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Helping both hands at the Glory House...page 2

6th annual Magnolia State Bank Chili Cook Off...page 12

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Scruggs named LJA 2017 Humanitarian of the Year

By Linda Cranford

Friday night, February 10, the ladies of the Laurel Junior Auxiliary named Angie Scruggs as the recipient of the 2017 Humanitarian of the Year Award. The announcement was made during LJA's annual fundraising event, entitled this year, "Monte Carlo Masquerade." Each year the active members of the organization select a person from the community to honor as Humanitarian of the Year. Nominations for this award are made by Active, Associate, and Life Members of the Junior Auxiliary. The person honored is one that emulates the spirit of the organization by working tirelessly and unselfishly on behalf of the children, youth, and families of Laurel and Jones County.

The identity of the chosen individual is kept a secret until the announcement is

Before realizing she was the recipient of the award, Angie Scruggs was doing what she's always doing - taking pictures.

Photo/Linda Cranford



made at the event. Prior to Scruggs' announcement she was seen doing what she always does, flitting around making sure everything was being handled, and taking pictures. Finnee Ruffin read the recipient's biography, and the moment she said, "While attending Fayette County High School..." Scruggs knew she was talking about her. Scruggs' mouth flew open in disbelief and the tears began to flow.

Angie and her husband Robby are an entrepreneurial duo who owns several businesses

See SCRUGGS, page 11

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Classified Index

- Apartments for Rent 8
- Appliances 7
- Attorneys 3
- ATVs 10
- Auctions 7
- Autos - Cars 9
- Autos - Motorcycles 10
- Autos - SUVs 10
- Autos - Trucks 10
- Buildings 7
- Carpools 10
- Commercial 8
- Construction 7
- Farm 3
- Financial and Loans 7
- Fish 7
- Furniture 6
- General 3
- Handyman 6
- Help Wanted 9
- Houses for Rent 8
- Houses for Sale 8
- Land 3
- Lost and Found 7
- Massage 6
- Mobile Home for Rent 8
- Mobile Home Lots 8
- Mobile Homes 7
- Musical 7
- Pets 7
- Portable Buildings 7
- Services Offered 6
- Sporting Goods 3
- Timber and Lumber 7
- Trailers 3
- Vacation 7
- Wanted to Buy 7

Helping Both Hands at the Glory House

By Linda Cranford

The front lawn of the Glory House was recently filled with volunteers working to ready the historic home for a new coat of paint. The volunteers consisted of friends and family members of Sharee and Kerry Walters. The endeavor is an adoption fundraising project for the Walters who are raising money to adopt their third child from China. The project is similar in idea to that of a Both Hands adoption project where adoption couples hold a fundraiser to fix up a widow's home. The Walters chose to help the Glory House because of the mission work of owners Grant and Hope Staples and their service to the community. The project helps both the Glory House and the Walters. The Walters sent out letters to church members, family, and friends who sent in donations to sponsor the volunteers to do the work.



The Walters family – Sharee and Kerry with 6-year old Elizabeth and 4-year old Eli. Photo/Linda Cranford

The Walters have partnered with Lifesong for Orphans which help couples with the

adoption process and fundraising. "People from my church and people we don't even know helped make this possible," said Sharee. She said Colonial Heights Baptist Church in Jackson gave a matching grant through Lifesong to help with the project. The paint was donated by Sherwin Wil-

liams and lunch was provided by New Sardis Baptist Church in Mize.

"We hope this isn't our last one (child)," said Sharee smiling. "We've always wanted a house full of children, and God opened our hearts to adoption." At present they have two children, 6-year old Elizabeth and 4-year old Eli. At the end of February, the family will travel to China to adopt their third child, Solomon, who is one year old.

The Walters were led to adopt after losing their first child, Faith, who was born with Meningitis, and who died in January of 2011, at the age of four.

"Adoption is such a miracle, from start to finish," exclaimed Sharee. "God seems to hand pick the children for each family. Elizabeth and Eli easily bonded with our family."

The Walters said it cost anywhere from \$30,000 to \$80,000 to adopt. After the Glory House project, they still will need to raise approximately \$13,000. Anyone interested in helping the Walters may contact Sharee at 601-470-5332.

See GLORY HOUSE, page 4

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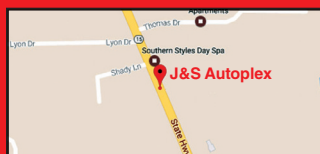
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Continued on ... Page 5

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GLORY HOUSE, continued from page 2

The Staples said in March they will celebrate their one year anniversary in the Glory House. "We've had 47 salvations our first year," exclaimed Grant. "We are feeding close to 250 people each month, and 80 of them are children. We also send home approximately 80 bags of grocery each month."

Not only do the Staples minister to the local community, the Glory House serves as a home for missionaries who have returned to the states and are looking for a temporary place to stay before going back to the mission field. "It's a place for them to renew and refresh," said Grant. "God picked this place."

The Staples and volunteers from the community have worked together to renovate the home, since the couple purchased it in June of 2015. The historic manor, located on 2nd Avenue, was formerly known as the Laurel Inn Bed and Breakfast, which was built by Laurel timber baron, John Murray Bissell.

Shortly after the couple moved back to Laurel in 2013 bringing with them their Sweet Daddy's Kettle Corn business, Hope was led to the driveway of the old house one day. Sitting in the driveway, she looked at the old place, which had been vacant for several years and was all grown up and a mess, and wandered what had happened to the old place. She and Grant had a history with the home. When they worked with Alive Jones County through South Central, they used the Laurel Inn to house guest speakers.

"Delta Burk has stayed here, and so has Vicki Lawrence," explained Hope. "After seeing it that day, it never left my heart. For about six months, I prayed about it and asked God if it was the house or the previous owner that stirred my heart." Obviously it was the house. Grant said the Glory House will turn 100 years old on February 17.

February 15

The Jones County Soil and Water Conservation Districts currently has hardwood trees, fruit trees and shrubs for sale. We will be distributing trees beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center located at 3536 Highway 15 North. Prices range from \$2.00 to \$8.00. Cash or money order only. All proceeds going toward funding for our Information and Education programs. There will be no limit on the number of trees you can get. Trees will be distributed while supplies last, so come early to get a better selection. For more information, contact the Jones County SWCD office at 425-4622 extension 3.

The Wayne County Mississippi Homemaker Volunteers "MHV" Coffee Club is meeting Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for their monthly meeting. After the business meeting the program will be on yarn rugs. The MHV Coffee Club invites any interested adult to join in their meetings on the third Wednesdays of each month. Call Lanette Crocker at 601-735-2243 or email l.crocker@msstate.edu for more information.

Donate blood and you will receive a Mardi Gras themed blood donor T-shirt, while supplies last! Donate at a blood drive in your community: Wednesday, February 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wal-Mart, Hwy 15 in Laurel; Thursday, February 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Laurel City Hall, 401 N 5th Avenue, Laurel; Sunday, February 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bethlehem Community Church Youth Building, 849 Lake Como Road, Laurel; Monday, February 20 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Life Church, 5021 Hwy 84 West, Laurel; Saturday, February 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Springhill Baptist Church, 1403 Dubose, Ellisville. To schedule an appointment to donate, go to www.

SOUTHERN CROSS ANIMAL RESCUE

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Jane

Jane was wandering around downtown Laurel when she was rescued. She was cold and begging to get inside the local businesses. She is a sweet, happy girl, but she decided to ham it up for the camera! Don't let those sad eyes fool you!

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February 16

DJ Transit, Inc. of Laurel, Mississippi, is considering applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division, for assistance through its Rural Area Program to provide public transportation services within Jones County. The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application. The meeting will be held on February 16th from 11 am to 1 pm at the Laurel-Jones County Library Auditorium, 530 Commerce Street, Laurel, MS."

Bethlehem MB Church of Shubuta will be having our Annual Women's Conference on February 15-18. The theme is "Empowered to Help Me." The Thursday and Friday night service will start at 7:30 p.m. and the Saturday morning service from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be dynamic speaker for each service.

Wayne County 4-H, Waynesboro-Wayne County Library, and First State Bank are offering free family movie night featuring "Trolls" starting at 6:00 p.m. Please make plans now to attend as seating is limited. Movie nights for 2017 will be on the third Thursday of each month.

February 18

Laurel Shrine club will hold its annual Draw Down with activities starting at 6:00 p.m. Come and enjoy food, dancing and prizes. Dance music by "Matt Foster, DJ-Karaoke. For more information and tickets contact any Shriner or call 601-433-2282 or 601-649-5479.

Moselle Memorial Baptist Church will have our men's 10th Annual Wild Game Supper on Saturday. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. with the meal served at 5:00 p.m. Admission and Catfish meal are free. There will be a silent auction and lots of door prizes. The speaker will be Merle Temple. For more info call 601-606-0500.

Nationally known speaker David Ring will be speaking at 6:00 p.m. in Moselle. The service will focus on how to emerge victorious rather than victimized in the face of insurmountable odds. Contact Gary Edwards at 601-270-3024 or the church at 601-583-3905 for more information.

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.

Springhill MB Church, Ellisville, invites you to our Prayer Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Reverend Kevin Woodard will be the speaker for this occasion. Please contact the church office at 601-477-8463 to sign up for this prayer breakfast. This

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prayer breakfast is open to the general public.

February 19

You are cordially invited to worship with the Mission Society of Christian Valley MB Church program: "Ladies in Red", at 3:00 p.m. The speaker for this event will be our very own Pastor James E. McLaurin. For more information call 601-428-7837.

New Beaver Meadow Baptist Church invites you to attend our Family and Friends Day program on at 11:00 a.m. The speaker for this event will be Rev. Reginald Varnado, pastor of Pleasant Valley MB Church from New Orleans, along with his church family.

St. John Baptist Church will be celebrating Pastor George Dawson and Lady Melinda Dawson's first year anniversary on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Please join us for this celebration.

Mt. Moriah MB Church invites everyone to attend our annual Brotherhood program at 1:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Marzell McGill of Providence Baptist Church, Collins, MS.

February 20

Are you interested in learning to crochet or would you like to dust off your crochet skills? We will hold a Crochet Basics series of four classes at the Extension office, Waynesboro, on February 20, February 22, February 27, and March 1 (each day at 10:00 a.m.). Limited to 10 for the class. Call Lanette Crocker at 601-735-2243 or email l.crocker@msstate.edu to register.

February 23

The North Hoy Neighborhood Watch will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Shady Grove Community Center on County Barn Road in Laurel. Anyone in the area is invited to attend.

February 24

Jones County Junior College will hold walk-on football tryouts on Feb. 24 and March 3 at Bobcat Stadium/Sim Cooley Field. Registration will be from 9:30-10 a.m. on each day. Participation fee is \$10, cash or check only. Interested players must be a high school senior or a college student with remaining junior college eligibility. Participants must bring cleats and a copy of your current physical. For more information, contact 601-477-1158.

February 25

"Brian Free & Assurance" will be in concert at Trinity Baptist Church, Laurel, Hwy 15 N in the Shady Grove Community at 6:00 p.m. A love offering will be received. Nursery provided.

The YWCO in downtown Laurel will be hosting a Dinner and Bingo Night from 5-7 p.m. Childcare is available by the Y Teens for \$5 a child. Dinner will be catered by Roderick of Lighthouse Catering. Menu will be balsamic and honey glazed pork tenderloin with apples, loaded potatoes, green bean medley and strawberry shortcake. Tickets are \$20 a person and includes dinner and bingo. Call to make reservations by February 15. 601-426-5694.

Springhill MBC of Ellisville invites you to our church blood drive on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The blood drive will be in the church's fellowship hall. Please contact Health Ministry Chairperson Angela Hales at 601-477-8463 if you have any inquiries.

February 26

Mt. Pleasant MB Church, Soso, invites you to our Annual Choir Day at 3:00 p.m. Our guest choir will be Old Hopewell Choir, Collins; the guest minister will be Rev. Thomas McSwain, pastor of Old Hopewell, Collins, MS.

February 27

Our Sewing Club meets monthly at the MSU Extension Service, Wayne county office. Everyone is invited to learn to sew or brush off your sewing skills. Meeting today at 4:00 p.m. Call Lanette Crocker at 601-735-2243 or email l.crocker@msstate.edu for more information.

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Great Location! Great Community! Newly remodeled country home located on 22 acres in southwest Jones County. Property has road frontage on Old Progress Road and is located within minutes of I-59 and US 49. \$155,405. Call Bennett today 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties, LLC. Or visit our website walleyproperties.com for maps and more information of this listing.

Land? See next Wednesday's Impact or visit walleyproperties.com for several new listings.

24 acres in Runnells town. Lots of mature timber and wildlife. Unbelievable hunting!! May subdivide. Call Shawn with Southern Coastal Realty at 601-408-3570.

+/- 219 Acres priced to Sell Quick! Located on just outside of Topton,

AL, and one hour from Mobile, AL. Has road frontage on CR 19 along with power and water available. Has great secluded House/Camp Site sitting underneath beautiful mature longleaf pines and hardwoods. Dark and Rich Waters of Bilbo Creek runs through the property with Hardwoods make for great wildlife habitat. Has Lake. Has several cleared areas that will make large and plentiful food plots. Has some young pine and some thickets for deer to bed in. This tract truly has it all! Don't miss this one of a kind Hunting/Recreational Tract. Reduced \$306,600. Call McCraw Forest Management 800-526-3961. See more at mfmiland.com

Highlands. Finance a lot, \$1500 down, pay for your lot over 3 years - then use your lot as down payment at your bank. Call: 601-649-9459.

1 acre of land for sale in Jones County, Hoy Community. \$5000. 313-415-8368.

Covington County +/- 74 Acres. New Listing! Located 4 miles from downtown Seminary off hwy 590 on the corner of Shirley Sanford Road and Johnny Sanford Road. This property would be perfect for a home-site with plenty of recreational opportunities. Property consist of

mature pine plantation, gorgeous hardwoods, and a stream that flows throughout the property. Great for hunting. \$244,200. 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 listing.

+/- 60 Acres Located on Holliman Road just West of Richton, this tract consists of +/- 55 acres in 2 year old pine plantation and +/- 5 acres in hardwoods. Has several great house sites. Also has signs of gravel on property. Power and water available. Asking \$150,000. Call Rob McCraw 601-498-9143. See more at mfmiland.com

Land sales: Let us assist you with your land sale or purchase. We provide full service forestry consulting and land brokerage. Call McCraw Forest Management at 601-498-9143

Jones County +/- 57 Acres: Must see! Located in South Jones County on Rainey Road. 10 Miles from Hat-

tsburg 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, Contact Bennett 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties, LLC.. Or visit our website walleyproperties.com for maps and more information of this listing.

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+/- 46 Acres Located on Lower Myrick Road and Mollie Boutwell Rd, this property is made up of Pasture and has 4 Ponds. Perfect place to raise cattle or horses or to build your dream home. Call Rob McCraw 601-498-9143 for more information or to set up an appointment to view this beautiful piece of land!! \$161,000. See more at mfmiland.com

+/- 60 Acres Located on Holliman Road just West of Richton, this tract consists of +/- 55 acres in 2 year old pine plantation and +/- 5 acres in hardwoods. Has several great house sites. Also has signs of gravel on property. Power and water available. Asking \$150,000. Call McCraw Forest Management 601-408-0615. See more at mfmiland.com

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South Jones County +/- 78 acres -minutes from Ellisville. Beautiful home site ,15 acre lake, recently thinned pine plantation. \$296,400 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 listing.

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Continued on ... Page 6

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Bobcat tennis teams excited about season



The 2017 Jones County Junior College Bobcats will play their home opener on Feb. 21 vs. East Central. Kneeling, from left, are Diego Leal (Bucaramanga, Colombia), Jacob Bozeman (Brookhaven), Brandon McCary (Wayne County) and Blake Taylor (Northwest Rankin). Standing, from left, are head coach Brooks Buffington, Taqel Lewis (Castris, St. Lucia), Luke Armstrong (Hartfield Academy), Chase Pennington (Madison-Ridgeland Academy) and Jed Slover (Northeast Jones). Photo/Dre'Anna Gates, JCJC Student Publications



The 2017 Jones County Junior College Lady Bobcats will play their home opener on Feb. 21 vs. East Central. Pictured, from left, are August Parker (Northeast Jones), Kaylee McLaurin, (Laurel Christian School), April Rudolph (Northeast Jones), Beth Owen (Stone), Mattie Mills (South Pontotoc), Brooke Cran (Wayne County), Anastasiia Bukhanova (Nakhodka, Russia) and head coach Brooks Buffington. Photo/Dre'Anna Gates, JCJC Student Publications

Southern Miss, Mississippi State sign home and home baseball series for 2018 and 2019

Submitted

Southern Miss and Mississippi State announced jointly, Wednesday, the signing of a pair of three-game baseball series that will be played at each school's home ballpark. The Golden Eagles will entertain Mississippi State, Feb. 16-18, 2018, at Pete Taylor Park/Hill Denson Field. It will be the Bulldogs first visit for baseball to Hattiesburg since the 2010 campaign. In return, Southern Miss travels to Starkville, Feb. 22-24, 2019, at Dudy Noble Field/Polk-DeMent Stadium. The Golden Eagles have not been to Mississippi State for a baseball game since 2009.

The two schools have played each other once during the regular season each year in Pearl, Miss., at Trustmark Park from 2011 and will play the only scheduled contest between the two schools this season there, March 21. The Golden Eagles open the 2017 season next Friday, Feb. 17, with a 4 p.m., game against Northeastern at Pete Taylor Park/Hill Denson Field. Tickets can be purchased by going online at SouthernMissTickets.com, by calling the Athletic Ticket Office at 1-800-844-TICK (8425) or by visiting the Pat Ferlise Ticket Office weekdays from 8 a.m., until 5 p.m.

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SCRUGGS, continued from page 1

including Scruggs Photography and Studio 550 where the event was being held.

During the announcement Ruffin said, "This year's honoree truly makes the word "compassion" a verb. Her life reflects a pattern of doing small things with great love, exemplified through her work with underprivileged children's programs in Tupelo, the Mental Health Center's Main Stream Program and even sharing her compassion across the ocean on a mission trip to Honduras. She continues to offer her time and talents through service work in numerous organizations including: The Salvation Army, Agape Church, St. John's Day School and Laurel Junior Auxiliary, as a life member."

"When gathering information on this year's recipient, the quotes about her were all essentially the same centering on her unselfish nature," continued Ruffin reading the following quotes, "Her encouragement

and love span to all she meets is evident in her children, that have inherited her love for all mankind, a quest for justice and a belief that each day should be left better than found."

"A sweet and sincere soul who serves her community unconditionally...always with a smile! I cannot think of a more deserving friend to honor."

"She not only is a great example to the community of how to give freely of one's time, she is an extraordinary example to her children and those she serves in the community."

Angie and Robby have two daughters, Emmie and Sadie, and the family attends Agape Church.

Those attending the event enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Marilyn Fuquay, an opportunity to receive some outstanding items in the silent auction, and playful night of casino style gambling fundraiser chips.



Enjoying the evening are L-R Heather Bass, Bryn and Dr. Hoss Nasajpour, and Angela Payne



L-R Judi Holifield, Brad Kent, and Elizabeth Kent.



LJA ladies L-R Kyle White, Mandy Burnette, Amanda Arender, and Erin Pacific.



L-R LJA President Anna Thornton, Angie Scruggs, and Finee Ruffin.



LJA Event Chair Courtney Hill, left, and President Anna Thornton.

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6th annual Magnolia State Bank Chili Cook Off Photos/Linda Cranford



Saturday, February 11, Central Avenue in downtown Laurel was filled with folks from all around tasting some of the best chili in the South during the 6th annual Magnolia State Bank Chili Cook Off.



Traditional Chili First Place Winner – Team Red Hot Chili Peppers from Sanderson Farms – left, Drew Cole, Steve Bonasia, Mayor Johnny Magee, Heather Brown with Magnolia State Bank, Brian Schnoekel, and Peter Boehme. The team was awarded \$1,000 and the traveling Chili Pepper Trophy carved by chainsaw artist Dayton Scoggins.



Homestyle Chili First Place Winner – Team Southern Hospitality – left, Billy Nash, Andy, and Petey Barnett with Mayor Johnny Magee and Heather Brown with Magnolia State Bank. The team was awarded \$1,000 and the traveling Chili Pot Trophy.



The United Taste of Chili Team was the People's Choice. They received a Carl Buchanan platter and \$200.



Making their Chili Cook Off debut is Team Sertoma – L-R, Sandy Meadows, Randy Holland, Jerry Terry, and Eric Byrd.



The PDI Chili Crew, participating in their first Chili Cook Off, was honored with the Best Display award and received a Carl Buchanan platter and \$200.

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Meggie Chancellor and Jessica Harris with Team ChiliOnly.com from Central Sunbelt participated in their first Chili Cook Off.

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Jones County readies for future industry

By Chataura Sanders

Once upon a time in the not too distant past, when a community wanted to attract an industry to its area, local leaders simply put together information packets containing all kinds of demographic data and sent them to potential employers. Then the community waited for someone to show interest in the area. After showing interest, it came the time for everyone to figure out where to locate the new facility and to work out infrastructure details.

Just like the fairy tales of old, those days are long gone. In addition to being demographically appealing, communities have had to up their game. Advance site preparation is now the key ingredient to successfully attracting new industry. Today, Certified Project Ready Sites put communities in a better position to compete for highly coveted manufacturing facilities. With this in mind, the leaders of Jones County have jumped feet first into the project ready game with a 446-acre site in Ellisville. Named I-59 South, the site is located three miles from the interstate just east of Highway 11, and has rail service.

"We want to be the premier site in Mississippi for advanced manufacturing," said Ross Tucker, president of the Economic Development Authority of Jones County. "Because of our workforce development assets, site readiness and location, we believe we are primed and ready to provide a great opportunity for the right industry looking for a home."

To point out the importance of having a Certified Project Ready site when trying to attract new industry, Tucker cited a recent national television news segment that put the spotlight on Mississippi. The report on CBS television's "60 Minutes" news magazine featured an episode on Project Ready sites located in The Golden Triangle area of Starkville, Columbus and West Point. In an

interview with "Columbus Magazine," Joe Max Higgins, CEO of the Golden Triangle Development LINK, explained the need to pave the way for industries to move right in. "Without a doubt, our certified megasites and predesignated infrastructure funds have put us on the map," he said. "Shovel-ready property with a funding mechanism says to a prospective industry, 'we're ready and we're committed to make your company successful here.'"

Being a Certified Project Ready site has allowed the 7,000-acre Golden Triangle location to bring in 12 tenants with room for more. After studying Golden Triangle's successful strategy, Jones County is putting a similar plan in place for its community.

"Jones County has always been one step ahead in the Pine Belt when it comes to economic development," Tucker said. "However, other areas of the state and nation have upped their game, so we in Jones County have just upped our game as well."

One of Jones County's partners in this endeavor, Mississippi Power Company, has assisted with Project Ready Sites throughout the state. Brian Useforge, MPC's economic development director, agreed with Tucker saying that communities willing to invest time and resources into making an industrial site ready for occupancy significantly increase their chances of securing new industry.

"Becoming Site Certified is all about gathering key details regarding a property's history and characteristics so that communities can quickly respond to requests for information," Useforge explained. "Competition in economic development today is stronger than ever among communities, and the community that is fully-armed with data and understands the most about the product that it is selling ultimately sees the success."

While not as large as The Golden Triangle, the I-59 South site does offer plenty of

room and amenities for potential employers. It also has widespread support throughout the county.

"It's going to be good for the City of Laurel and for all of Jones County," said Laurel Mayor Johnny Magee. He added that he had heard Ellisville Mayor Tim Waldrup say that economic development has no boundaries when it comes to cities and counties. Magee concurs with Waldrup's assessment. "If economic development happens in Jones County, then it benefits all the citizens of Jones County," Magee added. "That's the bottom line. The city of Laurel is one hundred percent behind the I-59 South site."

Another relic of the past when it comes to getting new businesses to locate in an area is 10-year tax exemptions. Today's financial incentive is known as a "property tax fee in lieu." This incentive is for new or expansion projects in the state. It is a negotiated fee paid in place of the standard property tax levy should the new investment reach a certain threshold.

The State of Mississippi has provided the fee in lieu law since the late 1990s with the arrival of Nissan Manufacturing in Canton. Since that time, large capital investment with higher paying jobs has allowed communities to recoup public infrastructure costs needed in order to secure the project without the need for a tax increase to its citizens. The incentive must be agreed upon

by the local board of supervisors and municipal authorities before it can be awarded. The fee in lieu allows the school districts to get their share of monies, as well as repay the county and municipal governments for any improvements made to the site.

"My interest as an elected official is not only helping our communities to excel today, it is also preparing them for a better future," explained Waldrup. "With that goal in mind, The city of Ellisville is pleased to partner with Jones County and other cities in the implementation of a 'tool' that will prepare us for advanced manufacturing opportunities when they arise."

Nicknamed "Jones Works," this specialized instrument will only be used when a top-notch company wants to locate here, and it will be paid for with a guaranteed revenue stream to service the debt. It is a remarkable advancement that promises to serve our citizens and community well into the future. "With the economic incentives in place, Jones County has also completed all preliminary studies necessary to insure that there are no environmental hitches. All of the environmental studies have been done: wetlands, soil borings, and historical and cultural significance," Tucker said. "Everything has been cleared as ready to go for the I-59 South site."

The city of Ellisville has taken care of the water/sewer lines, while Cooperative

See INDUSTRY, page 16

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INDUSTRY, continued from page 15

Energy, Dixie Electric and Mississippi Power have worked in conjunction to develop blue prints to bring big electricity to the site.

“(Tucker) and his team at the Jones County EDA, along with many others, have worked extremely hard to reach the Project Ready Certification,” said Randy Smith, general manager of Dixie Electric Power Association. “Dixie Electric and Cooperative Energy are excited to have been a part of the process and to have helped contribute to the success of the certification.”

Yet another element Jones County has to attract new industry to the I-59 South site is that the tools for workforce development are already in place through Jones County Ju-

nior College and its Advanced Technology Center.

“Jones has had a long history of supporting workforce training and economic development for many successful businesses in Jones County,” said Jesse Smith, president of JCJC. “However, many people may not realize how vast or in-depth our resources are. Based upon our current structure in the state, not only do (industries) have access to us, but also to the network of 14 other junior colleges (in Mississippi) as well.”

Smith went on to explain the importance of having all of Mississippi’s community colleges as a part of the economic development package. “If there is any particular training that is unique to one of the other colleges, we have access to provide it locally because we have a working agreement with all the other colleges. Having access to the resources

of the entire Mississippi junior college network is one of the key components of the most recent economic development growth in the state.”

Throughout the entire process of getting the I-59 South site certified as Project Ready, diverse entities working together - city and county governments, public utilities and educational institutions - has been crucial to making this site move-in ready.

“Developing partnerships is a wonderful and extraordinary tool to use in advancing communities,” said Jerome Wyatt, president of the Jones County Board of Supervisors. “It is important that the depth of those relationships are treasured. Because of those relationships, all of Jones County benefits.”

Tucker said that having an industry-ready location, such as the I-59 South site, is yet another complementary piece to the Jones County’s economic puzzle. “Rest assured, we are not taking our eyes off the ball with our existing businesses and industries,” he said. “Taking care of what we have is vital, but we also want our fair shot at bringing in new companies who are looking to locate in Mississippi.”

With the proper preparation having been done and government, public utility, educational and workforce development partnerships in place, Jones County has done the work necessary to make its economic fairy tale become a reality. For more information on the I-59 South certified Project Ready Industrial Site, contact the Jones County Economic Development Authority at 601-649-3031 or visit the jones-county.com website.

Chataura Sanders is the Chief Communications Officer for the Jones County Board of Supervisors

JCJC to host end-of-month blood drive

By Kelly Atwood, Radonian/Bobcat Press adviser

Jones County Junior College will hold a community-wide Spring Blood Drive Feb. 27-March 1 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the P.E. Building.

Members of the community are encouraged to participate in this drive to ensure United Blood Services can help local patients in need.

“The local blood supply is low due to the holidays, the ice storm and the recent tornado. This drive is needed for UBS to replenish the low blood supply in our area,” explained Beverly Clark, senior donor representative for UBS.

Walk-ins are welcome, but to save time, donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment ahead of time by either registering online or calling. Go online to schedule an appointment at www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: JCJC) and complete a required history questionnaire to bring to the blood drive, ensuring the visit will go as quickly as possible. To schedule an appointment by phone, call 601-477-4066 or 601-477-4245.

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•REAR VISION CAMERA W/ CROSS TRAFFIC ALERT
STK# B-565



*Plus Tax, Title & Fees. All rebates to dealer. See Dealer for all Details. MPG=HWY

2017 GMC SIERRA 1500 SLT

•4WD •CREW CAB •Z71
•HEATED & VENTED FRONT FULL FEATURE LEATHER BUCKET SEATS
•GMC INTELLILINK AUDIO SYSTEM /W NAVI
•SLT CREW CAB PREMIUM PKG.
STK# G-1133

M.S.R.P. \$52,285^{00*}

“YOUR NO HASSLE PRICE”
\$42,995^{00*}



*Plus Tax, Title & Fees. All rebates to dealer. See Dealer for all Details.

2016 GMC SIERRA 3500

•4WD •CREW CAB
•DURAMAX 6.6 V-8 TURBO DIESEL
•ALLISON 6 SPEED AUTO TRANSMISSION
•SIERRA CONVENIENCE PKG
•9FT FREEDOM FLATBED /W GOOSENECK HOOKUP
•10 WAY POWER DRIVER SEAT
STK# G-1161

M.S.R.P. \$66,650^{00*}

“YOUR NO HASSLE PRICE”
\$45,995^{00*}



*Plus Tax, Title & Fees. All rebates to dealer. See Dealer for all Details.

2017 GMC ACADIA LIMITED

•HEATED & COOLED FRONT LEATHER SEATS
•REAR SEAT ENTERTAINMENT /W REAR POWER OUTLET
•COLOR TOUCH NAVI. RADIO
•REAR VISION CAMERA
•SIDE BLIND ZONE ALERT
•7 PASS. SEATING
STK# G-1144

“YOUR NO HASSLE PRICE”
\$32,995^{00*}

+0% FOR 60 MONTHS*



*Plus Tax, Title & Fees. All rebates to dealer. See Dealer for all Details. Must be approved thru G.M. Financial with A+ or A1 Tier to qualify for 0%.

2017 BUICK ENCLAVE LEATHER GROUP

•FORWARD COLLISION ALERT
•LANE DEPARTURE WARNING
•COLOR TOUCH NAVI. RADIO W/ INTELLILINK
•BOSE PREMIUM AUDIO SYSTEM
•7 PASS. SEATING
STK# B-561

M.S.R.P. \$46,705^{00*}

STARTING AT
\$39,995^{00*}



*Plus Tax, Title & Fees. All rebates to dealer. See Dealer for all Details. MPG=HWY



Harris Hankins
Owner



Joseph McMullan
GM



Darren McGill
Sales

*All Prices Plus Tax, Title & Fees. See Dealer For All Details. Pictures for Illustration Purposes Only. MPG=HWY WAC - With Approved Credit



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