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Loblolly Boutique opens in Downtown Laurel

By Linda Cranford

Thursday afternoon, March 23, The Loblolly Boutique, located on Magnolia Street in Downtown Laurel, held its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The little children's boutique offers affordable clothing for children age 0 to 12.

Approximately 4 years ago, when Wayne and Melissa Bryant's daughter, Alysabeth, was eight years old and began developing an affinity for clothes, Melissa dreamed of opening a children's boutique. "This was all God's doing," said Melissa. "In the first of January, Wayne suddenly came home and said 'let's open up a boutique in Downtown Laurel,' and by February 11, we were opening the doors to the business for the first time."

Wayne's sister Hope Husband and her husband Joey joined the couple in opening the new business. "It's definitely a family business," said Wayne. All of their

four children participate in the business. Alysabeth, helps pick out the clothes; Rob sweeps the floor; Summer manages the money, and 2.5-year old Bentley helps run the place.

Vern Geddie's Western Auto closes.... page 4

Matt Olson, pastor of First Baptist Church Sharon, gave the invocation and Larkin Simpson, Jones County EDA vice president and Chamber of Commerce director, presented the owners with their first dollar of profit, and a commemorative Chamber of Commerce membership poster with a print of local artist Lisa Thames' oil painting of Euclid Park in the historic district of Laurel.

The Loblolly Boutique is located at 327 N. Magnolia Street, across from J Parker and Adam Trest Home, and is open Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information call 601-325-



Laurel McAlister's Deli Manager

receives special award...page 10

L-R, Melissa Bryant, Hope Husband, Summer Ingram, and Wayne and Bentley Bryant.

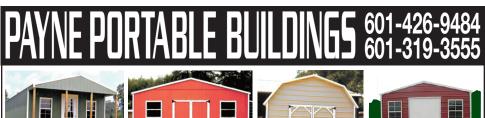
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before sending them any money.

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Timber and Lumber

A Shepherd's Heart – There stands a Cross

By Dr. Timothy L. Hubbard

"And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day." (Matthew 20:17-19 ESV) In his book, "On a Hill Too Far Away," John Fischer tells of a cross that is found in a church in Old Greenwich, Connecticut.

As he describes this cross he states that the cross is a sturdy wooden cross, standing some ten feet tall and made of raw untreated wood. As he continues his description, the most unusual thing about this cross is where it is positioned in the church. Most of us are accustomed to seeing crosses merely as decorations in churches. They are usually positioned on the walls behind the pulpit, over the baptistery, embedded in the stained glass windows or on the tops of our steeples. This was certainly the case for Fischer, as well, until he saw The Old Greenwich Cross. This cross was positioned right in the center of the floor in front of the pulpit, right in everyone's

line of sight. Fischer states, "The minute I walked into the church in Old Greenwich and encountered this startling placement of the cross, I felt as if I had discovered something truly significant. For just as the cross has been placed squarely in the center of this church, so it has always stood in the center of history and in the center of any life that has truly embraced it.

And just as the placement of this cross seems so uncomfortable, so it is . . . and should be. There is nothing comfortable about the cross." (Fischer p. 16) As Jesus walked the roads with his disciples, he was instructing them each step of the way. Always seizing the opportunity to prepare them for his death, burial and resurrection. Matthew records at least three occasions where Jesus basically said to his disciples, "Hey, guys, listen closely, there stands a cross, and I'm headed there!" (My rendering)

Jesus was fully aware of the work of reconciliation that God the Father had sent him to earth to accomplish. John the Baptist had proclaimed at the baptism of Jesus that he (Jesus) was the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. (John 1:29) Yes, Jesus knew the path that He must trod in order to accomplish God's plan for the

redemption of mankind. That path led to a cross on a hill called Calvary.

Back to the placement of the cross in Old Greenwich, Connecticut: its placement seems odd indeed. However, if we could but learn the lesson that John Fischer shares about this particular cross, we too may be led to move the cross of Calvary out of the past tense and into the present tense as we live our lives daily. It should cause us discomfort to the degree that we never forget the price that was paid to purchase our pardon.

The cross demands a response! Isaac Watts stated this challenge well in his beloved hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" – "When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast. save in the death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down; Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose do rich a crown. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my heart, my all!"

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Laban Blakeney, a senior at Sylva-Bay Academy, was selected to the 2017 MAIS Class AA Basketball All-Star Team. He is the son of Grant and **Bethany Blakeney of Taylors**ville. Photo/Submitted











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

Jones County +/- 123 Acres. Great Location! Located 5 miles from downtown Ellisville off of Hwy. 29 South on Pecan Grove Road. This Property has endless opportunities! From hunting, fishing, building a home/farm, or just for an investment. Property contains mature pine plantation and a fully stocked pond that

would be great to build a home/camp next too. \$455,100. For more details, call Bennett today, 601-913-0340, at Walley Properties, LLC. Or visit our website walleyproperties.com

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.

Continued on ... Page 5



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Vern Geddie's Western Auto closes after 48 years

By Linda Cranford

On Friday, March 31, after 48 years in business, Vern Geddie"s Western Auto in Ellisville closed the doors. However, they have opened a small office just two doors down. "We will continue to take account payments at the new office, as well as water bill payments," said Steve Geddie.

The building has been purchased by John Robert and Blaine Carpenter. The main store area will become an antique mall, and the adjacent space will become an office for the couple's other business, Complete Pest Control.

The family business began in 1969, when Vern Geddie and his wife, Joan, decided to move back to Jones County with their two children. "We purchased the Western Auto Dealership and then spent two weeks in Garland, TX in dealership training," said Joan. Looking at her son Steve, who has run the

family business for the past 20 years, Joan said smiling, "Your uncle took care of you and your sister. I think you ate hamburgers every day."

Vern was born and raised in the Tuckers Crossing area of

Vern was born and raised in the Tuckers Crossing area of Jones County and Joan grew up around the Lower Myrick Road area. In 1948, after an overseas tour with the Marine Corp, Vern returned to the states and was stationed in California. He came home to Jones County on leave, and married Joan Walters. The newlywed couple returned to California to Barstow, California, a western Mojave Desert city.

After his military service, the couple moved closer to home when Vern found work at a refinery in Lake Charles, La. After living there for five years, they moved to Hattiesburg where Vern went to work at the Hess Refinery. They were living in Hattiesburg when the couple purchased the



The Geddies with Charles Prince. Photo/Linda Cranford

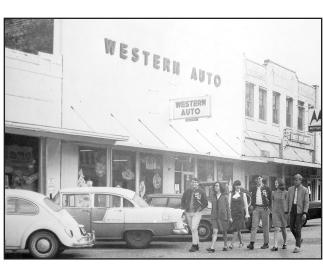
dealership and moved back home to Ellisville and Jones County.

Vern said that in 1997 he had been thinking of the best way to handle the transition for Steve to take over the business. As it turned out, he and Joan spent three months in Alaska that year. He said he figured when he got back that he would still have to help Steve out in the business for a while. However, he knew the transition was complete when he would go to the front door to greet the customers, and when he asked if he could help them, they replied, "No, I want to see Steve." Both Vern and Joan have remained a part of the business, but Steve has been running the business since 1997.

Steve was almost 16 years old when his parents purchased the dealership in January of 1969. "I don't think we had a clue about what we were doing, but I got to work here every day after school," exclaimed Steve. In 1972, he said

he began working full time with his dad. His sister, Pam Geddie Nunes, also worked in the store while growing up but chose to enter the medical field instead of working in the business.

All three of the Geddies said they had no specific plans at the moment. Vern and Joan may have a trip or two to take in the near future, but that have to wait for Vern to heal from his lawn mower accident last year. Steve said with a farm, there was always something to be done, and he helps out at his parent's house, too. He plans to continue to help folks out around Ellisville when they need it, too. "I'm going to work here in the office for two or three days, and Mr. Charles is going to help out a couple of days," said Steve. "Mr. Charles" is Charles Prince, who has been working with the Geddies for 38 years. The main doors to Vern Geddie Western Auto have closed, however, from the sound of it, Steve Geddie plans to remain the go-to guy for Ellisville and the surrounding area for a while longer.



Vern Geddie's Western Auto, downtown Ellisville 1969. Photo/submitted

Laurel student one of two students to earn Eli Lilly training internship

Submitted

University of Southern Mississippi business students Justin McCool and Morgan Musgrove have been selected for the 2017 Eli Lilly Sales Internship – a 10-week training program with the global pharmaceutical company. McCool and Musgrove, both Healthcare Marketing majors, competed against students from other schools to earn the training opportunity. There were only 60 internships awarded across the country for Eli Lilly's program. The Lilly Sales Internship is designed to give students real world experience in pharmaceutical sales. The program will consist of sales training at the company's head-quarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, followed by the interns calling on physicians in assigned territories in Mississippi and Alabama. McCool's internship begins in May, while Musgrove is scheduled to start hers in June.

"Our healthcare marketing program prepares students to compete with the best as these internships show," said Dr. Faye Gilbert, Dean of the USM College of Business. Dr. Kelli King (Professor of Practice) is an exceptional leader with industry experience who guides our students in learning and making the transition to exceptional careers. My congratulations to Justin McCool and Morgan Musgrove for this honor and my thanks to them for the hard work they will complete as they reflect well on Southern Miss business programs during this internship with Eli Lilly."

King commends Rob Dezso, Eli Lilly District sales manager, for supporting the Southern Miss Healthcare

Marketing program and helping to create the partnership with Eli Lilly. "Our participation in this internship would not have happened without his vision and initiative," said King.

McCool and Musgrove agree that the training program will provide invaluable experience as they progress toward the ultimate goal of a career in the healthcare field.

"I hope to gain experience in the pharmaceutical world and to fine polish my professionalism and communication skills," said McCool, a senior from Magee, Miss. "Upon graduation, I would love to get a full-time position with Lilly and eventually move in to a high-management position within the company."

"Southern Miss, along with the Department of Healthcare Marketing, has developed a unique curriculum directly addressing and perfecting the skills needed to be successful in this industry," said Musgrove, a senior from Laurel, Miss. "Through this internship my hope is to put these skills into practice, perfecting the techniques presented to me by Southern Miss and Eli Lilly."

Musgrove notes that she too hopes to parlay her internship into a full-time position with Eli Lilly before possibly returning to Southern Miss one day as an instructor.

Eli Lilly was ranked No.141 on the Fortune 500 list for 2016 and has been named one of Fortune's "World's Most Admired Companies" for 2017. The company was founded in 1876 by Col. Eli Lilly, a pharmaceutical chemist and veteran of the American Civil War, after whom the company is named. Lilly, with offices in Puer-



Southern Miss business students Justin McCool, left, and Morgan Musgrove have been selected to participate in the 2017 Eli Lilly Sales Training Internship program. / Photo by Kelly Dunn

to Rico and 17 other countries, was the first company to mass-produce penicillin, the Salk polio vaccine, and insulin.

McCool is the son of Roger and Amy McCool of Magee, Miss. Musgrove is the daughter of Keith and Lisa Musgrove of Laurel, Miss., and Gary and Patricia Chiasson of Nashville. Tenn

April 6
United Blood Services is asking you to "Hop on in" to any of the numerous mobile drives taking place throughout the Jones County area during the month of April! Donate blood April 1-16 and receive a "Donating with my Peeps" t-shirt for your efforts! Schedule your appointment to donate today at www.BloodHero.com, or call 877-UBS-HERO (877) 827-4376. Donors can donate at: Friday, April 7 from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. at South Central Regional Medical Center, conference rooms; Tuesday, April 11 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Cameron Center, 711 North 10th Avenue; Wednesday, April 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the SCRMC Wellness Center, 23 Mason St.

Kindergarten pre-registration will be held at all Jones County School District Elementary Schools on the following two days: Thursday, April 6 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Friday, April 7 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This pre-registration will be for all new kindergarten students for the 2017-18 school term. For more information on items needed for registration and a list of schools please see our Laurel Impact Facebook page.

The 4-H Poultry Chain Project poultry chain is designed to educate youth about poultry and its importance in the state of Mississippi. Participants will order chicks of the designated breeds in the categories meat birds and laying birds. They will receive these chicks and grow them until approximately 20 weeks of age. During this grow out process participants will keep a record book of the bird's progress and information obtained through the process. Participants will select their top three birds to show at a county level and potentially the state level. The chain

project is for clover bud (county level only), junior and senior participants. If you are interested in learning more about this project, contact Jessica Sibley at the Wayne County Extension Office at 601-735-2243.

Once again Smith County will be host to the Magnolia Beef & Poultry Expo beginning at 9 a.m. at the Smith County Ag Complex, located off Hwy. 35 South in Raleigh. Seminars will be held on poultry and beef industry. You must attend three of the four seminars to be eligible for the grand door prize. Admission is free. A concession stand will be available for lunch. Local farmers and producers are urged to attend this event for the latest information that concerns the poultry and beef industry. If you are interested in being a vendor to highlight your products at the Expo, please call the Smith County Extension Office at 601-782-4454. For more details, please visit our Laurel Impact Facebook page.

April 7
With lights, fog, a unique sound track and loads of action, Kidz
Blitz Live comes to town. A shared family experience, produced
by Roger Fields, Kidz Blitz Live is a fast-paced, high-octane
event for the whole family. Families will experience Biblical
truths communicated through special effects and illustrative
interaction. With music reworked from movie tunes and sounds
from the seventies, there's as much to hear as there is to see. The
event will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the South Jones High School
Performing Arts Center.

The 4th Annual Ellisville Easter Egg Hunt and Children's Festival will be held at the Ellisville Courthouse lawn. Two

age divisions: 0 to 5-years old and 6 to 12-years old. Slides and jumps begins at 10 a.m. Easter egg hunt hunts start promptly at 11 a.m. We will be celebrating the" Rebirth of our Christ Child, Jesus." Come and experience "The Magic of Easter." Photos with the Easter bunny available after the parade. No charge for any of the children's activities. A city-wide Garage Sale in front of the Courthouse and City Hall will take place with setup at 6 a.m. \$25 per booth-must be paid prior to sale day – No Exceptions. Contact Geni Looney, 601-477-8111 or Pam Bush, 601-319-1607

The 1977 South Jones High School "40th" class reunion will be held at the home of Randy and Julie Laird, 101 East Ivy Street, Ellisville. This is for all classmates. Bring your favorite covered dish along with a lawn chair and plan to have a great time reconnecting with former classmates. The reunion begins at 5:00 pm. For more information, contact Julie @ 601-477-8739 or Glenda Therrell @ 601-477-9556.

Bancorp South Touch A Truck will be held Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No Horn Hour: 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Library street parking lot in Downtown Laurel. Tickets: \$5 Each; Children 2 & under: Free; Advance Family Pack: 4 for \$15. Sponsored by Laurel Main Street.

There will be a gospel sing Saturday, April 8th beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Sanford Community Center located at 663 Old Highway 49 Sanford. Featured guest will be "4 The Journey", "Damascus Road", and "Faithway Singers." Admission is free; a love offering will be accepted. For more information call 601-764-6485.

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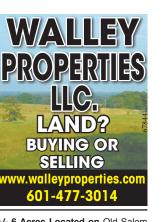
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Road at Strengthford, MS. This piece of property has a spot cleared for a house site. Nice timber on property. Call Rob McCraw Today 601-498-9143. \$21,000. See more at mfm-

Covington County: 40 acres located 6 miles east of Collins. Intersection of Highways 84 & 37. Bordered at West by Okawoods Creek. Great location for truck stop/convenience store. \$95K. Call 601-517-6940

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



plantation pine, stream thru property, hardwood bottom. \$2800 per acre 601-668-7003

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.

+/- 90 Acres Located on Jernigan Road just South of Leakesville, MS. Tract is new cut over with scattered trees. Has good road system. Great Hunting and Recreation. Could be made into pasture. Several good house sites. Power available Owner is will to split the property up into an 110 acre and 90 acre tract. Has creek running across the property. \$135,000 Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more at mfmland.com

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6 acres of land, 100-feet wide by 2613.6 feet long, approximately 4 miles from Stringer High School. Approximately 2200ft. is adjacent to and parallel with CR 19 in Jasper Co. Interested parties please submit your bids by May 1, 2017. Minimum bid per acre \$2500. Bid awarded to highest qualified bidder. Send bids to: Rov D. Glenn. 2711 CR 23. Bay Springs, MS 39422 or roydglenn@ amail com

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.

+/- 31 Acres Located on Jr. Steede Road, just off of New Hwy 63, on the George/Jackson County Line. The timber has been recently cut but some hardwoods are left. Has a house site on the East side of the property. Power and Water available. Price to sale quickly!!!!! \$37,200. Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more at

+/- 46 Acres Located on Lower Myrick Road and Mollie Boutwell Rd, this property is made up of Pasture and has 4 Ponds. Perfect place

your dream home.Call Rob McCraw at 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.

> 29 East located on Busby Road. This Property with road frontage has recently been chipped, leaving residential/shade trees which would make for a perfect home-site, or mini farm \$71,050. For more information. call Bennett 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties LLC or visit walleyproperties.com for maps of this listing 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.

+/- 49 Acres Located on County Road 6 Just off MS Hwy 11, Heidel

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berg. MS. This tract consists of 23 year old merchantable pine timber with scattered hardwoods. Tract has small creek that runs on the NE Corner and several great camp/home sites. Great hunting tract and close to amenities Power/Water available \$125,000. Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more

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+/- 46 Acres Pastures 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. Woods & Waters Realty, www.mfmland.com.

+/- 80 Acres Located on the Jasper/Clarke County Line just North

Continued on ... Page 6



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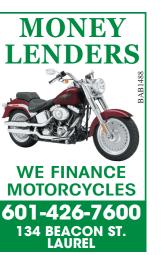
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+/- 132 Acres Located on Hwy 57 just North of Leakesville, MS. This tract consists of thinned mature pine and a mix of younger hwd/pine timber. Great hunting and recreation. Good roads in place with food plots. Priced to sale Quickly! \$211,200. Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more at mfmland. com.

69 acres near Highway 15, Stringer MS. This property offers endless possibilities from home sites to commercial opportunities or just recreational use. Some dirt work has already been completed for new tenants. The property has some mature hardwood and some planted hardwood and sexellent internal road system along with frontage on Hwy. 15. \$320,000. Contact Marc at 601-670-5429. Walley Properties, LLC

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just north of Beat 4 in Wayne Co., MS. This remarkable tract of land offers endless possibilities. The timber consist of 8-10 year old pine plantation. The property offers plenty of road frontage in a remote setting with an excellent internal road system as well as a natural gas pipeline for great access. Grass patches are in place and an abundance of wildlife that is sure to please any hunter or outdoor sportsman. This property is offered at \$312,050.00. Contact Marc at Walley Properties, LLC. 601-670-5429, or visit walleyproperties.com for maps of this listing.

+/- 160 Acres Located on Poppa Parnell Ln, just West of Leakesville, MS, this tract consists of 4 year old pine timber with some hardwoods. Has beautiful views and camp or house site. Power available. Great hunting and recreation. Priced to sale! \$256,000. Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more at mfmland.com.

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Continued on ... Page 8

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Continued on ... Page 9



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2013 Ford Fusion. \$10,995 at Quality Auto. Call 601-394-9313.

See more at Cars601.com.

2013 Hyundai Sonata. \$10,995 at Hattiesburg Cars. Call our Local toll free number 855-242-0775. See more at Cars601.com

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Continued on ... Page 10

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Enterprise School District

Direct and supervise the district food service program/operations.

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2006 Chevrolet Malibu. \$3,900 at Vara Auto Sales, call 601-335-3972. See more at Cars601.com.

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1854 See more at Cars601 com

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2010 Silver Malibu, 57,000 miles, 4 cylinder, excellent paint and interior. Has one small dent on right rear fender and one on right rear roof pillar. Very good tires. \$8,500.00. Call Keith at (601) 410-9355.

2007 Infiniti, G35, \$11,995. Call or text Drew. 601-602-5800.

2005 Honda Accord, red, \$6,000 Call or text Daniel: 601-620-4597.

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2015 Chevrolet Malibu. \$19,888 at Harris Hankins in Bay Springs. Call 844-329-7227. See Cars601.com for

Continued on ... Page 11

Laurel McAlister's Deli Manager receives special award

By Linda Cranford

If you've ever visited the McAllister's Deli in Laurel, chances are you've been greeted at some point during your visit by a high energy 5-foot tall blonde lady by the name of Tracie Murray, who is the manager of the Laurel location. Murray has served in management for eight of the ten years she's been with the company.

Recently, at McAlister's annual conference, which was held in Tunica, Murray was awarded the company's prestigious Red Shoe Award; the company's highest individual employee award. According to last year's recipient, Derick Trahan, the person receiving the award is voted on by their peers as being an individual who exemplifies in both their personal life and work life a giving spirit and McAlister's mission of providing that special Southern Hospitality to all their customers.

"Tracie is so well known in the community, and makes a point to know what's going on in each person's life to build a relationship with her customers," said Trahan. He said the award is a way for her peers to show her their appreciation for her energy and Good Samaritan actions. "The award is not given every year," added Trahan. "It's only given when an individual stands out during the year."

"I've had a lot of people tell me I spoil



Tracie Murray, manager McAlister's Deli -Laurel. Photo/Linda Cranford

my customers," exclaimed Murray, "but, that's who I am."

In addition to the red shoes, Murray received \$1,000. The Laurel location also had its best year in history in 2016, and was added to the company's Two Million Dollar Club. Murray received an additional \$1,000 for that achievement.

"In the ten years I've been here, we've



Pictured is McAlister's manager Tracie Murray, center, accepting the Red Show Award, from Mike Moss, left, area director and Cleve Luster, right, director of operations. Photo/Submitted

never accomplished that," said Murray. She contributed it to an increase in business in the past six months. "We've got more people visiting Laurel, and we are located on the main stretch going into downtown."

The Red Shoe Award also includes giving the recipient a pair of red Converse shoes and a silver medallion. The recipient must wear the shoes to next year's conferHELP FOR VICTIMS OF **DOMESTIC ABUSE** 24-Hour

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\$17,900. Southeastern Auto Bro-

Continued on ... Page 13

See more at Cars601.com

Junior Auxiliary celebration **National JA Weeks**



Pictured with Laurel Mayor Johnny Magee is Bryn Nasajpour, PR chairwoman; Becky Collins, assistant to the treasurer; Brook Gatlin, treasurer; and Andrea Endom, Shareholders chairwoman.

Photo/Submitted

Submitted

The Junior Auxiliary of Laurel will be celebrating National JA week, April 2-8. On March 30, Mayor Johnny Magee signed an honorary proclamation designating the week as Junior Auxiliary week in Laurel, Mississippi. This annual celebration is a time to pause and thank the community, sponsors, and volunteer members who work so hard year-round to make a positive difference in the lives of children in Laurel and Jones County.

The Junior Auxiliary of Laurel began in 1932 with 23 Charter members and currently has 60 active members who donate over 3,500 of hours annually to the chapter's various projects. These service projects include Amblyopia screening, Child Abuse Awareness, Character Counts, Secret Meals, Family Matters, Girl Talk, Parkside Playground, Salvation Army, O The Places You Will Go, Scholarship, Very Special Arts Festival, Done in a Day, Lady Tornado Chick Chat and an annual Provisional Project. The chapter raises funds each year through Shareholders, Patrons, Frosty Frolic 5K as well as Casino Night.

"This is an exciting week for us, because it gives us a chance to thank all of the citizens of Jones County for supporting us in this work, and to recognize our wonderful corporate sponsors who finance these projects."

Relations Chair Bryn Nasajpour. "The families and children we serve are so deserving and thankful for this assistance, and none of that would be possible without the support of the entire community."

"The National Association of Junior Auxiliaries will soon be entering into our 76th year of serving others, and many chapters have been a part of that from the beginning. Whether a chapter has been with us for 76 years or one year, the fact that our members have a heart for service and a passion for making a difference in the lives of their neighbors around them has never wavered," said Jeanne Hildebrandt, NAJA president.

The Junior Auxiliary of Laurel is a part of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries (NAJA), a nonprofit organization founded in 1941 with headquarters in Greenville, Miss. NAJA has 15,043 active, associate, and life members in 96 Chapters in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. Junior Auxiliary members (worked or volunteered) 96,312 hours in their communities, and invested \$2.890.818 in seven southeastern states in 2015-2016. The NAJA slogan is "Care Today- Character Tomorrow." Junior Auxiliary chapters are working more than ever to provide care to those less fortunate in order to said JA of Laurel Public make their tomorrows better.

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Victoria Smith receives first R.B. and Carolyn Hill scholarship

By Karyn Lewis

Thanks to a wedding anniversary and a daughter's creative gift idea, senior theatre majors at The University of Southern Mississippi will benefit from a new foundation scholarship celebrating the esteemed career of retired professor R.B. Hill, who served 30 years at Southern Miss. Hill was an associate professor, technical director and auditorium manager. The scholarship, which will help defray travel costs for theatre-related auditions and interviews the department's graduating seniors may have, is a wedding anniversary gift from Amie Hill, R.B. and Carolyn Hill's daughter.

"My parents were nearing their 50th wedding anniversary and I was still struggling to choose the perfect gift for such a momentous occasion. My mom mentioned that she always wanted to start a scholarship in my dad's name. I asked her why not both of their names? She replied, 'Well he was the professor, I was just tagging along for the ride,'" said Amie Hill, a Southern Miss alumna.

"My mom was a very integral part of my dad's success. In addition to her full time job as a guidance counselor, she brought Tupperware dinners to evening rehearsals, hosted chili parties on weekends for 20 college kids for script readthroughs and provided her unmistakable, encouraging and sometimes solo laugh from an audience on opening nights. To include both parents on a scholarship dedicated to them was without a doubt the perfect gift for their 50th anniversary," Hill added.

While at Southern Miss, R.B. Hill di-

rected "Catfish Moon" in 1995, and "The Rimers of Eldritch" in 2000, which were the first two shows from the state of Mississippi to be performed at the celebrated Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. "Since that's about as far as you can go in educational theatre, I retired," R.B. Hill joked.

Before retiring, Hill started an audition process class to better prepare theatre students for auditions at the annual Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC). SETC hosts the nation's most reliable, longest running combined auditions. Theatre companies know they will see something special when they come to the conference. Thanks to Hill, Southern Miss theatre students are prepared.

"I started the audition class because students have to go to the Southeastern Theatre Conference, which has hundreds of participants and we wanted to better prepare our students. I figured I'd better come up with something to teach them how to audition," R.B. Hill said.

The course, which is mandatory for students who wish to be considered for the scholarship, is now taught by associate professor Sean Boyd.

"Audition Process is an absolutely critical class to prepare student-actors for the transition into the professional world. R.B.'s forethought in creating this class laid the foundations for evolving us from an academic department to a Professional Actor Training Program," Boyd said. "It was leadership like this that created a standard of excellence in our department, and has generated a multitude of graduates that have gone on to full-time careers

as actors, directors, designers and in all aspects of the business."

Funds for the scholarship were raised at the Hill's 50th wedding anniversary, which was hosted on the Southern Miss campus in Hattiesburg in late 2015. Over \$16,000 was raised by February 2016 and the scholarship will be awarded annually to a proficient student in the audition process class

"We wanted to do something and this way we have a continuing presence within the department. We still go to performances and events. We just feel like this is the way to contribute," Carolyn Hill said.

The first R.B. and Carolyn Hill Scholarship recipient is Victoria Smith. The Waynesboro, Miss. native was awarded the scholarship at the end of the 2016 fall semester. Smith passed the SETC screen-

ings in Jackson, Miss. and has been invited to participate in auditions at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Lexington, Ky.

"Receiving this scholarship is a complete honor and a blessing," Smith said. "It has provided the funds for me to travel and audition in this professional theatre environment.

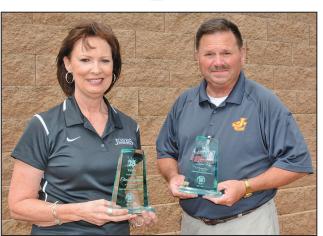
"This scholarship has given me more than just financial aid; it has given me the opportunity to garner this valuable professional experience in order to progress my craft as a professional actor and theatre maker."

For more information about the Hill scholarship and other scholarship opportunities at Southern Miss, contact the USM Foundation at 601.266.5210 or visit www.usmfoundation.com.



Victoria Smith, center, is the first recipient of the R.B. (right) and Carolyn Hill theatre scholarship at Southern Miss. *Photo/Submitted*

JCJC employee service honored at recognition luncheon



Two JCJC employees were recently honored for their 25 years of employment at JCJC at the annual Employee Recognition luncheon. Pictured left to right are Clara Bynum (Jones County), financial aid; Allen Nix, (Jones County) housekeeping superintendant

Photo/Teresa McCreery



Nine JCJC employees were recently honored for working 15 years at Jones. Pictured left to right are: David Lowery (Jones County) English instructor; Danielle Brownlee (Jones County) A.D. Nursing instructor; Kari Miller (Jones County) registrar's office; Carmen Sumrall (Jones County) Workforce College; Melanie James (Wayne County) academic life coach; Michelle Shearer (Jones County) women's housing director; Jeffrey Morris (Jones County) groundskeeper and Paula Pierce (Jones County) art instructor. Not pictured: Amanda Robertson (Jones County) business office manager. *Photo/Teresa McCreery*

Twenty-five JCJC employees were recently honored for working five years in various roles at Jones. Pictured left to right are: Nancy Pritchard, associate degree nursing instructor; Kacie Minnix (Jones County) registrar; Kelly Vera (Hattiesburg) science instructor; Joe Everett (Jones County) physical plant director; Brad Reynolds (Jones County) campus police; Kandie Johnson (Jones County) women's housing; Alfred Griffin (Jones County), transportation; Sarita Mills (Jones County) switchboard; Claire Garretson (Jones County) recruiting; Kimberly Bradshaw (Jones County) math instructor; Jennifer Hughes (Jones County) adult education; Beth McDaniel (Jones County) scholarships; Jason Mills (Jones County) grounds and farm; Tom Wagnon (Jones County) groundskeeper; Brendan Connolly (Jones County) men's soccer coach; Tina Livingston(Jones County) housing and campus police; Greg Wascoe (Hattiesburg) fine arts instructor; Rod Tolbert (Jones County) industrial services chair/welding instructor; Tonya Moreno (Greene County) cosmetology instructor; Casey Herrington, associate degree nursing instructor; Billy Clark (Jones County) welding instructor; James Thomas (Jones County) campus police; Vickie Robinson, housekeeping; Ken Knox (Clarke County) adult basic education and Kenneth Savell (Jones County) shipping and receiving.



Nine JCJC employees were recently honored for working 20 years at Jones at the Employee Recognition luncheon. Pictured left to right are Juanita Morgan, (Jones County) business office, Jennifer Suber (Jones County), Cheryl Windham, (Jones County) humanities division chair/instructor financial aid and Andrew Sharp, (Jones County) student success center. Not pictured: Randy Purdum, (Jones County) electrical technology instructor and Daphne Yeager (Covington County) business office.

Photo/Teresa McCreery



Thirteen JCJC employees were recently honored for working 10 years at Jones include: Ginger Keeton (Petal) marketing instructor; Dolores Deasley (Jones County) women's soccer coach; Emily Phillips (Jones County) associate degree nursing instructor; Jason Dedwylder (Clarke County) academic dean; Loretta Burns, associate degree nursing instructor; Brad Harrison (Jones County) career technical education support services and Murray Windham (Jasper County) English instructor. Not pictured: Jennifer Griffith (Jones County) assistant VP of instructional affairs for Workforce College; Megan Stringer (Jones County) science instructor; Leah Hinton (Jasper County) early childhood instructor; Sarah Ishee (Jones County) social science instructor; Kelly Atwood (Jones County) student publications/marketing and Kenneth Savell (Jones County) maintenance. Photo/Teresa McCreery

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Residential electrical course offered at JCJC ATC in Ellisville

Submitted

Jones County Junior College's Workforce College will be offering a residential electrical course at the Whitehead Advanced Technology Center in Ellisville. The nine-week day class will meet Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., starting on Tuesday, April 18 and ending on Friday, June 23.

The residential electrical class is a hands-on, instructor-led course that teaches students basic electrician skills. In this course, students will learn skills such as electrical safety, electrical theory, conductors and cables, basic electrical drawings, residential electrical drawings and services, electrical test equipment and an introduction to electrical circuits and an introduction to the National Electrical Code.

This course is for anyone with limited or no previous electrical training with the goal of earning the National Center for Construction Education and Research transcript and a nationally recognized credential card. Also, upon successful completion of the course, students will receive a JCJC Workforce College certificate with the number of course hours completed. The cost for this course is \$150. Students are responsible for purchasing their own personal protective equipment (PPE).

To register and pay for the class please come to the Advanced Technology Center at 72 Technology Blvd, Ellisville, or call Carmen Sumrall at (601) 477-4105. For more information call the ATC at (601) 477-4114.



West Jones High School Senior Kristi Marshall recently signed a letter of intent to play basket-ball with Hinds Community College Lady Bulldogs. Pictured are, seated: Belinda Marshallmom; Kristi; Deanna Thigpen-aunt; Standing: Brianna Page-teammate; Terryl Ulmer-AAU coach, Kaylin Adams-cousin, Terrance Thigpen-friend, West Jones High School coach Sharon Murray, and Lynn Lyon, WJHS supervising principal. *Photo/Submitted*



Tornado signs with East Central Community College Warriors

Laurel High School basketball standout Tamirra Haskin signed a letter of intent with East Central Community College. She was recently selected to play in the Mississippi-Alabama All-Star game in Montgomery, Alabama, where the Mississippi team was victorious. She has received numerous awards for her skills on the court, including being named 2017 Region 5-5A Co-Offensive Player of the Year, Clarion Ledger Top Performer of the Week and State Girl of the Week. She was selected most valuable player for Region 5-5A in 2016, was named to the All-District Team and was named East Central Community College Tournament MVP. Haskin is a member of the Beta Club, Interact and Student Council. She is a Superintendent's Scholar, Mississippi Scholar and is dual enrolled at Jones County Junior College. Tamirra plans to study physical therapy. Pictured (seated L-R): her mother Roslyn Haskin, Tamirra Haskin, father Chris Haskin, (standing L-R): aunt Dessy Parker, friend Ashley Breland, pastor and godfather Rev. Vernon Graves, LHS assistant coach Shasta Husband, head coach Alphaka Moore, assistant coach Kamita Thigpen, aunt Tonya Weathersby, brother Donovan Haskin and grandmother Margaret Weathersby.



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