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Home insurance premiums could rise in Jones County...page 11

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The 9th Annual Art of Healing

Submitted

More than 400 attended the Art of Healing last year, so event planners had to move it to The Gables in Laurel, a larger venue for 2017. One of the most anticipated events in South Central Mississippi, the Art of Healing features art from around the country which has been donated for auction by artists. The proceeds go to the South Central Health Care Foundation to fund community health education and screening initiatives. Lives are saved as a result of early intervention through the community health programs which are offered throughout the year.

Becky Collins, director of Community Relations at South Central Regional Medical Center, said, "The 2017 event is planned for Saturday, March 25th and will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased on line at scrmc.com. The event will feature a silent auction, a live auction, a large array of food, beverages and live music. As part of the fundraiser, South Central Regional Medical Center will celebrate its 65th anniversary of serving the residents of South Central Mississippi."

The Art of Healing has been held each year at the Sanderson Farms Corporate Headquarters, but due to the growth of the event, event planners had to move it to a larger venue. "More than 400 attended the 2016 Art of Healing. We cannot thank Sanderson Farms enough for allowing us to use their beautiful facility over the years. The venue was extremely crowded last year, so we immediately started looking for a new venue for 2017," added Collins.

In conjunction with South Central's 65th anniversary celebration, there will be an after party immediately following the live auction. One of the top cover bands in the South, Dr. Zarr's Amazing Funk Monster, will perform. "Dressed in more formal at-

tire, the band will provide a light set of favorites from the 70s and 80s during the silent and live auction, but after the live auction ends, the band will change into their after party attire and will perform until 11 p.m. "They have performed at events in our community in years past, and we had requests to bring them back for this special event," Collins said. "Their music is the perfect mixture of favorites for crowds of all ages."

See ART OF HEALING, page 2

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ART OF HEALING, continued from page 1

Internationally recognized artist Mark Landis, who was featured at the 2016 event, has donated several pieces again this year and will be creating a special piece during the silent auction, which will be included in the live auction. Landis was diagnosed with schizophrenia at age 17. As a small and sickly child, he spent most of his time indoors and had an eye for drawing. Mark is noted as saying, "I was never good at making friends, so I drew. I drew images out of books to show to my mother. I always wanted to please her." That desire led him to where he is today and to find the silver lining in his condition.

Landis became internationally recognized for creating art he forged and donated to museums across the country for more than 30 years. His only desire was to be accepted. Landis' story is one-of-a-kind and his one-of-a-kind art will be featured at Art of Healing this year. It is great to know that no matter what type of health issues a person has, they can have an amazing talent.

South Central Regional Medical Center has conducted free community health screenings and other community health initiatives for years. Over the years thousands of area residents have participated in their free screening programs and many lives have been saved as a result of the initiatives. Rather than treating a condition after it has progressed to an advanced stage, one should participate in pre-

vention programs which can prevent disease or identify disease early so that it has a better cure rate.

The cost of providing free health screenings can be high, but South Central provides them as a service to the community. Screenings for hypertension, body mass index, grip strength, balance, vision, hearing, colon cancer, skin cancer, prostate cancer, depression, diabetes, sleep apnea and other conditions continue to be offered free of charge because of the generous contributions made at the Art of Healing and other foundation events.

When it comes to treating potentially serious conditions, early diagnosis is key. Generally, the earlier you begin treatment for a condition, the greater your chance for a full recovery. It does not matter if you are in the best shape of your life, a serious condition can occur without signs or symptoms and may be lurking in your body. It is important to know that some health conditions have no symptoms to alert you that something is wrong. Some conditions run in your family, like colon cancer, so prevention and early detection is key so that you can stay healthy.

The 2017 Art of Healing auctions will feature items donated by artists through the United States, including woodwork, oil, acrylic, stained glass, handmade jewelry, leather goods, watercolor, chalk, photography and more. Along with the art, the event will feature

a "Friends of the Foundation" silent auction category, which will include items donated by businesses and individuals, such as specialty dinners, vacations, skincare products, handbags, photography sessions, fine wine and more.

There will be a delicious array of food catered by The Gables, including: Carved Brisket with assorted bread and sauces, a pasta station with a chef to personalize each dish, hand-tossed sensation salad, open face tomato bacon sandwich served on crostini, shrimp and grits, shrimp toast bites, warm spinach artichoke with toast points, warm chicken salad served with crostini, dessert assortment, and a beverage and coffee station, and several bars. To celebrate the 65th Anniversary of South Central Regional Medical Center, a special cake presentation will be made during the event.

"The 2017 Art of Healing will be a night to remember and we hope you are there to celebrate. The dress for the evening is cocktail attire. To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit scrmc.com or call 601-399-0503. The event will be held at The Gables at 1915 Bush Dairy Road in Laurel," Collins concluded.

Community Partners for the 2017 Art of Healing: The Gables | IMPACT of Laurel | The Chronicle | WDAM | Burson Entrekin Orr Mitchell & Lacey, PA | Laurel Leader-Call | Jefferson Medical Associates |

JCJC's Theater department presents Smokey Joe's Café

By Teresa McCreery

The 1996 Grammy awarding winning musical, "Smokey Joe's Café: The Songs of Leiber and Stoller," will be presented Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25, at 7 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the M.P. Bush Fine Arts Auditorium at Jones County Junior College. Nine JCJC students -- Devin Boothe of Lucedale, Coco Caldwell of Laurel, Amy Champion of Lafayette, Louisiana, Antonio Ducksworth of Raleigh, Katie Hovan of Hattiesburg, Jonathan LaCourse of Long Beach, Davonzell Moncrief of Montrose, Addison Nelms of Brandon and Carter Poister of Laurel -- will rock and roll their way through nearly 40 songs in a musical review of hits from the 50s and 60s. Songs in the production include, "Charlie Brown," "Yakety Yak," "Jailhouse Rock," "There Goes My Baby," "Spanish Harlem," and "Poison Ivy." JCJC musical theater producer and music director Jennifer Hart explained there really aren't any leads in the show; all nine cast members play a significant part in this jukebox musical review.

"I wanted the students to bring the house down with show-stopping numbers that are so much fun to sing," she noted. "Young people today aren't familiar with the tight harmonies



JCJC Musical Theater cast and student crew members pose for a picture before rehearsal of the spring show, "Smokey Joe's Café." Pictured left to right, in the back row are: Jordan Sanders, Katie Hovan, Devin Boothe, and Antonio Ducksworth. Pictured left to right, in the middle row are: Lucy Taylor, Hayley Smith, Jonathan LaCourse, and AJ Robinson. Pictured left to right, in the front row are: Davonzell Moncrief, Addison Nelms, Coco Caldwell, Carter Poister, and Amy Champion. Photo/Jennifer Hart

and the doo-wop feel of the '50s and '60s, but crave the challenge of singing music with great chords because they've been exposed to a cappella singing on shows like 'The Sing Off' and movies like 'Pitch Perfect.' A lot of the vocal jazz that is so popular now has its roots in early Rock and Roll. Smokey Joe's Café features tunes that provide a balance of fun, lighthearted moments along with tender ballads. The show runs about an hour and a quarter, so we'll go straight through with no intermission."

Everyone will likely recognize at least one song in the show, because all of the songs were written by the team of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller but were made famous by popular groups and soloists of the '50s and '60s like Elvis Presley, the Coasters and the Drifters. Performing the hits of stars from that era was a little intimidating at first for some of the cast, but the music has been a blast to perform, and it has pushed students like sophomore Jonathan LaCourse from Long Beach out of his comfort zone.

"The rock-n-roll of the '50s is a genre I don't normally sing. Additionally, the lack of a true narrative has served as a method of strengthening my acting skills. Also, dancing isn't my strong suit, so the amount of choreography is giving me a lot to practice!" said LaCourse.

Another familiar cast-member, Laurel's Carter Poister, offered a unique perspective preparing for the show. "I have enjoyed this show because it's like immersing yourself in another

culture. I imagine that older viewers will enjoy it, and younger viewers will have fun watching the high-energy musical numbers," said Poister.

"This is a great show to bring all the family to, from grandmas all the way to kids who will get a thrill from the action and high energy dancing," said Hart. This musical theater production is a showcase for talented singers who get lots of stage time. It's also an opportunity to perform hit songs with a live band, which is not something most of our students have the opportunity to do.

"Smokey Joe's Café is the best show I've ever heard of and I'm so glad I get to be a part of it. I think I'm going to have a lot of fun with the different costume changes and the music is phenomenal! I can't help but dance to it! I can't wait to perform!" said Coco Caldwell of Laurel.

Guest Director Rob Mulholland is joined by choreographer Paige Perkins with Derrick Meador accompanying the singers. JCJC students are involved in other aspects of the show as well: Caroline Taylor of Laurel is handling the duties of stage manager, with Ellisville's Jordan Sanders assisting her. AJ Robinson of Hattiesburg and Hayley Smith of Picayune are rehearsal pianists.

Tickets for adults will be \$10, and JCJC students get in free with their student ID. For more information, contact Jennifer Hart, musical theatre instructor, at jennifer.hart@jcjc.edu or 601-477-2376.



Addison Nelms and Coco Caldwell are featured dancers in the song and dance routine, "Teach Me How to Shimmy" as part of JCJC's musical theater production, "Smokey Joe's Café." Both ladies are performing in a musical theater show for the first time however, they have extensive dance and show choir experience. Photo/Jennifer Hart

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A Shepherd's Heart – His love reaching

Dr. Timothy L. Hubbard

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” – Romans 5:8 (NASB)

February is a month where we hear much in the public square about this “crazy little thing” called love. The reason being that February is the month in which we celebrate Valentine’s Day. A day filled with gifts, cards, and flowers, all to hopefully say “I Love You.”



As much as I hope that each of you have done something special for your “Sweetheart” over the past few days, I am more concerned that we have a better understanding of what love really is. Paul gives us a great picture of what real love is in 1 Corinthians 13. This chapter in scripture is often referred to as the “love” chapter. These words, written by Paul, describe the never-ending, never-failing, unconditional nature of true agape love, the love of God the Father. As Paul so eloquently describes to us what love should look like in his letter to the church in Corinth, we also find another expression of God’s love described by Paul in his letter to the church in Rome.

In Romans, Paul gives us a great picture of where man is in relation to God. He reminds us that we are separated from God because of our sin. (see Romans 3:23) As we listen to the words of Paul we are reminded that because of our rebellion toward God that we have need of someone to redeem us from the penalty of sin, which is death. (see Romans 6:23). In Romans 5:8 Paul shares with us the greatest love of all as he states, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Real close to what John declared in John 3:16, isn’t it? “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, and whoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

What Paul and John both know to be true is evident in these two passages. God’s love is at the center of the salvation of man. With that being said, I would go a bit further and remind you that God’s love is reaching to where you are. His desire is that none should perish but that all would experience life eternal through His Son, Jesus. I was reminded of a song written by Bill and Gloria Gaither several years back that also reminds us of this truth. The song is entitled, “His Love Reaching.”

They remind us in this song of how God is reaching to us with His love to draw us to Himself. Listen to the text: “His love went on longing And His love went on reaching; Right past the shackles of my mind. And the Word of the Father Became Mary’s little Son; And His love reached all the way To where I was.”

Have you responded to the love of the Father that is reaching for you? If not, what is holding you back? You can respond to the One who is the very definition of love and truly begin to understand what real love is. What a Valentine’s gift that would be! If you have already experienced His love, be sure to share it with someone you meet today. Who knows, God may use you to touch another life for eternity today!

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*Miss you every day!
Mom, Ruby, Hylma, Georgia,
Gilmore & Janice, Jena & Family*

PB149

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.

Laurel First United Methodist Church will host “Listen, Love and Pray” prayer workshop February 24-25. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Peg Hutchins, director of Community Formation and the Healing Academy at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Topics will include various aspects of prayer and an effective prayer ministry. Attendees will have the opportunity to have private prayer sessions with Rev. Hutchins on Saturday afternoon. On Friday, February 24, a meal will be served at 5:15 p.m. with session one beginning at 6:00 and ending at 8:00. On Saturday, February 25, breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m., with session two from 8:00 a.m. - noon. There is no fee for the workshop. For more information or to register, please call the church office at 601-425-1474.

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 22. 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.

REWARD OFFERED

Snowshoe Siamese missing from Ellisville since 12-27-16. Grey Siamese color points with white feet. Reward offered for safe return/ info leading to. 601-498-8876 or 601-770-3251. PLEASE leave message if no answer.



PB146

Providence Missionary Baptist Church, 1908 N. Joe Wheeler Avenue, Laurel – You’re cordially invited to our choir etiquette workshop, worshipping through song, from 9 a.m. – noon. Guest speakers: Richard Pollett, Dr. Vernon Graves and Krystal McKenzie.

The Jones County Genealogical and Historical Organization will be hosting their monthly meeting at the Laurel-Jones County Library, 530 Commerce Street, Laurel. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room. Carolyn Bush Laird will be the guest speaker. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Pleasant Valley MB Church of Laurel, “B.T.U.,” will have their Annual Black History program at 3:00 p.m. The theme for our program is “Be of Good Courage” – Psalm 27:14. The guest speaker will be our State Representative, Omeria Scott, District 80. Our youth will also perform “Imagine If There Were No Black People in the World.”

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.

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. 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. All donors will receive a free t-shirt, and additional prizes will be available for drawings.

February 28

Laurel Little Theatre’s annual Kids’ Camp production this summer will be Disney’s “The Lion King Jr.” Workshop weeks runs May 25-June 1 in the afternoons, and then the performances will be June 1-4. The registration period has just opened, but it always fills up very quickly. Sign-ups continue thru February and maybe a little of March, until the max of 100 campers is reached. Register early to avoid the dreaded “sorry, but camp is full.” Registration this year is online. Check LaurelLittleTheatre.com for a link, or go directly to the sign-up page: http://events.eventzilla.net/e/llt-kids-camp-2017--lion-king-jr-2138892557.

The Wayne County Master Gardener’s will be holding our annual training from February 28th – April 4th every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Through this program, individuals are trained and certified in consumer horticulture and related areas. In exchange for being a certified Master Gardener you will be responsible for completing 40 hours of educational training completed through this training; individuals are required to return 40 hours of volunteer service within one year of their training. The registration fee is \$90.00 that covers all curricula that will be provided along with association dues to the Wayne County Master Gardener’s and the Mississippi Master Gardener State Association. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Sibley at the MSU Extension Service Wayne County Office at 601-735-2243.

March 4

Miss Okatoma Queen Magnolia State Pageant will be held in Collins. Winners will advance to the state pageants, where over \$14,000 in cash and four Caribbean cruises are awarded. Contact Jaclyn Lee Rogers at 601-942-0577 or email her at JACLYNLEE@ATT.NET. Entry forms are also available at www.missmagnoliastate.com.

March 5

Magnolia Baptist Church, 1040 Wansley Road, Laurel, will hold homecoming service on Sunday. Frank Harmon will be the morning worship leader, and Gloria Ladner will lead the music. Sunday school will begin at 9:15 a.m. and morning worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. with lunch to follow. A time capsule was buried at Magnolia Baptist Church 25 years ago, and the contents of this capsule will be opened and displayed at homecoming. For more information call the church office at 601-649-5660.

Friendship MB Church will celebrate their pastor’s anniversary (Rev. Kirk Keller, Sr.) eighth year anniversary on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. The speaker for the occasion is Rev. Randolph Hamilton, pastor of Mt. Wade MB Church, Brookhaven, MS. The public is invited to attend.

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+/- 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 mfmland.com

+/- 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 mfmland.com

Jones County +/- 18 acres located on Old Progress Road in southwest Jones County. The rolling topography offers great home sites. The acreage has recently been site prepped and planted with fast growing loblolly pine seedlings. \$53,595. Call Bennett today at 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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Land? See next Wednesday's Impact or visit walleyproperties.com for several new listings.

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+/- 46 Acres We have just made this 46 acres available separately from the total of 83 acres. Located on 5 miles South of Ellisville, MS with road frontage on both Augusta Road and Kitchens Loop. Clear Creek running through the property. Several great lake sites. Merchantable Mixed pine/hwd timber and good road system. Food plots in place for the abundance of wildlife and hunting. Great Site index for timber investment. Several Great House Sites. Power and water available. This place is beautiful! \$125,000. Call Woods & Waters Realty, 601-408-0615. See more at mfmland.com

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

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Jones County +/- 57 Acres: Must see! 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, Contact Bennett 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties, LLC.. Or visit our website walleyproperties.com for maps and more information of this listing.

+/- 37 Acres Located on Augusta Road 5 miles South of Ellisville, MS. This tract is made up of merchantable timber with both pine and hardwood. Has two large food plots in place. Great hunting and recreation. Has a house sites with power and water available. 1/4 mile black top frontage on Augusta Road. \$96,200. Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more at mfmland.com

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Small acreage for sale, owner finance, NE Jones area. 601-426-3696 or 601-470-7772.

Stringer, MS: This excellent 92 acre parcel is located in the heart of Stringer School District. The property consist of various merchantable timber types with multiple home sites. With an abundance of wildlife the property could also be used as a hunting retreat. The property can be divided. Priced to sell at \$207,000. Contact Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties, LLC.

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Lost female mixed breed dog from Ellisville Junction. Gray, white and tan, one blue eye, one flop ear. Reward. 601-765-7772.

Lost Hound dog beagle mix, white with black spots, black collar on. Answers to the name Willie Hatchet. Lost in Powers Community. If seen please call 601-425-1092 or 601-319-5291.

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3br/2ba on 1 acre lot, Shady Grove. \$600/mth, \$300/deposit. No pets. 601-498-3890.

28x60 doublewide, 3br/2ba, all electric, c/h/a. Semi private lot, West Jones School District, in a trailer park. Water and garbage provided. \$650, \$300 deposit, 461 Rose Lane. 601-498-2488, Rhonda.

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For sale by owner: Brick house, approx. 2400 sq.ft. 4br/2.5ba, 2 car carport, hot tub, 16x36 swimming pool, 18 acres, large workshop 40x25, very large car storage shop with carport 35x55, utility bldg 10x20, green house, small pond, in Eucutta, Wayne Co. MS. \$200,000. 601-735-5581.

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For Rent: 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick house located at 1156 West 20th Street. Has central h/a, large den, large yard. \$1,000/month plus deposit. Call 601-577-2576 for more info.

North Laurel: 2809 Carter Ave. 2 Bed, 1 Bath. \$400.00 deposit. \$575 Month. 601-319-2938

2/3 bedroom homes for rent. 601-649-4075.

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2013 Toyota Corolla. \$13,995 at Hattiesburg Cars. Call our Local toll free number 855-242-0775. See more at Cars601.com

2004 Chevrolet Impala, white sport model. \$4500 obo. 601-752-2622, leave message will return call. 601-517-4738 cell.

2015 Nissan Altima at Southeastern Auto Sales, Laurel. Call 601-649-4746. See more at Cars601.com.

2010 Nissan Altima. 100k miles, clean car fax, \$7500. Call Ricky 601-517-5657.

2016 Kia Forte Koup. \$25,800 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2016 Chevrolet Malibu. \$25,400 at Ryan Chevrolet. (855) 534-3769. See more at Cars601.com

2016 Chevrolet Impala. \$19,995 at Harris Hankins in Bay Springs. Call 844-329-7227. See Cars601.com for more.

2014 Nissan Altima. \$15,465 at Woolwine Ford in Collins, (844) 332-1854. See more at Cars601.com.

2013 Kia Optima SX. 4-door Sedan. \$16,800. Call 601-765-4402.

2014 Nissan Altima. \$13,893 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2016 Kia Optima. \$23,685 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2007 Nissan Altima. \$4,500 at Vara Auto Sales, call 601-335-3972. See more at Cars601.com.

2008 BMW S series, \$8,995. Call Quality Auto. 601-765-1828.

2013 Ford C-Max Hybrid. \$6,800 at Vara Auto Sales, call 601-335-3972. See more at Cars601.com.

2006 Mercedes-Benz SLK-Class. \$19,900 Southeastern Auto Brokers, (844) 312-8785. See more at Cars601.com

2017 Chevrolet Cruze. \$23,422 at Ryan Chevrolet. (855) 534-3769. See more at Cars601.com

2004 Toyota Camry LE, Clean, good tires. As is \$2900 obo. 601-319-0865.

2016 Ford Fusion. \$14,194 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2015 Nissan Sentra. \$14,888 at Toyota of Hattiesburg. (855) 221-8310. See more at Cars601.com.

2012 Chevrolet Malibu Limited. \$7,000 at Vara Auto Sales, call 601-335-3972. See more at Cars601.com.

2017 Kia Rio. \$17,485 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

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2014 Nissan Sentra. \$15,088 at Toyota of Hattiesburg. (855) 221-8310. See more at Cars601.com.

1996 Jaguar XJ Series Sedan. \$6,995 at Harris Hankins in Bay Springs. Call 844-329-7227 or text A6MI to 27414. See Cars601.com for more.

2016 Chevrolet Sonic. \$16,997 at Ryan Chevrolet. (855) 534-3769. See more at Cars601.com

2017 Ford Mustang. \$27,265 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

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2017 Hyundai Elantra. \$21,315. Mack Grubbs Hyundai, (844) 373-0806. See more at Cars601.com.

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2012 Nissan Maxima at Southeastern Auto Sales, Laurel. Call 601-649-4746. See more at Cars601.com.

2013 Chevrolet Cruze. \$12,900 at Paul Garner Motors. (844) 452-4569. See more at Cars601.com.

2008 Toyota Sienna Limited: \$7,900 - call 601-274-0426. 216K miles, All leather seats, heated seats, sunroof, premium sound, remote auto sliding doors, white with gray leather interior.

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2010 Toyota Prius. \$10,995 at Hattiesburg Cars. Call our Local toll free number 855-242-0775. See more at Cars601.com

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2006 Chevrolet Impala. \$4,200 at Vara Auto Sales, call 601-335-3972. See more at Cars601.com.

2017 Hyundai Elantra. \$23,490. Mack Grubbs Hyundai, (844) 373-0806. See more at Cars601.com.

2008 Infiniti G35 Sport, 4-dr Sedan, \$11,995. Call 601-606-5769.

2010 Dodge Charger. \$9,999 at Auto Express in Laurel, (844) 402-3154. See more at Cars601.com.

2016 Ford Fusion. \$18,788 at Woolwine Ford in Collins, (844) 332-1854. See more at Cars601.com.

2011 Nissan Maxima. \$18,900 Southeastern Auto Brokers, (844) 312-8785. See more at Cars601.com

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2013 Chevrolet Impala. \$12,900 at Paul Garner Motors. (844) 452-4569. See more at Cars601.com.

2016 Hyundai Sonata. \$19,963. Mack Grubbs Hyundai, (844) 373-0806. See more at Cars601.com.

2014 Dodge Avenger. \$11,800 at Paul Garner Motors. (844) 452-4569. See more at Cars601.com.

2016 Kia Optima. \$17,995 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2006 Chevrolet UpLander LT. Many Features. \$6,790. Call Dean @ Sullivan Motors. 601-433-0796.

2013 Chevrolet Malibu Limited at Southeastern Auto Sales, Laurel. Call 601-649-4746. See more at Cars601.com.

2017 Chevrolet Cruze. \$23,399 at Ryan Chevrolet. (855) 534-3769. See more at Cars601.com

2011 Chevrolet Impala. \$5,500 at Vara Auto Sales, call 601-335-3972. See more at Cars601.com.

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2015 Chevrolet Trax. \$16,999 at Toyota of Hattiesburg. (855) 221-8310. See more at Cars601.com.

2015 Buick Verano. \$15, 922 at Harris Hankins in Bay Springs. Call

844-329-7227. See Cars601.com for more.

2017 Kia Soul. \$18,665 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2005 Chevrolet TrailBlazer. \$6,450 at Ellsville Motors. Call 844-737-5629. See more at Cars601.com.

2014 Chevrolet Captiva Sport. \$14,968 Mack Grubbs Hyundai, (844) 373-0806. See more at Cars601.com.

2016 Chevrolet Equinox. \$20,000 at Ryan Chevrolet. (855) 534-3769. See more at Cars601.com

2010 Jeep Wrangler. \$24,900 Southeastern Auto Brokers, (844) 312-8785. See more at Cars601.com

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2007 Hyundai Tucson. \$8,950 at Paul Garner Motors. (844) 452-4569. See more at Cars601.com.

2009 Gmc yukon. \$14,995 at Harris Hankins in Bay Springs. Call 844-329-7227 or text S613 to 27414. See Cars601.com for more.

2008 Gmc envoy. \$9,950 at Ellsville Motors. Call 844-737-5629. See more at Cars601.com.

2005 Gmc yukon xl. \$8,790. Call Dean @ Sullivan Motors: 601-433-0796.

2015 Chevrolet Captiva Sport Fleet. \$15,922 at Harris Hankins in Bay Springs. Call 844-329-7227. See Cars601.com for more.

2005 Chevrolet TrailBlazer. \$8,995 at Hattiesburg Cars. Call our Local toll free number 855-242-0775. See more at Cars601.com

2005 Jeep Wrangler. \$13,995 at Quality Auto. Call 601-394-9313. See more at Cars601.com.

2016 Kia Sorento. \$28,975 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2014 Mazda CX-5. \$17,853 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2006 Toyota Tundra. \$13,950 at Ellsville Motors. Call 844-737-5629. See more at Cars601.com.

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2008 Toyota RAV4. \$10,399 at Auto Express in Laurel, (844) 402-3154. See more at Cars601.com.

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2014 Dodge Ram 1500 at Southeastern Auto Sales, Laurel. Call 601-649-4746. See more at Cars601.com.

2011 Chevrolet Silverado 1500. \$19,500 at Quality Auto. Call 601-394-9313. See more at Cars601.com.

2002 Nissan Frontier at Southeastern Auto Sales, Laurel. Call 601-649-4746. See more at Cars601.com.

2011 Ford Ranger, Extended Cab, Super Clean, \$10,995. Call Quality Auto: 601-765-1828.

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IMPACT

Home insurance premiums could rise in Jones County due to aging fire trucks

By Linda Cranford

Jones County Fire Council President Gordon Pitts, on behalf of the Jones County Fire Council, recently held a press conference to inform the residents of Jones County that their insurance premiums could possibly double in the very near future due to the inaction of the Jones County Board of Supervisors.

“We’ve been asking since 2008 for the Board of Supervisors to implement a scheduled plan to replace our aging fleet of fire apparatus,” exclaimed Pitts. “And, now nine years later we are still asking.”

According to Pitts, 19 fire trucks, which were purchased at the same time, are approaching 20 years old and past the maximum allowed age of 15 years for fire trucks to remain in service according to the standards of the Mississippi State Insurance Bureau and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). However, when the Insurance Bureau assessed Jones County in 2013, they extended the maximum age by five years and warned that if a replacement plan is not implemented, Jones County could possibly lose its present rating. At the present time, communities across Jones County with fire stations within five miles, not including the cities of Laurel and Ellisville, have a Class 8 rating. When the Class 8 rating is changed to a Class 10 rating, it will negatively impact insurance premiums. Pitts gave examples of what homeowners’ insurance premiums would look like at a Class 10 rating. One example showed a particular homeowner who already had his rating changed to a Class 10 due to the fact that there was no fire station within 5 miles of his home. (The need for more satellite stations in some areas of the county is another issue for discussion.) The homeowner was paying a \$2,634 yearly insurance premium with a Class 8 rating. When his class rating was changed to a Class 10, his yearly premium increased to \$5,300, a \$2,666 difference – double that of the Class 8 premium.

“We’re at our wit’s end. We don’t know what else we can do,” said Pitts. “We’ve had a committee working on this since 2008, and have put in a lot of man hours. We don’t know where to go from here except to the public.”

Their last attempt to get something done was in November 2016 when they presented a letter to the Board asking three questions: (1) Is the Board of Supervisors committed to replace the engines in the county that are in need of replacement? (2) Will the Board accept the recommendations the fire council makes about the manufacturer and type of engines that are being purchased, with safety as the number one concern? (3) Will the Board accept the council’s recommendations as to which engines should be replaced first?

The response to the letter varied among

supervisors, said Pitts. President Jerome Wyatt responded by saying, “they can’t get what they want.” Johnny Burnett asked what they were doing with the state insurance rebate money, and Danny Roy Spradley said the county just doesn’t have the money.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors appointed their own committee to determine which trucks should be replaced first. The Fire Truck Evaluation Committee consists of Ed Harper and Glenn Musgrove, both retired from the Volunteer Fire Service.

Pitts said he and the rest of the Fire Council felt absolutely frustrated when they learned of the supervisors’ responses. “It seems like for years now the Jones County Fire Service has been treated like a red-headed step child,” said Pitts. “We’re not looking to purchase toys! Yes, we’ve got pretty red trucks, but 19 of those pretty red trucks are approaching 20 years old. A truck’s appearance doesn’t tell you the operating condition of that truck. We are constantly working on them. Just this past week, in one day, six departments notified Central Dispatch that a fire apparatus was out-of-service for repairs. All we’re asking for is to have safe, reliable equipment to do our job.”

What are they doing with the insurance rebate money? According to Pitts and the Fire Council, each of the 19 departments in Jones County receives \$27,090 in total funding yearly – \$17,045 from taxes and \$10,045 from State Insurance Rebate funds. Each department’s insurance averages approximately \$5,328, leaving a balance of \$21,762 to support operations, which includes necessary equipment purchase, vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, electricity, fuel, etc. Out of this money, for example, each department must purchase the necessary equipment for a firefighter to safely fight a structural fire. This equipment includes approximately \$1,700 for personal protection equipment, \$450 for a pager, \$5,500 for a SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) and \$4,000 for a radio, which adds up to \$11,650 per firefighter. That doesn’t leave the departments very much to work with . . . only approximately \$10,000.

The monthly loan payment for the trucks purchased in the past, a 15-year loan, was also paid out of the approximately \$10,000 remaining. In the past, the supervisors loaned the funds to the fire departments to purchase the fire engines and the departments are responsible for repayment of those loans. The departments finished paying off those loans approximately five years ago.

“Some departments are getting close to operating in the red,” said Pitts, “but we are all doing our due diligence to run the departments as efficiently as possible. I don’t



2014 pump testing of Jones County Volunteer Fire Service fire apparatus. Photo/Linda Cranford

understand why the supervisors say they have no money or why a dump truck, a road grader, or a garbage truck takes precedent over a fire truck.”

Pitts also pointed out how differently the City of Laurel views its fire service. They have a multi-million dollar budget to work with and are in the progress of replacing their aging trucks, noted Pitts. He added the city responds to only approximately a third of the number of emergency calls that the Jones County Fire Service responds to. In 2016, the 19 volunteer fire departments throughout the county responded to approximately 3,300 calls compared to over 800 by the city. “Some of the departments have a higher call volume than others,” said Pitts. “For instance, Glade responded to 456 calls in 2016, over half that of the city with its five stations.”

Pitts said 15 years ago the cost of a fire truck was around \$130,000 per truck. Today, the cost is \$350,000 to \$400,000. “With our present funding and continued increase in the cost of operations, there is no way we can afford to purchase new trucks,” said Pitts. “We are approaching a crisis situation. The system is broken, and something has got to be done.”

The members of the

Board of Supervisors were asked to respond to this issue. Their response came through the BOS Chief Administrative Officer Danielle Ashley. In an email, Ashley wrote, “The volunteer firefighters are invaluable to our county, and we want a positive relationship between the Board and the firefighters,” stated President Jerome Wyatt. She also said the Fire Truck Evaluation Committee will begin its study of the 19 fire departments trucks this Wednesday, February 22, and once the study is complete the committee will make their recommendations to the Board as to which trucks should be replaced.

The Board is allowed one million dollars only for fire truck replacement, which will only purchase approximately three, maybe four trucks. According to Ashley, no further money will be allocated.

Therefore, depending on what trucks are replaced, and how the Insurance Rating Bureau responds, several areas of Jones County may see an increase in their homeowner’s insurance premiums when the Bureau reassesses Jones County next year.



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French Quarter Grill under new ownership

By Linda Cranford

If you've visited the French Quarter Grill in downtown Ellisville since November of last year, you may have noticed one or two new faces, a few additional items on the menu, but the same good tasting food. After being open for four years, Kathy St. Amant sold her business. Rita Allen Sumrall and her daughter, Amanda Keyes, now own and operate the restaurant and have named it R & A's French Quarter Grill.

"We hope to build on what Kathy established," said Rita. She said she really wasn't looking to purchase a restaurant, but things seem to fall in place.

Last year, while eating at the restaurant, Amanda and her husband, Brandon Keys, learned that the restaurant was for sale. "I called mom and told her the restaurant was for sale and she should buy it," said Amanda. Rita said that within a day or two, her husband, Chris Sumrall, had also learned about the business being for sale and suggested Rita buy it. "Things happen for a reason. I believe God puts you where you need to be," exclaimed Rita. So, she bought the restaurant in November.

Prior to the purchase, in September, Amanda worked with Kathy to learn the business and make sure she wanted to take on the responsibility. Kathy left all the recipes with Amanda, including one of the most popular desserts, the homemade bread pudding, which is Kathy's family recipe from New Orleans. The menu includes all of the same homemade specialties with that special Cajun flavor, from



R & A's French Quarter Grill owner/manager, left, Rita Allen Sumrall and her daughter, Amanda Keys.

Photo/Linda Cranford

the New Orleans style po-boys to the delicious crawfish bisque and seafood gumbo. Amanda and Rita have also added a few items of their own along with new weekly specials.

They have moved the beverages to the bar and are giving the bar area a face lift and look to open up that area for additional dining area. Amanda said having the restaurant allows the family to be together more. "It gives us a chance

to be with my kids and her (Rita) grand kids, and still have a fulltime job," said Amanda. "Plus, my step-father and husband both eat lunch with us every day."

"It's a family affair," said Rita. "The guys help us out at night and when we need something."

"They're really great on honey-dos," added Amanda.

Some of you may recognize Amanda's husband, Brandon, who was on the third season of Redneck Island with Steve Austin in 2013. Amanda and Brandon have two girls, Payton (8), and Sunny (2). Prior to going into the restaurant business, Amanda had her own cleaning business. Brandon is a machinist and works with Wansley Machine & Drive Line.

Rita spent approximately 13 years in the convenience store industry as one of four supervisors who supervised 30 stores. Prior to purchasing the restaurant, she worked in the fast food industry as a supervisor. Her husband, Chris, is the owner of Quality Welding in the Pendorf community. Rita and Amanda are Ellisville natives. Amanda's father, Paul Allen, work with Ellisville State School for 21 years before his death.

"Everything happens for a reason and here we are," exclaimed Rita.

French Quarter Grill is opened Sunday thru Wednesday 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., and then from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. For more information like them on Facebook at R&A's French Quarter Grill or call 601-477-2246.

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Southern Kernel Gourmet Popcorn holds ribbon-cutting



Southern Kernel Gourmet Popcorn in downtown Laurel recently held their ribbon-cutting, which was hosted by the Jones County Chamber of Commerce. Southern Kernel is located at 541 Central Avenue in Laurel. Photo/submitted

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3rd Annual Children's Center Classic set for February 25

Submitted

The Children's Center for Communication and Development at The University of Southern Mississippi will host its 3rd Annual Children's Center Classic on Feb. 25. The 10K, 5K, and Fun Run serve as the Center's signature fundraising event and supports their life-changing work with children, birth to five, who have complex communication needs and developmental disabilities.

"Over time, this has grown to be a big race for our community and has generously been supported by so many friends and partners," said Sarah Case-Price, director. "Last year's race brought in more than 300 runners and 150 volunteers; and we hope this year we'll see a similar turnout - if not more!"

Those who register by Friday, Feb. 3 will be guaranteed a race shirt. Race start is set for 9 a.m., beginning with the fun run; and the event will begin and end at Pride Field on the Hattiesburg campus.

"We love what we get to do at the Center, and it's our hope that others in the community will participate in our race to see how capable our children truly are!" said Case-Price.

New this year, is an additional two days of race festivities. Beginning on Thursday, Feb. 23, The Mahogany Bar will host a give-back benefit. Profits from special menu items will be donated back to the Center. On Friday, Feb. 24, the Center will host its inaugural "Burgers and Bibs" dinner and race bib pick-up event at their location on the Southern Miss campus. This event is hosted in partnership with Rotary Club of Hattiesburg and Topher's Rock-n-Roll Grill on Hardy Street. Tickets for Burgers and Bibs are \$10 and can

be added onto race registration cost, purchased through a Rotary Club of Hattiesburg member, or through the Center.

"The outpour of support we receive from community partners strengthens anything we do, and the same is said for New South Restaurant Group, Topher's, and the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg," said communications coordinator and race director Samantha McCain. "With them, we're able to provide a great weekend of entertainment, food and fun for our runners and the community all while telling a bigger story about what we do."

Each year, more than 100 children in South Mississippi with complex communication needs and developmental disabilities receive direct early intervention services through the Center. Services include speech language therapy, behavioral therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, special instruction and early oral intervention (also known as deaf education). Additionally, the Center serves as a training and modeling resource for university students and professionals.

The Children's Center Classic is taking place due to numerous charitable sponsors, including: The Hattiesburg Post and Signature Magazine, Mississippi Power, Coca-Cola, Magnolia State Bank, Southern Miss Alumni Association, Anderson Design Center, WHLT, Cooperative Energy, Dew's Foundry, HubTech Solutions, Methodist Rehab: Orthotics & Prosthetics, The Depot Coffee House & Bistro, Randy Price & Company, Hattiesburg Clinic, and more adding daily. Interested participants can find out more and register online at <http://www.thechildrenscenterclassic.com/> or by calling 601.266.4742.

Jones County Republican Women officers for 2017-2019



The Jones County Republican Women installed newly elected officers for the 2017 - 2019 term. Pictured left to right: Danielle Ashley - Recording Secretary, Kathy Hinton - Co-First Vice President, Tiffany Parrish - Co-First Vice President, Nancy Bell - President, Debbie Phillips - Co-Treasurer and Julie Harper - Corresponding Secretary. Not pictured, Emily White - 2nd Vice President. The Jones County club is a chapter of the National Federation of Republican Women. The Jones County Republican Women club is currently the largest in Mississippi and the 5th largest in the US. Women and men are welcome to join. For more information contact jcrw.laurel@gmail.com, Facebook @JonesCountyRepublicanWomen and Twitter @JonesCoRW. Photos submitted

From Cotton Fields to Mission Fields – The Story of Anna Knight

Submitted

Dorothy Knight Marsh, author of "From Cotton Fields to Mission Fields," has penned a compelling and inspiring memoir about Anna Knight, the daughter of Newton Knight. Anna was a mixed-race woman who was born in the beginning of post-abolition America, and whose life was dedicated to education and her faith. Accomplishing what others could not with so little, this woman of courage and determination, too white to be black and too black to be white, stood up against the moonshiners who threatened her.

Readers will enjoy following her from early years against the idyllic but challenging backdrop of Mississippi all the way around the world-and back again. Readers will watch her grow and mature as she helps those around her with learning, healthy living and faith. To hear more about the life

of Anna Knight, a reading and book signing will be held at:

- Baptist Bible and Book House, February 24, 11:00 – 2:00 p.m., 605 Commerce Street, Laurel. 601-649-7682.

- A narration of her life will be held at the Laurel Seventh-day-Adventist Church February 25 at 5:30 pm, 1606 W. 15th St. (across from Wal-Mart) Book signing afterward. 601-428-7535.

- Our Home Universalist Unitarian Church, Sunday February 26, 11:00 a.m., 2134 Highway N 29., Ellisville. 601-763-3101.

Readers and listeners have been inspired by the life of this remarkable woman of courage. Dorothy Knight Marsh is a local author who was born in Soso, Mississippi, and raised and educated outside of Mississippi. She recently retired and moved back to her birthplace.



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192940A	2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	\$7,480	277345	2015 Chevrolet Impala 1LT	\$20,980
264934	2006 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD	\$9,870	297690	2015 Chevrolet Equinox 2LT	\$21,940
116593	2007 Chevrolet Avalanche LT	\$9,980	369752	2014 GMC Terrain SLT-2	\$21,980
161469	2005 GMC Yukon XL 1500 SLT	\$9,998	221506	2016 Chevrolet Colorado	\$22,980
174090	2008 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD	\$12,780	E00167	2013 Ford F-150 King Ranch	\$22,980
198349	2010 Saturn Outlook XE	\$12,860	165929	2016 Chevrolet Equinox LT	\$23,780
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176419	2014 Chevrolet Cruze 1LT	\$13,980	214913	2013 Chevrolet Avalanche LT	\$26,790
139204A	2010 Chevrolet Tahoe 1500LT	\$14,980	170488	2016 Chevrolet Impala 2LTZ	\$27,685
255573	2015 Nissan Sentra CVT SV	\$14,980	286075	2015 Buick Regal GS	\$27,980
172595	2014 Chevrolet Cruze 1LT	\$15,480	138829	2016 Buick Lacrosse	\$28,419
101799	2016 Chevrolet Cruze Limited	\$15,980	218467	2016 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ	\$28,982
A48491	2005 Ford F-250 King Ranch	\$15,980	128590	2016 Chevrolet Traverse 2LT	\$29,394
415776	2015 Kia Optima LX	\$15,980	117385	2016 Chevrolet Impala 2LTZ	\$29,399
131595	2016 Chevrolet Cruze 1LT	\$16,380	616361	2015 Cadillac SRX Luxury	\$29,980
109163	2015 Chevrolet Cruze 1LT	\$16,535	063739A	2013 Toyota Tacoma	\$30,780
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963855	2005 GMC Sierra 2500HD	\$17,980	250151	2015 Cadillac XTS Luxury	\$34,870
467441	2012 Toyota Avalon Limited	\$17,980	152487	2016 GMC Acadia SLT-1	\$36,107
185102A	2015 Chevrolet Cruze LTZ	\$18,608	114421B	2015 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali	\$42,890
162828	2011 Chevrolet Camaro 1SS	\$18,980	616369	2015 Chevrolet Tahoe LT	\$43,788
123249	2015 Buick Verano	\$19,115	245448	2016 Chevrolet Tahoe LT	\$46,980
119269	2016 Chevrolet Malibu LTD	\$19,725	133130	2016 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD	\$47,980
151620	2016 Chevrolet Malibu LTD	\$19,725	106346	2016 Chevrolet Corvette 3LT	\$57,380

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Shuckers versus Carey baseball to aid tornado recovery

By Dale McKee

College baseball started off this past weekend as USM, MSU and Ole Miss drew record breaking crowds to watch the boys of spring. Last Friday was opening day, and Ole Miss drew a record opening day crowd of 12,117 while MSU drew 10,217, and USM had a crowd of 3,234. For the weekend, Ole Miss sold over 33,000 tickets for their three-game series with No. 6 East Carolina. The state of Mississippi sometimes gets credited with being a football only state, but baseball is fast becoming a big business in the Magnolia State.

Ole Miss' sweep of East Carolina was huge for a youthful Rebel team. The Rebels started five freshmen led by shortstop Grae Kessinger. The Oxford native has deep roots at Ole Miss, since Donnie Kessinger is his grandfather and the son of Kevin Kessinger. He was a four-time all-state player at two-time state champion Oxford High School and was drafted by the San Diego Padres in last year's Major League Baseball draft. USM swept Northeastern to get off to a 3-0 start. Northeastern -- out of the Boston, Mass., area -- will play the Boston Red Sox in their next game in Fort Myers, Fla. The Bulldogs won their 11th SEC championship in 2016, and MSU began their 127th season of baseball over the weekend. MSU went 3-1 with wins over Western Illinois



(2) and Texas Tech. MSU gave new coach Andy Cannizaro his first career win with an 8-2 win against Western Illinois last Saturday.

Florida State's coach Mike Martin won his 1,900th win this past weekend. Martin, in his 38th season at FSU, needs only six more wins to overtake former Texas coach Augie Garrido's record 1,975 wins. Martin has led FSU to 15 College World Series appearances.

William Carey to play Shuckers

The Biloxi Shuckers were looking for an exhibition game before their opening game at Montgomery on April 6. So the Shuckers asked William Carey to play them at MGM Stadium on April 4. All ticket sales for the game will go to William Carey University in their effort to rebuild the campus that was hit by a Tornado last month. The Crusaders went 40-21 last season in their 32nd season under Coach Bobby Halford. The Crusaders will have to use wooden bats in the game against the AA team of the Milwaukee Brewers. The Shuckers open their home season on April 12 against Pensacola. Mississippi's other pro baseball team the Mississippi Braves open their home season on April 6th against Jacksonville.

Daytona 500

Chase Elliott turned a lap of 192.872 over Dale Earnhardt Jr's, lap of 192.864 to claim the pole position for the second straight year. He is the first

pole winner repeater in 27 years. Elliott is the son of two-time Daytona 500 champion Bill Elliott. Danny Hamlin will try to become just the fourth driver to win back-to-back Daytona 500s. Last year, Hamlin nipped Martin Truex Jr. by 0.010 seconds to win the closest in the history of the race. Richard Petty, Cale Yarborough and Sterling Martin are the only drivers to win back-to-back Daytona 500 championships. Danica Patrick finished fourth in Sunday's Advance Auto, which is her best finish of the Monster Energy Cup Series.

Malcolm Butler to have his life story told in movie

New England defensive back Malcolm Butler will have his life story told. The Vicksburg native was working at a Popeye's in his hometown before reporting back to Hinds Community College to restart his football career. Butler then went to West Alabama before his agent arranged a tryout with the Patriots. He was most famous for his pass interception on the game's final play in New England's win over Seattle in Super Bowl 49.

MSU Lady Bulldogs lead SEC

The Lady Bulldogs are very good! No. 3 MSU improved to 27-1 overall and 13-1 in SEC play with a 72-67 win over Texas A&M Sunday. The league tournament begins next Wednesday in Greenville, S.C.

Contact Dale at ddmckee18@yahoo.com

Program helps students pursue medical careers

Submitted

Mississippi high school juniors considering medical careers in their home state have the opportunity to take part in an intense and revealing summer program at Mississippi State University. The five-week Rural Medical Scholars summer program at MSU will seek to identify the state's future primary care doctors and help them become members of the medical school class of 2026. Applications for the May 28 through June 29 program must be submitted by March 20.

"Mississippi still has the lowest number of physicians per capita in the nation, which limits access to care and contributes to many of the negative health issues plaguing our state," said Ann Sansing, community health coordinator for the MSU Extension Service. "The one constant in health care reform discussions is the need for more primary care physicians. The scholars program is helping to address that need in Mississippi."

With a declining number of rural physicians, Sansing said, the concern for adequate health care increases as well. A goal of the program is to develop a pipeline of future medical providers.

"The program is clearly meeting the need it was designed to accomplish -- increasing the availability of primary care physicians and health care services throughout rural Mississippi," she said. "To date, 367 students have participated in the RMS program, with most planning health-related careers. Thirty-seven of our graduates went on to medical school, and 32 of those are in residency or practicing physicians today."

The program is primarily funded by MSU Extension, with additional assistance from the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care at the Mississippi State Department of Health. Selected students between their junior and senior years who earned ACT composite scores of at least 24 will take two premedical courses on the Starkville campus -- biology and sociology -- and observe doctors at practice one afternoon each week. The scholars will get a taste of college life, visit the University of Mississippi Medical Center, earn Junior Master Wellness Volunteer certification, participate in practical learning activities designed for aspiring physicians, and make new friends with similar interests and goals.

The selected scholars will receive tuition, housing and textbooks during the program. A \$100 registration fee is required after acceptance, and the scholars will be responsible for their food expenses. Applications and program details are available online at <http://www.extension.msstate.edu/rms/>.

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