is free.

January 17
There will be a three-night revival beginning on January 17 thru 19 starting at 7:00 nightly at the Danny Hinton Community Center, 225 Tatum Road, Hattiesburg. The guest speaker will be Elder Anthony Toney of Birmingham AL. Come and hear a powerful word from God. The theme is "All Things are Become New," IICorinthians 5:17. Everyone is invited to attend these services.

January 23
Jones County Junior College baseball will host a Hitting Camp for players in grades 7-12 from Jan. 23-26 at Community Bank Park. The camp will be from 6-7:15 each evening. Camp cost is \$100 per player with the camp limited to the first 40 players that register. Each night, campers will get hitting instructions from current JCJC players and coaches. Three of the four days will be hitting on the field, while the other night will be done in the cages. Go to jcjcatletics.com, click on "Baseball" and click on "Hitting Camp." Fill out the registration form and medical waiver and send along with a check payable to Bobcat Dugout Club to: Chris Kirtland, Head Baseball Coach, Jones County Junior College, 900 South Court St., Ellisville, MS 39437. For more information, contact assistant coach Zach Allen at zachery.allen@jcjc.edu or 228-990-3729.

January 28
The Women's Ministry of Pleasant Grove Moss is inviting you and your church family to our Prayer Breakfast beginning at 8:00 a.m. We are asking for a \$5 donation. A full course breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m.

January 29
Gospel Sing – Glade Baptist Church, located on Hwy. 15 South, will have a gospel sing on Sunday night starting at 6:00 p.m. The featured group will be the Magnolia Boys Quartet of Laurel. Everyone is invited to attend for a night of gospel music.

February 18
The Jasper County Adult Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Bay Springs & Vicinity will host our 15th Annual Beauty & Beau Pageant Saturday, February 18, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. The pageant will be held at the Jones County Junior College Building on Highway 15 North of Bay Springs. If you would like to participate in this pageant please contact the following committee members: President Linda Ellis Brown @ (601) 789-5058, Chair Phyllis Norris @ (601) 789-5471, Co-Chair Addie Burks Gammage @ (601) 789-5564 or Dyann Mizell @ (601) 729-8231. More information will be made available later.

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

Al-Anon meetings are held each Monday night at 7:00 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., in the Magnolia Baptist Church fellowship hall, 1040 Wansley Road in Laurel. For more information, call or text 601-323-0830 or 601-319-6931.

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

The corporate lie that is dooming the American cattleman

By David Barron

Cattle production in Mississippi is down. Farmers across Mississippi are finding fewer and fewer viable markets for their cattle because multi-conglomerate corporations have taken control of the industry from the inside out. Large corporations operating from corporate offices outside the USA have literally bought out the industry. Because of the purchasing power of the mega-dollar corporations, local, regional, and even national cattle producers no longer exist. The big conglomerates own the feedlots, the slaughterhouses, and the processing, packaging, and distribution facilities associated with the industry. Since what amounts to a monopoly has been bought and paid for by the large multi-national corporate entities in the meat industry, those same corporations can also control how much beef it buys from the farmer and more importantly, what it will pay for beef produced in the USA.

Not since the government broke up AT&T, calling it a monopoly, has one group more dominated an industry than does the cattle conglomerates of today. So dominant is the influence of these industries, all of them owned by foreign companies, that even government officials are afraid to challenge them. For example, even though Mississippi cattlemen went to Washington, DC, to meet with representatives in both the US Congress and US Senate, and secured from each of Mississippi's legislators a promise to push back against the multi-nationals and support legislation that would curtail the influence of these foreign owned beef conglomerates, when it came time to vote, every one of them voted against Mississippi farmers and for the conglomerate.

But in addition to a lack of support from our elected officials for our cattle farmers in Mississippi, the most damaging "stab in the back" to Mississippi cattle farmers came from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association or (NCBA), a group origi-

nally founded in support of cattle farmers, when the organization sided with the multi-nationals and backed a repeal of the 2013 law that would require beef producers to label country of origin labeling, or (COOL). The Cattlemen's Association defends its position by saying that in order to keep a balance trade environment for US cattle product exports, it had no choice but to back the repeal.

The fears of US exports being cut, if not destroyed, prompted the NCBA to 'cave' to World Trade Organization demands that the 'COOL' be repealed. The WTO threatened tariffs on US exports and won its case in court claiming anti-trust on the part of U.S. cattle producers. In short, what the courts and virtually all of our elected officials have determined is that the public has no legal, moral, or ethical right to know where its food comes from.

While the NCBA says it has no evidence that the public is even the least bit concerned about where its meat comes from, it is only fair to ask if the public has been made fully aware of fact that the average consumer has no way of knowing from where the food on their tables comes from. I mean, if you don't know fire ants actually exist, you are not likely to be very concerned about those red mounds of dirt that pop up in your yard every spring, at least not until your two-year old decides to play in one of them. So, when families start coming down with strange illnesses, such as e-coli, listeria, and botulism it gets blamed on local restaurants and food stores all of which have no way of knowing what practices for producing the products have actually been used.

It is hard to imagine that, given the educated choice, the consumer would not choose U.S. produced beef products over foreign raised product. I think it is also fair to assume that the WTO also knows the U.S. consumer will, given the choice, pick U.S. produced beef over foreign product because it has resorted to the courts and

threats of tariffs to gain an advantage in the U.S. marketplace. If in fact, the consumer is not concerned about where its beef comes from, why is all the extra effort being exerted to stop COOL.

But the issue of whether the repeal of COOL has had any direct impact upon meat prices and actual returns on the investments made by U.S. beef farmers is being debated as we speak. The NCBA says COOL has had no impact and that the reasons cattle producers in the U.S. are feeling the pinch is because of superficially inflated prices two years ago and now the market is correcting those inflated prices. But farmers themselves say COOL has cut into market shelf space U.S. products are getting at the point of sale.

"It stands to reason that if more meat is coming in from outside the U.S and is being processed for marketing in the U.S. the home grown product is going to be affected," Fred Stokes, former president and founder of the Organization for Competitive Marketing (OCM), a farmer support organization, said.

In fact, the NCBA says that the number of cattle in the U.S. is at its highest level in 20-years. The organization says cattle growers are stockpiling its herds and the increased levels of cattle in the U.S. have created a glut in protein reserves within the country. But what has come to light in the past few weeks is in direct contradiction to the claims by NCBA.

It has been reported by a number of news outlets that Canadian cattlemen are sending their cattle into the U.S in record numbers because of a tuberculosis epidemic that is sweeping its herds in Canada. Some of these cattle, the most severely affected ones at least, are taken directly to slaughter, but the ones with a less severe case of TB are placed into existing stockpile of U.S. beef reserves where they be treated. Once these cattle are place within U.S. beef reserves they become part of the total U.S. beef reserve totals. In other

words, if the Canadian cattle are not sent to slaughter, they are counted as U.S. raised beef, not as foreign raised beef. Since there is no law requiring COOL, nobody knows how many foreign cattle have been pumped into the U.S. beef supply, but the end results are exactly what NCBA says, a cattle glut among U.S. cattle.

"The NCBA is lying," Stokes said. "The actual numbers of cattle produced in the U.S. is way down over what it was the past two years. Because of the deceptive practices by conglomerates and complicity of NCBA, they can claim U.S. beef is overstocked," he continued.

Ron James, manager of the Lauderdale Cooperative in Meridian, Mississippi, says Stokes is correct.

"I can tell you beef production in Mississippi is way down. We are not selling today to cattle farmers what we were selling two years ago. That is because there are fewer of them in business. In fact, the decline in the industry has affected a lot of other industries as well. The grain growers, the feed mills, truckers, veterinarians, and every other business that supports cattle farmers are suffering right now, and many of them, especially the feed mills, have gone out of business completely," James said. "In fact, if we had not diversified and become pretty much a hardware store rather than an animal supply store, we would not have survived. There are less than ten co-op stores in Mississippi right now when there used to be more than a hundred. They have all gone out of business."

The real evidence of where the cattle industry is at this point may not be overtly evident from government agency statistics, manipulated herd counts and political posturing, but it can most certainly be found in the empty pastures, barns and feed lots scattered all across Mississippi, and it can be tangibly felt by the diminishing support businesses struggling to stay alive in an industry that once allowed them to flourish.

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Continued on ... Page 8

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Sideline View: Miranda Black honored with Southern League award

By Dale McKee

Ole Miss, MSU and USM won basketball games on the same day for the first time in a long time this past Saturday. Ole Miss and MSU won SEC road games while USM won their second straight home game. Ole Miss (10-5, 1-2) held off Auburn, 88-85. It was the Rebels' ninth straight win over Auburn as six Rebels hit in double figures. MSU (10-4, 1-1) scored their most points in an SEC road game since 1963 as they whipped LSU, 95-78. USM won over Texas-El Paso, 73-65, to move to 2-1 in C-USA play and 5-10 overall. UTEP, coached by Hattiesburg native and former Chicago Bulls head coach Tim Floyd, has never won in seven games at Reed Green. His father, Lee, won 246 games as Mississippi Southern College head coach.



The Mississippi State Lady Bulldogs improved to 3-0 in SEC play and 17-0 overall with their first win in 16 tries at Tennessee Sunday. The No. 4 Lady Bulldogs won, 74-64. MSU was 0-36 against Tennessee until last year, and since the Lady Bulldogs are 3-0 against the Lady Vols. State, Connecticut and Virginia Tech are the only three remaining undefeated Division 1 teams.

Road to the Super Bowl

The final eight teams in the NFL playoffs have all played against each other this year. The last time that happened was six years ago. This weekend's games are Green Bay at Dallas and Se-

See MCKEE, page 11

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MCKEE, continued from page 10

attle at Atlanta in the NFC. In the AFC, Houston goes to New England and Pittsburgh is at Kansas City. The Dallas Cowboys will host Green Bay in a rematch of a week six game won by the Cowboys, 30-16, in Green Bay. Seattle will visit Atlanta for the second time this season. The Seahawks edged the Falcons, 26-24, also in a week six regular season game. In the AFC, New England will host Houston, a team they shut out, 27-0, in week three at home. The Steelers won over Kansas City, 43-14, in week four at home but will have to go to Arrowhead this time.

The New Orleans Saints made the news this week as head coach Sean Payton fired five of his assistant coaches. Payton let Joe Vitt, Greg McMahon, Stan Kwan, James Willis and Bill Johnson go. Vitt and McMahon have been with Payton since his arrival in New Orleans in 2006.

Dak up for Rookie of the Year, Black honored

Dak Prescott of the Dallas Cowboys is one of the five finalists for NFL Rookie of the Year. Prescott passed for 3,667 yards and 29 touchdowns in leading the Cowboys to an NFC best 13-3 record. The other finalists are Joey Bosa, Ezekiel Elliott, Deion Jones and Carson Wentz. You can vote for Dak on-line at <http://www.nfl.com/voting/rookies/2016/YEAR/0>.

Clinton's Cam Akers won another major award as he was named the U.S. Army Player of the Year. The award is given annually to the nation's most outstanding high school senior football player and is the most prestigious individual award given in high school football. Akers, a December graduate, will attend Florida State in the coming weeks. He scored 149 high school touchdowns and gained over 13,000 yards in his prep career.

Ellisville's own Miranda Black was honored as the 2016 Southern League Woman of Excellence Award. Black is the Director of Tickets and Communications for the Mississippi Braves. Black is an honor graduate of USM and is also a graduate of JCJC and South Jones.

Play Ball

Seattle has traded former Ole Miss Rebel outfielder Seth Smith to Baltimore this past week. Smith will play for his fifth team in his 11-year MLB career. Speaking of baseball, William Carey will host their annual WCU Invitational Tournament on Feb. 3. Shawnee State, Cumberland and Missouri Baptist will also take part in the three-day tourney.

Contact Dale at ddmckee18@yahoo.com

A Shepherd's Heart – Ambassadors for Christ

Dr. Timothy L. Hubbard

It's Mulligan Time! "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." – 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

I am not much of a golfer. I do enjoy trying to play occasionally, but I must admit I don't take the game too seriously. That may be because I tend to hit the "Big Ball" (the earth) more than I do the little white ball. At least that's my friend Randy's analogy of my game. Thanks, Bud! Anyway, there is one thing about the game of golf that I like. That is the concept of the mulligan. The mulligan is the "second chance" or "do-over" that you get after a poor tee shot. The mulligan is a type of forgiveness in that you get a chance to have a brand new start without penalty. Forgiveness without penalty is not a new concept by the way.

Jesus made that offer to you and to me when He willing gave His life on the cross of Calvary. Listen to Paul's description of this exchange to the church at Corinth: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold the new has come. All this is from God,



who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (ESV)

It is evident to me that Paul was describing for us this reality of what new life in Christ is all about. First, Paul states clearly that this new life – "mulligan" if you will – is from God and God alone. Secondly, he states that not only is this God's plan but it can only be received in God's way . . . through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. Paul then states that this new life is lived out as a relationship, and with relationship comes responsibility. That relationship Paul describes here is that of being ambassadors for Christ. Just as Paul, being an ambassador for Christ implored them to be reconciled, we too have the same responsibility: to implore others to respond to the great gift of life both eternal and abundant that is offered through Christ. May this year, 2017, be a year that we as ambassadors of Christ are faithful to the ministry of reconciliation so that His kingdom will grow to the honor and glory of the only One who is worthy!

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How to manage time more effectively

Submitted

Hectic schedules can make managing time seem like a riddle wrapped inside an enigma. Many people feel there are not enough hours in the day. But busy men and women need not look for extra hours in the day to manage their time more effectively.

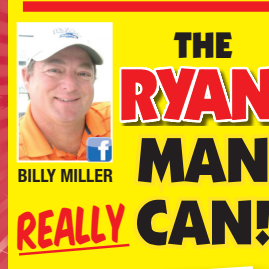
- Examine your existing time management. Before creating strategies for changing the way you manage your time, you first need to understand how you are currently spending it. Jot down what you do during an average week. Include how long you spend conversing, when you start working, how often you check your email, etc. Analyze this time in an effort to determine how much of it is being spent doing something productive and how much is getting in the way of getting things done.
- Complete crucial tasks first. Figure out which of your daily tasks are most important and take care of those first before moving on to less important tasks. This can reduce stress and make you feel more confident that you can accomplish the smaller tasks.
- Write things down. It's easy to feel overwhelmed when there are many things swimming around in your head. Put your to-do list on paper. Seeing it in black and white can help you separate the important tasks from other things that can be put off for the time being or delegated to someone else. If necessary, use a day planner or set notifications on your smartphone.
- Turn off email notifications. Email notifications can be very distracting when you are trying to get work done. Turn these off so you can concentrate more on



the tasks at hand.

- Recharge with downtime. Physical and mental fatigue can contribute to procrastination. Plan periodic breaks throughout your day. These breaks can help you be more productive by reenergizing you.
- Avoid instant access. Schedule a time to return phone calls and instant messages rather than thinking you need to reply right away. Some notes may require immediate attention, but many likely do not.
- Block out distractions. Turn off your television and phone and steer clear of social media while trying to get things done. Come back to them later when you've completed your tasks.
- Be flexible. What works for another person may not work for you. Therefore, try a variety of strategies to get a better handle on time management until you discover one that works best for you.

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