

JCSD's Live SO streams from Kiwanis Club meeting

By Linda Cranford

The Laurel Kiwanis Club hosted the Jones County Sheriff's Department's Live SO Facebook video streaming, Wednesday, February 7, with Jones County Sheriff Alex Hodge and JCSD Public Relations Director Allyson Knotts. The two have been streaming live on Facebook every Wednesday at noon in various locations throughout the county for several months. The live streaming gives the Sheriff an opportunity to talk with citizens about issues facing the community. People can send in questions during the video for the Sheriff to answer.

In addition to the weekly Wednesday live streaming, Hodge said they have been doing pop-up Live SO's on other days. Recently they did a pop-up Live SO at Exit 93 to emphasize the litter problem in our county and show the trustees actually picking up litter.

"We are picking up over 600 bags of litter weekly here in Jones County," stated Hodge. "However, people continue to encourage us because our county is cleaner than a lot of counties are." He said while at the exit a couple from out of town stopped to talk to him about Jones County's litter program.

Knotts added that she had an opportunity to talk with Sgt. Roberts and the trustees who said they liked the fact they were mak-



Allyson Knotts, left, JCSD Public Relations Director and Jones County Sheriff Alex Hodge were streaming live on Facebook from the Laurel Kiwanis Club meeting with their Live SO video streaming. Photo/Linda Cranford

ing a difference but how disappointing it was to have people throw out trash right in front of them!

"That goes to the attitude that some people have and think they can just throw their garbage out and someone will pick it up," exclaimed Hodge. "We're encouraging people to be vigilant and be watching for those who choose to litter our roads and give us a call at 601-425-3147 or you can call my cell phone. We want to know who those people are." Hodge said when people are caught throwing out their trash they are asked by the Sheriff's Department to pick

up the trash and if they refuse to do so they are sited. "When they go to the Jones County Justice Court they are sited and ordered to pick not only the trash they put down, but also trash a half a mile on each side of where the dropped their trash. In other words we do not tolerate litter here in Jones County and we need your help," said Hodge.

They also talked about how the JCSD K-9 Division is presently preparing for the upcoming United States Police Canine Association Regional Trials which will be held in Jones County this month. While preparing for the trials the K-9 officers and their handlers train on different aspects of their daily jobs as K-9 officers such as criminal apprehension catch and release. Hodge said yesterday, during criminal apprehension catch and release training Corp. Doug Shepherd was playing the role of the criminal wearing a catch sleeve when K-9 Officer Diesel caught his arm above the sleeve requiring Shepherd to have several stitches in his arm. Shepherd is the head of the JCSD K-9 team.

Knotts added that the USPCA Trials will be held February 23 through 25 at the Magnolia Center and the public is invited to at-

See LIVE STREAM, page 2



Optimal Performance Therapy gets children moving with Go Baby Go program

By Linda Cranford

Optimal Performance Therapy in Laurel gave five children a life-altering gift Friday afternoon, February 9, with the help of Go Baby Go, a national non-profit community-based, design and research program, and NuMotion, a wheelchair and mobility equipment company. The children, who are developmentally delayed for various reasons, were given specially modified battery operated ride-on toy cars to take home.

"These ride-on cars have been converted to be used by children with special needs to accommodate their inability to work a normal car," said Sara Norval, who is the owner and physical therapist for Optimal Performance Therapy along with co-owner and physical therapist Lori Landrum.

Norval said the modifications included adding a big red button to the steering wheel for the child to be able to push to make it go rather than having to press a pedal and steer at the same time. Padded barriers were added to keep the child from falling over the edge of the seat, trunk control was added on the back to keep them from tilting backwards, and Velcro seat belts were installed.

One of the first to try out her new red ride was 19-month old Parker Taylor, who took off like a jackrabbit. With one hand in her mouth and the other on the red button, Parker zoomed around the room as her mother, a therapist, or who-



Sara Norval, right, Optimal Performance Therapy owner and physical therapists helps Gabriel Fountaine learn how to make his car go.



Partnering with Optimal Performance Therapy owners Sara Norval, back center left, and Lori Landrum, back center right, to bring the cars to the children are Candy Parker - NuMotion CCC, back left, Jason Lang - NuMotion ATP, back right, Karen Roy NuMotion AM and Ms. Wheelchair Louisiana, front left, and Dr. Sam Logan - Go Baby Go program partner and assistant professor at Oregon State University, front, right. Photos/Linda Cranford

ever was nearby stopped her car before she slammed into a piece of equipment or a person, turned it around and sent her on her way again.

Little Gabriel Fontaine was more excited for everyone else than he was for himself. He jumped up and down with excitement watching the others. It took him a few tries before he trusted his new big blue car.

Dr. Sam Logan, PhD, Go Baby Go program partner and assistant professor at Oregon State University, was on hand to provide guidance in the conversion of the cars. The Go Baby Go program began in 2012 at the University of Delaware by founder Cole Galloway. Logan introduced the program at Oregon State in 2014 and travels all over the country helping others build the cars for the children. There are 75 chapters of Go Baby Go across the country.

"Dr. Logan is a primary researcher in the benefits of children being exposed to early mobility devices," said Norval. She said earlier in the day he gave a lecture on the topic for several local physical therapists who received CE credits for participating. "The therapists also built the cars," added Norval.

Logan said motorized wheelchairs for children under two years old do not exist. His lecture discussed the importance of early mobility and the significance of children being given the opportunity to move freely in their own space despite their delays. He said Friday was the first time for several of the children to experience controlling their own space and the first time for parents to see them do it.

Also present for the event were several members of Nu-Motion including Account Manager Karen Roy, who is also Ms. Wheelchair Louisiana 2018. Roy was paralyzed 30 years ago in Baton Rouge when she was shot in the back by a drive-by shooter. She understands firsthand the importance of mobility to those with disabilities. She will compete in the Ms. Wheelchair America 2019 pageant in Grand Rapids, MI on July 30 - August 5, 2019. Her platform is entitled Elevating Health and Wellness. She plans to educate people on the vital importance of physical activity, and using standing devices, or functional electrical stimulation to significantly improve the physical and mental health of people with disabilities. She said she has benefited greatly from her persistence and passion to use medical equipment to help her maintain good health and is blessed to have the opportunity to work with NuMotion and the Go Baby Go program.



Karen Roy, right, NuMotion account manager and Ms. Wheelchair Louisiana shows Parker Taylor how to press the big red button to make her car go.



LIVE STREAM, continued from page 1

tend; admission is free. "We keep saying that kids will love watching the trials, but I can guarantee you that adults are going to love it as well. You can see the course work and the on-going training that the K-9s go through."

Hodge added that there will be a number of teams attending the trials from all over the region staying in hotels and eating at our restaurants.

They also talked about the topic for the first Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn event which was to be held the following day, Thursday, February 8, at Sandersons Farms. Active Shooter Prevention Expert Chris Grollnek will be the guest speaker and the Sheriff talked about the need for everyone to be prepared and remain aware of their surroundings. He mentioned how the Sheriff's Department is always training and the many free workshops that are offered to the community which include active shooter and self-defense workshops, as well as church safety. "Things are happening right here in our region," said

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Hodge. "We are dealing with a lot of things we didn't use to have to deal with."

Another topic discussed was the number and types of request for service calls received by the Jones County Sheriff's Department. Hodge said in one week they received 671 calls for service. He added that since January 1, they have received 2,991 calls for service. "We're in a total reactionary mode," exclaimed Hodge. "We're running all over the county." He pointed out there is only five deputies to cover the entire county which is one of the largest counties in the state. Several other topics were discussed during the 30 minute live streaming and Kiwanis members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Knotts and Hodge encouraged everyone to join them on Facebook each Wednesday at noon for Live SO.

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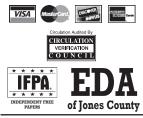
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Laurel Tree Board members excepting the Arbor Day proclamation from Mayor Johnny Magee are L-R, Thomas Shows, Rejeana Loper – Laurel Parks and Recreation, Phyllis Cross, Magee, Sandra Bateman, Carolyn Owens, Jamie Foster, and Cathy Shanks. *Photo/Linda Cranford*

Arbor Day proclaimed in the City

By Linda Cranford

One of the most attractive features of the City of Laurel is its beautiful landscape of trees that line our streets and shade our parks. The City of Laurel through the work of the Laurel Tree Board has the distinction of being the oldest Arbor Day Foundation certified Tree City USA in the State of Mississippi. Mayor Johnny Magee and members of the Laurel City Council signed a proclamation declaring Friday, February 9, as Arbor Day in the City of Laurel. Magee presented the proclamation to members of the Laurel Tree Board during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 6.

The proclamation states that "trees are a valuable and renewable resource giving us paper, wood for building and furnishing our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products. Trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, lower our heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife. Trees in our cities increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas and beautify our community. The Annual observance of Arbor Day throughout the nation and the world provides an opportunity to realize the importance of tree care and appreciation and to recognize the contribution of such to a cleaner and healthier environment."

The proclamation further states the in signing the proclamation, Magee and the city councilmen "encourage all residents to recognize the importance trees have in brightening and enhancing our lives."

On Thursday, Magee and members of the Laurel Tree Board presented certificates of appreciation to Chick-Fil-A, South Central Regional Medical Center, and Laurel Garden Club for participating in the beautification of Laurel by the planting of trees during the past year.



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AREA HAPPENINGS

The Area Happenings section is a schedule of activities for non-profit groups only – such as schools, churches and other notfor-profit organizations or family events. You may send your events to: Admin@laurelimpact.com.

February 14

Right at Home cordially invites you to our first Senior Valentine Day Dance with Uniforms. Time: February 14 from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Place: Pleasant Ridge community center, 14 Holly Road Laurel. Please R.S.V.P. by February 10 to Cynthia Barnett at 601-426-6333 or email cdc@rahpinebelt. com. We encourage any person in uniform to attended and show a senior your support with a dance or two. Lunch will be provided.

Laurel Number One Church of God in Christ is starting phase two of our low-income one time Food Assistance Program. It was a success in 2017, and our goal is to continue that same success in 2018. If you feel like your household qualifies, please call 601-426-2187. Appointments only!

The Jones County Republican Women will host their monthly meeting Wednesday, February 14 at noon at The Gables (1915 Bush Dairy Road in Laurel). Guest speakers will be the Honorable Chris Mc-Daniel, state senator, and E. Brian Rose, Congressional candidate.

Ash Wednesday service will be held February 14 at William Chapel United Methodist Church (1345 Highway 503, Vossburg, MS) at 7:00 p.m. The speaker for this occasion will be Rev. Gerald Chapman, pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church, Taylorsville, MS.

February 15

The Laurel Garden Club and the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art will host its annual Garden Lecture on Thursday, February 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. William C. Welch, this year's speaker, is professor of horticulture at Texas A&M University. Tickets for the event are \$30 and include lunch.

The Conservation 4-H Club is meeting

Thursday, February 15 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mississippi State University Extension Service Wayne County Office. This 4-H club invites all youth ages 8-18 to participate; its free to join. They are currently learning about soils. Call Lanette Crocker at 601-735-2243 or email l.crocker@msstate.edu for more information.

February 16

Jones County Junior College's Forestry Department will hold a tree sale February 16 from 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Earl Lewis Forestry/Life Science Building on the campus of Jones County Junior College. All seedling will be \$1.00 per tree.

February 17

Moselle Memorial Baptist Church's Sportsmen for Christ will present their first annual Sportsmen's Banquet on Saturday, Feb 17 at 5 p.m. Free admission and free catfish dinner. Doors will open at 3:00 p.m. The meal will be served at 5:00 p.m. There will be lots of door prizes. The Silent Auction includes paintings by Gayle Baxter and Kim Garraway. Guest Speaker will be P. J. Weeks, founder and president of Rain Down Ministries, where ministry and the outdoors intersect. Drew Turner (The Man in the Dug-Out Canoe) will be speaking on the frontier lifestyle at 3:00 p.m. All activities will be held at Moselle Memorial Baptist Church, 6 Beeson Road, Moselle.

Springhill MB Church invites you to our annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 17 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The speaker for the occasion will be Mrs. Jane East, wife of Pastor East of West Ellisville Baptist Church. Please contact the church office at 601-477-8463 by Wednesday, February 14 to sign up to be in attendance.

<u>February 18</u>

Mt. Bethel MB Church invites you to their pastor installation service on Sunday, Feb-

ruary 18 at 2:30 p.m. with Dr. Joe L. Holloway, pastor of Koinonia MB Church of Laurel, as the speaker.

New Beaver Meadow MB Church invites you to our annual Family & Friends Day program on Sunday, February 18 beginning at 11:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Antroy Gavins of Baton Rouge, LA.

Pleasant Valley MB Church, B.T.U. of Laurel, will have their annual "Black History" program on February 18 at 3:00 p.m. The theme for this occasion is: "God Is in Control1" - Psalm 147:3-5. The guest speaker will be Rev. John Hinton, our own associate minister.

Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, 4055 Sharon Road, Laurel, MS 39443, will be having a Men's Day celebration on Sunday, February 18 at 1:30 p.m.. The speaker for this occasion will be Rev. Leonard Kelley. Please come and receive a powerful word from the Lord. Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Join us at St. John MB Church to honor God's servants, Pastor & First Lady George & Melinda Dawson, for their 2nd Pastor Anniversary program on February 18 at 3:00 p.m. The church is located at 327 South 8th Avenue, Laurel.

United MB Church, Laurel, invites you and your church family, choirs, groups and soloists to our Annual 100 Men in Black program. Our goal is to see 100 men standing together in unity for the glory of God. This event will take place on Sunday, February 18 at 2:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Bernard Mitchell, pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Mendenhall.

February 24

The JCGHO will be hosting a meeting on Saturday, February 24. The meeting will be held at the Laurel-Jones County Library and will begin at 10 a.m. Guest speaker will be Frances Asmar Schwartz. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Christ Way Baptist Church, located on Hwy. 84 West of Laurel, will have a gospel sing February 24 starting at 7:00 p.m. The Magnolia Boys quartet of Laurel will be the featured group. Everyone is invited to attend.

There will be a benefit for Wayne Martin, recently diagnosed with kidney and lung cancer, at the Ag Complex in Raleigh on February 24 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be an auction of donated items, singing and entertainment. Chicken plates are \$6 each and include chicken, baked beans, potato salad, dessert and drinks. For more information contact Justin Middleton at 601-850-3165, Waylon Martin at 769-220-4346 or Danielle Hand at 601-382-0747. The Martin Family would like to thank you for all the love and support.

Brian Free & Assurance Gospel Music will be in concert at Trinity Baptist Church in Laurel on Feb. 24 at 6:00 p.m. A love offering will be received, and a nursery will be provided.

There will be a benefit fish fry and gospel sing to aid in the rising medical expenses of Samuel Atkinson on Saturday February 24 at the SMFWB youth camp, 1400 Pine Grove Road, Waynesboro. The fish fry will begin at 4:00 p.m. and the gospel concert begins at 6:00 p.m., featuring The Inspirations. This is an indoor event, but seating is limited; please bring a lawn chair. For more information call Vance Green at 601-408-0689.

Springhill MB Church, Ellisville, will host one of its two yearly blood drives on Saturday, February 24. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 601-477-8463 for more information.



February 14 - February 27, 2018

MSU announces 2018 football season ticket pricing plan

Submitted

With one of the most anticipated seasons in school history approaching and the Joe Moorhead era underway, Mississippi State Athletics unveiled its season ticket pricing plan for the 2018 home football season on Friday. Renewals are now being accepted for current Bulldog season ticket holders. An electronic link is being sent out to season ticket holders and renewal forms will also be mailed out beginning next week. Season tickets to the general public will go on sale on Monday, Feb. 12.

In an effort to increase affordability for Bulldog fans, several sections of Davis Wade Stadium will see a season ticket price decrease of up to 20 percent, including some lower east side sections as well as much of the upper levels. Season ticket holders in the Floyd Wade Club will see a price increase to accommodate a complete renovation of the interior of the club, which is already underway and will be ready for the 2018 season. The renovation will include new floors, new wall graphics, wood paneling and new aesthetics that closely match the State Level of Davis Wade Stadium. The modern design will create a better flow for fans on gameday. New catering options will be available as well.

Seating in the South Loge, which made its debut in 2017 and became a hit with fans with its unique proximity to the field, will once again be available in 2018. Fans interested in purchasing tickets to the South Loge can contact the Bulldog Club at 662-325-3074. State returns a loaded roster in 2018 that features 17 starters and two first-team All-SEC defenders from a squad that won nine games and claimed a TaxSlayer Bowl victory. Moorhead also hauled in a Top 25 recruiting class (Rivals.com) in his debut and signed the top six high school players in the state of Mississippi according to 247Sports.

An exciting 2018 home slate features SEC contests against Florida (Sept. 29), defending SEC West champion Auburn (Oct. 6), Texas A&M (Oct. 27) and Arkansas (Nov. 17). MSU opens its 119th football season on Sept. 1 against Stephen F. Austin in Davis Wade Stadium. More information on 2018 MSU football season ticket pricing is available by calling 1-888-GO-DAWGS or in person at the MSU Athletic Ticket Office on the first floor of the Bryan Athletic Administration Building (288 Lakeview Drive), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ellisville Garden Club's Yard of the Month



Renowned photographer to visit Guild And Gentry

Submitted

Michael Foster, a Mississippi native and one of the few remaining colloidal process photographers in the country, will visit Laurel to set up a temporary studio inside Guild and Gentry.

On Saturday, February 17, renowned photographer Michael Foster will be creating ambrotype portraits from a temporary studio inside Guild and Gentry, located at 321 N Magnolia St., Laurel. For \$125, subjects will leave with a one-of-a-kind image, transposed on a glass plate through a combination of chemical application and light exposure. Appointments can be made through a direct link on Foster's website (https://michaelnfoster.squarespace. com/time-slots/2018-02-17). Walkins are welcome but not guaranteed a time slot.

Michael Foster is a Vicksburg-born draftsman who discovered a passion for photography. He was introduced to this late nineteenth century photography style during a photography workshop in the Mississippi Delta, and has since developed his skill and deepened his love for the technique. Speaking about the wet-plate colloidal process, Foster says, "The first time I ever saw it, it was the closest thing to magic I've ever seen. You've made something that's just not captured in zeros



This is Michael Foster's sample of an ambrotype portrait entitled "Mt. Zion Baptist Church."

and ones."

Erin Napier, one of our local Home Town stars, has been photographed several times by Foster and appreciates the unusual results. She shares, "I don't know what it is about them, but there's a magic that sticks to the metal and makes every portrait have an ethereal, heirloom quality you can't find with any other method."

Foster's visit is the first in a proposed series of events focusing on artisans and craftsmen. Further details will be announced as events are scheduled.



This is another sample of Michael Foster's ambrotype portrait entitled "Marshal Blevins."

SOUTHERN

MEDICAL CARE



This ambrotype portrait by Michael Foster is entitled "Dan."



HAVING TROUBLE

The Ellisville Garden Club's selection for the "Yard of the Month" for February is the home of Angela Hales, 102 North Street in Ellisville. The home shows the importance of trees and evergreens used as foundation planting, especially in the winter months. You'll find large fan palms and live oaks trees anchoring the yard. Various evergreen hollies and dwarf nandinas surround the home along with roses and box woods. The yard is bordered with crepe myrtle trees.

Photo/submitted

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LMS art students receive honors for submissions | Dinner and Bingo at the YWCO



Laurel Middle School art students recently submitted works of art to the Scholastic Art Awards hosted by the Mississippi Museum of Art. Out of over 2,000 pieces submitted from across the state, five Laurel Middle School students were awarded honors. Eighth grader Lyric Pugh received a Silver Key for her recycled dress made of cupcake liners, broken CDs and plastic titled "Prom Ready." Seventh grader Allyiah Johnston received a Silver Key for her self-portrait painted on DVD cases. Seventh grader Alicia Terry received Honorable Mention for her oil painting titled "The Joys of Being a Baby." Seventh grader Amiah White received Honorable Mention for her mixed media of fabric on canvas titled "African Beauty." Seventh grader Alayna Smith received Honorable Mention for her mixed media of tissue paper, yarn, rocks, buttons, fabric and other recycled items titled "Chapter One." Images of the students actually works will be on a scrolling display at the Mississippi Museum of Art. Pictured (L-R): Amiah White, Alayna Smith, Allyiah Johnston, Alicia Terry and Lyric Pugh. *Photo/submitted*

WJHS art students selected for Scholastic Art Competition



West Jones High School art students Cassie Winship, Karson Wardell and J.P. Person were recently selected to compete in the 2018 Scholastic Art Competition. Two thousand entries were received from around the state for this event. Earning a Gold Key and Silver Key is Karson Wardell (pictured middle). Karson's Golden Key entry will move on to compete nationally and will hang in a show at the MS Museum of Art. J.P. Person also won a Silver Key (pictured left), and Cassie Winship (pictured right) earned an Honorable Mention. *Photo/submitted*





Over 40 people enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Roderick Hollins with High5Eats and several games of Bingo at the YWCO Saturday night, February 10, including Billy and Emily James, seated on the right, whose house was recently featured on HGTV's Home Town. *Photos/Linda Cranford*



Linda Carson was another Bingo winner and she chose a beautiful flower arrangement donated by The Craft Room.



The evening included entertainment by "Harmonia" - the voices of Faith Schumaker, left, and Lydia Martin, right.





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All proceeds benefit service projects for the children of Laurel and Jones County. Bingo Caller was YWCO board member Linda Cranford.

The first game Bingo winner was Thomas Hilton pictured with his wife Kay.

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SEC warns OM, MSU that they could | WJHS Quiz Bowl Team places in Mississippi lose home games over gun bill

By Dale McKee

The proposed new gun law that passed the Mississippi House of Representatives drew some attention from the Southeastern Conference. The law still has to pass the Senate, but House Bill 1083 allows weapons to be permitted in college sports venues. The bill would allow anyone with that kind of permit to sue if they're prevented from carrying on public property. SEC commissioner Greg Stankey sent a letter to both Ole Miss and Mississippi State's presidents and warned that other SEC schools because of safety concerns would not schedule games in Mississippi.

The SEC basketball teams are proving that the league is one of the best in the country. The SEC went 6-4 against the Big 12 Conference a couple of weeks ago in their head-to head weekend. That weekend was highlighted by Kentucky's big win at West Virginia. Kentucky is only 6-6 this year in SEC play as the league is more balanced than ever before. ESPN has the ACC with nine teams projected for the NCAA tournament while the SEC follows with eight teams. Last year, Vanderbilt with 16 losses made the NCAA tournament and that is due in large part to upgrading the SEC non-conference schedule. The SEC has eight teams in the RPI top 50 rankings, with Auburn the highest at nine. Auburn leads the SEC race with a 10-2 mark followed by Tennessee and Florida at 8-4. Missouri and Alabama follow at 7-5 with Mississippi State, Kentucky, Arkansas and Texas A&M all at 6-6. Ole Miss and Vanderbilt are the only SEC teams without an overall winning mark on the year.

Ole Miss was picked to finish third in the SEC Western Division baseball race. State was projected to finish fifth in the West. Arkansas was chosen to win the West with Texas A&M, Ole Miss, LSU, MSU, Auburn and Alabama to follow in that order. Defending national champion Florida is the choice in the Eastern Division followed by Kentucky, Vandy, South Carolina, Georgia, Missouri and Tennessee. MSU's Jake Mangum was named to the first team pre-season All-SEC

Ole Miss will open Friday at home with Winthrop, while USM will host Mississippi State in a three-game set that begins Friday at 4 p.m. in Hattiesburg. Ole Miss is ranked ninth, MSU is ranked 12th and USM is ranked 21st, heading into the opening weekend.

Mississippi State won this year in Magnolia state football recruiting wars . The Bulldogs signed five of the top ten players and also gained signatures on nine of the top 20. Ole Miss signed one of the top ten players and only two of the top 20. The 2019 signing wars will be more intense since Mississippi is loaded with prep talent. Mississippi will have 10 of the top 200 players in the nation and could have as many as 13 (4-5 star recruits).

On a sad note this past week, former Heidelberg Southside and Heidelberg head football coach Willie C. Cooley passed away. Coach Cooley was a good friend to me in my early days of sports writing. He also coached at Tennessee State and Mississippi Valley. Cooley coached the semi-pro baseball team the Laurel Black Cats and also began the first Little League program in Laurel. He was a loyal supporter of his college Alcorn State. Job well done, Coach!

Odds & Ends

Meridian's Rodney Hood was traded by Utah Jazz to the Cleveland Cavaliers. Hood is having his best year in the NBA scoring, almost 17 points per game.

The MSU Lady Bulldogs are now 26-0 after beating South Carolina and Kentucky this past week before sold out crowds. MSU had lost 11 games straight to both teams.

Number 88 captured the pole for Sunday's Daytona 500. It was not Dale Earnhardt Jr., but 24-year-old Alex Bowman.

Congratulations to Louisville, Mississippi, native Marcus Thames. The former East Central CC baseball star was named hitting coach of the New York Yankees this past week.

Headlines from the Past

February 15, 1978

Leon Spinks defeated Muhammad Ali in 15 rounds for the Heavyweight Boxing title in New Orleans.

February 16, 1998

Ole Miss defeated Kentucky, 73-64, for the first time in Lexington in 45 years. Keith Carter led Ole Miss with 21 points and Michael White added 15 points.

February 17, 1968

Ole Miss football coach Johnny Vaught has a tough decision heading into spring training as he has seven players battling for the Rebel quarterback spot. Terry Collier of Weir, Fred Brister of McComb, Shug Chumbler of Center Point, Alabama, Don Farrar of Gulfport, Bob White of Meridian and Archie Manning of Drew.

February 17, 1988

South Jones Lady Braves are 32-0 after winning the District 4-A title.

February 18, 1998

The West Jones Lady Mustangs are 29-3 and ranked 12th in the statewide basketball poll.

February 19, 1968

Major League baseball has set a minimum salary of \$10,000.

February 20, 1998

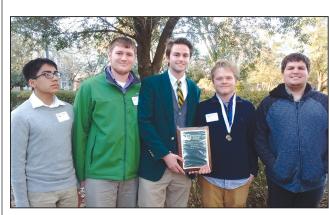
Philadelphia has traded Clarence Weatherspoon to the Golden State Warriors.

February 21, 1958

Ole Miss received a school record \$160,000 for winning the Sugar Bowl over Texas, 39-7.

College Math & Science Competition

The West Jones High School Quiz Bowl team competed at the Mississippi College Math & Science Competition. Logan Parker got 1st place in Computer Science and 3rd in Chemistry overall. (MC Logan Parker--pic) Joshua Cooper, Cameron Pruitt, and Elisha Rodgers all got in the top 10% on the Chemistry test. Generous scholarships were earned by these winners.



The West Jones Quiz Bowl team competed and came in 3rd overall. Jess Cooley is the captain. Other players were Elias Martinez, Joshua Cooper, Logan Parker, and Cameron Pruitt.





West Jones Quiz Bowl team members on whole team photo from bottom, left to right: Kaitlyn Pruitt and Elisha Rodgers; 2nd row: Bayne White, Creed Broom, Cameron Pruitt; top: Joshua Cooper, Tristan Cooper, Jess Cooley, Logan Parker; not pictured: Elias Martinez. Photos/submitted



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NEJ Junior High pageant winners NEJ Senior High pageant winners

The Northeast Jones Tiger Yearbook staff recently staged the school's annual Beauty & Beau Pageant. This year's pageant was themed 'Tis the Season! Junior High winners were:



(l-r) Khloe Shafer, Sam White, Rylee Howse, Charlee Strickland, Tristan Mize-Junior High Most Handsome, Macey Hill-Junior High Most Beautiful, Chloe Lyons, Bryce Sullins, Cameron Hodge, Lawson Moncivais. Photos/submitted

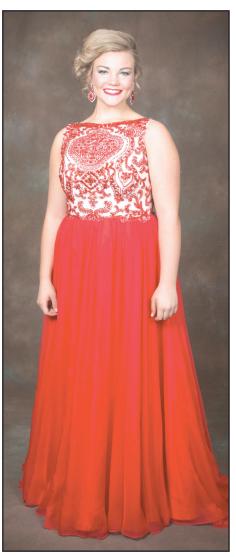
The Northeast Jones Tiger Yearbook staff recently staged the school's annual Beauty & Beau Pageant. This year's pageant was themed 'Tis the Season! Senior High winners were:



(l-r) Araceli Figueroa, Tyreece Hudson, Esmeralda Figueroa, Juvon Keys, Savanna Brown-Most Beautiful, Mason Smith-Most Handsome, Laken Windham, Cole Mozingo, Raegan Byrd, Jaysen Doggett. Photos/submitted



Chloe Lyons -Junior High Most Photogenic



Daetyn Turner -Junior High Miss Congeniality

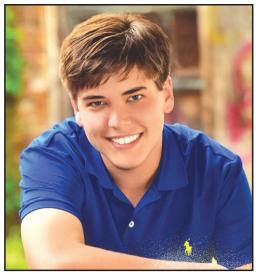




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Ethan Davis Senior High Most Photogenic

Araceli Figueroa -Senior High Miss Congeniality



Stringer pulls out a win over Mount Olive, 56-53

By James Pugh

Brandon Jennings' first words in his postgame interview Tuesday night was "Latravious McNair." Mount Olive's point leader was a thorn in Stringer's side at home on Senior Night. McNair, who finished with a game-high 22-points wasn't a factor in his team's 20-point loss to the Red Devils back on Jan. 16.

"Latravious McNair is an excellent ball player," said Stringer's head boys basketball coach. "He was under the weather the first time we played them. We knew Mount Olive would try something different this time around [with McNair healthy].

"And we came out a little flat on Senior Night and faced a little adversity."

Stringer's second meeting versus Mount Olive was vastly different with McNair fully healthy. But the Red Devils weathered the slow start and handed Mount Olive a 56-53 loss to earn its 20th win of the regular season (according to MaxPreps.com).

"I was proud of the way our boys came out and played in the second half and pulled out the win," Jennings added.

Stringer trailed Mount Olive by as many as 11 points in the third period. Backed by a solid free throw shooting by Haden Boyd and several key baskets by Omarion Bridg-

es, Stringer pulled within four points on five straight free throw baskets to close out the third, 41-37.

"We cleared out the floor and let Haden Boyd go one on one [to draw some fouls] and let him shoot some free throws," said Jennings. "Omarion Bridges, a freshman, also knocked down some free throws for us at the end."

Boyd, who was kept scoreless in the first period, finished with a team-high 20 points. Bridges added 7 points in the win, four of his seven came on free throw baskets in the third period. Stringer shot 15of-32 from the line.

"In the first half, teams try to keep the ball away from Boyd because he's such a predominant scorer," said Jennings. "But he stayed calm. Early in the season, he would have gotten frustrated, but it wasn't a factor tonight. He showed his senior leadership."

Keyshawn Dease, Stringer's secondleading scorer on the night with 12 points, helped pull his team out in front in the final quarter. Of his 12 points, seven came in the final period. The junior's basket with 2:11 left in the game gave Stringer a 49-48 lead. Dease and the rest of the Red Devil's held on from there to pull out the come-frombehind win.

"We got big two-point baskets from all of our players," said Jennings. "Dease got McNair in foul trouble, and that was huge for us.

Stringer travels to Sebastopol this Thursday night for its final regular season game before the Region 7-1A tournament which is set to be held at Mount Olive.

"We will finish in second place in the region for the regular season, and I am happy for that," stated Jennings. "I think our district is one of the toughest in the South."

Stringer improves to 20-8 on the season.



Photo/James Pugh





Sylva-Bay Academy students participate in Blue Cross Fun Run



Saturday, February 3, 2018 ten Sylva-Bay Academy Saints participated in the Blue Cross 1-mile fun run in Ridgeland. Students were encouraged to get up and get moving while learning about healthy habits. Ms. Laura Jo's PE class was the perfect place to get started! Over the past few months, they have been getting in shape. All the Saints had great running times. Out of the 1428 runners, Preston Sims (5th grade) finished 9th and Ben McNeil had the second best time of the Saints. L-R back row: Emma Ishee (teacher/volunteer), Preston Sims, Laura Jo Wedgeworth (PE instructor); L-R middle row: Eliza Pace, Ben McNeil, Layla Bowen, Sammie Jo Ishee, Ava Thornton; L-R front row: Paxton McCarty, Savannah Belk; Not Pictured: Jackson Edmondson. *Photo/submitted*

Blue Cross Fun Run finalist, Preston Sims

Preston Sims, 5th grader at Sylva Bay Academy, finished in the top 10 of 1428 racers at the Blue Cross Blue Shield 1-mile fun run Saturday, Feb. 3 in Ridgeland. He came in 9th place with a race time of 7:36. This was his first race. He now hopes to compete in additional races and improve his time. He is thankful for Laura Jo Wedgeworth for encouraging SBA students to join the race. He is the son of Danny and Rebekah Sims of Bay Springs. Photos/submitted





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Local players sign scholarships on National Signing Day 2018

By James Pugh

National Signing Day 2018 didn't quite have the buzz normal for the first Wednesday in February. The inaugural early signing period approved by the NCAA, which took place on December 20, stole its thunder. Still, several local athletes took pen to paper on Wednesday and signed LOIs with Mississippi JUCO's and universities, both in and out of state.

Heidelberg High School featured the most signee's in the Smith, Jasper and Jones County area. Dontavious Porter signed with JCJC, Tyreese Cooley with East Mississippi Community College, Khehlan Kennedy with Co-Lin Community College and Caleb Brunson with Coahoma Community College.

LeJavieon Gammage of Bay Springs was the only other Jasper County player to sign on Wednesday. The senior DE signed with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community Col-

lege.

Only three signed LOIs in Jones County - all three came from Laurel High School. Juan Nelson inked with Pearl River Community College, KaSon Chinn with Co-Lin Community College and Kobie Ulmer with Hinds Community College.

Taylorsville saw two sign in Smith County. Luke Hawkins signed with Southwest Mississippi Community College, while Perry Keyes inked with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Players who signed Division 1 scholarships included Collin's Tavarian McCullum (Alcorn State University) and Raleigh's Kris Moncrief (University of Louisiana-Lafayette).

Other signee's on Wednesday were Mount Olive's La'Travious McNair (Pearl River Community College) and Collins' Danny Joe Blanks (Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College).



Photo/submitted

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Boyd signs with ECCC

By James Pugh

Stringer basketball standout Haden Boyd is taking his talents to East Central Community College.

The sharpshooting senior signed his LOI with ECCC Tuesday morning inside Stringer's gymnasium. A number of family members, friends, coaches and teammates were on hand for the event.

"Haden is a great kid," said Stringer basketball coach Brandon Jennings. "He works hard. He's up here at 6 a.m. every morning shooting the ball. He shoots around 44 to 45 percent from the three-point line. Those three-point baskets keep us in the game a lot of times. Once he comes into the gym, he has unlimited range.

"I am super proud of him and his family that he can continue his career."

Boyd averages 18 points a game this season, largely in part to his ability to shot the three-point basket.

"That is one thing that I have worked on since I was younger," said Boyd. "It's been a God-blessed talent I've been given. I've worked on it and worked to improve other things such as my ball handling skills to help that out as well. But shooting is what I'm going to ECCC for mainly."

East Central offered Boyd in the fall, before the start of this, his senior season.

"I flew under the radar," Boyd said. "I wasn't recruited by a lot of people. At the end of last year, I started getting some looks. I went to a camp at ECCC during the summer, and that is when they started to look at me. I had a couple of other interest but in the fall is when East Central offered me."

Stringer is one game shy of 20 wins according to Maxpreps.com as the last week of the regular season gets underway. At 19-8 on the season, Boyd and the Red Devils are 4-2 in Region 7-1A with two games to go. Tuesday night Stringer will face Mount Olive at home and go on the road Thursday night to close out the regular season against Sebastopol.

"We have a talented team this year," said Boyd. "We didn't lose anyone from last year, so we've played together a lot. We added a few pieces this year that have helped. We're starting to get stronger and play better, so that is good. We hope to win our district tournament and make it to Jackson."

The Region 7-1A tournament is set for next week at Mount Olive.



Photo/submitted



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Rahaim hopes to build on young team moving forward

By James Pugh

Rodgers Rahaim was introduced as Sylva Bay Academy's head boys basketball coach mid-season. Transitions can be messy, not to mention difficult in situations similar to the one Sylva Bay Academy faced. A new coach often brings new expectations, new plays and a new way of doing things.

Understanding all of this, Rahaim kept things simple.

"When you're a coach, you have things you want to implement," said Rahaim. "But [with this situation] I didn't want to come in a change everything. Now I've added one of two things, but I kept a lot of things as is."

The simple approach worked. Sylva Bay, who before Rahaim's arrival was 4-7, is currently 8-4 with Rahaim at the helm. The Saints are 1-1 in this week's MAIS District 3 Boys Basketball Tournament, including Thursday night's 61-20 loss to No. 1 seed Brookhaven Academy, who is 15-2 on the season now. Sylva Bay won the tournament's opener on Tuesday night over Prentiss Christian, 78-33.

Hustle and defense have been Rahaim's number one priority since taking over in January.

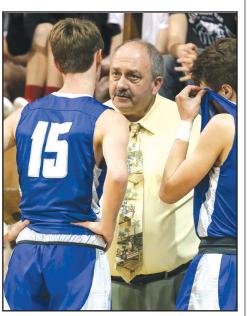
"The main thing I wanted our guys to do is to hustle and play good defense," Rahaim said. "For the most part, they have.

"Like tonight, we have our nights when it comes to shooting. But that will come in time. The biggest thing is I just want our guys to hustle and always give their best effort."

Junior guard Phillip Anderson led Sylva Bay in points against Brookhaven with six. Kade Hancock and River Thomas added five points apiece.

Sylva Bay will play Newton County Academy Saturday afternoon at 3:15 p.m. for a shot at third place in the MAIS District 3 Tournament. Sylva Bay beat Newton County Academy in the two teams last regular season meeting, 58-54.

Regardless of the outcome, Rahaim has a



Photo/James Pugh

lot to build on for the future. Sylva Bay has only one senior on its roster.

"You want this to be a springboard into a better next year," said Rahaim. "It's going to take a lot of hard work. If you want to be good, you have to work hard at it. And that is what I expect, and I think they know that. You have to have discipline because to me discipline is important. If you have hard work to go along with that discipline, then that makes a big difference."

Rahaim saw glimpses of just that Thursday night despite his team's loss.

"I'm pleased with what I see [in that area]," Rahaim added. "Now we didn't shoot the ball well, but you have nights like that. Brookhaven is a very good basketball team. They're well-coached and a well-disciplined team. They're not the No. 1 seed for nothing. If you want to compete with them, you have to be able to make plays and not turn the ball over. I stressed that to my guys coming into this tournament."

Sylva Bay will travel to Shreveport, Louisiana next week for the MAIS AA South State Tournament.

Lady Tigers slip past Caledonia, set up Nouth State showdown with West Lauderdale

By James Pugh

Ask, and ye shall receive.

Friday night was about getting a chance at West Lauderdale for a third time. Kennedy Parish earned Northeast Jones girls soccer team the opportunity Friday night in the second round of the MHSAA Class 4A playoffs. The midfielder's goal in the 78th minute pushed the Lady Tigers over Caledonia 3-2 and sets up a 4A North State Championship vs. West Lauderdale next Tuesday night at 5:30 p.m.

Northeast Jones head coach Matt Reid wasn't pleased with his team's performance at times Friday night but was happy to get the win.

"In the playoffs mode we always talk about 'survive and advance," said Reid. "It doesn't matter necessarily how pretty it is, even though I wish it were prettier than it was tonight. I was the ugliest game we've played all year. Maybe we got that out of our system before next week. I don't know. But at the end of the day, we're 80 minutes away from making it to the state championships. And that is what they wanted all year.

"It was our goal this year to get West Lauderdale for a third time. And we're going to get that chance in the North State Championship."

Northeast Jones missed opportunities all night. Finally, after several missed shots in the box, senior forward and JCJC commit Esmo Figueroa put the Lady Tigers up 1-0 on goal No. 52 of her senior season in the 18th minute.

Unlike Northeast Jones, Caledonia didn't get as many opportunities in the box. On a rare opportunity in the 59th, the Lady Confederates made good on one, equalizing the game at one apiece.

"It was a severely off night for us," Reid

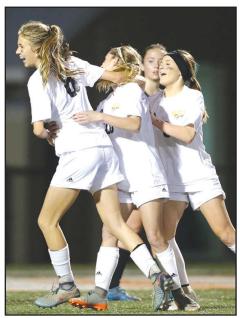
added. "We are much better than this. But I'm proud of our girls in how they finished."

After a foul just outside the box by Caledonia's keeper in the 78th minute, Northeast Jones was awarded a free-kick. Parish seized the opportunity by tucking her kick inside the top right side of the goal as a host of Northeast Jones players converged towards Parish in celebration.

Northeast Jones held on in the remaining two minutes of play to advance to the Class 4A North State Championship for a third meeting vs. West Lauderdale - a Region 5-4A foe.

"West Lauderdale is very well coached," said Reid. "They're good all over the field. It's hard to look at their team and find any weaknesses. They play really well, and they are good at what they do.

"But we are going to go to work this weekend and get ready for them."

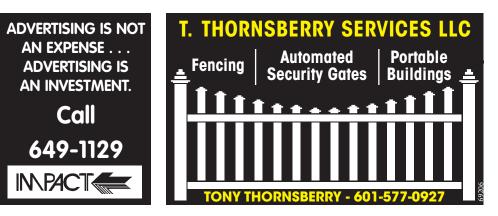


Photo/James Pugh

JCJC sets football tryouts for Feb. 15, Feb. 22

Jones County Junior College will hold football tryouts on Feb. 15 and Feb. 22. Registration will be from 9:30-10 a.m. at Bobcat Stadium/Sim Cooley Field. Cost is \$10 per participant – cash or check only.

Participants must be a high school senior or a college student with remaining junior college eligibility. Players must bring their own cleats and a copy of their current physical. For more information, contact the JCJC Football Office at 601-477-1158.





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Jones County +/- 29 Acres. Close to town, but in the country, this site offers the best of both worlds. Conveniently located near Laurel and Hattiesburg, it is on Busby Road just five miles south of Ellisville off Hwy 29 East. It is easily accessible with road frontage. The land has recently been chipped, leaving residential shade trees which would make for the perfect home-site or mini farm. Priced at \$69,600, this is a great investment opportunity that you don't want to miss. For more information call Bennett at 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties LLC. or visit walleyproperties.com today for more information.

Jasper County +/- 104 Acres. This beautiful 104-acre parcel sits adjacent to the Tallahala Wildlife Management area just west of Montrose. Otak Creek flows across the property providing a year-round water supply for area wildlife. The timber consists of a 16-year-old pine plantation and mature hardwoods. Priced to sell at \$169,000. Contact Marc at 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties LLC. or visit walleyproperties.com for maps and info.

Jones County +/- 47 Acres. Price Reduced!! This is a great home site or mini farm development opportunity! Conveniently located in south Jones County on Rainey Road, this property is only 10 miles from Hattiesburg and 15 miles from Laurel right off the Sanford Road exit on Interstate 59. This piece of land would make for a great home-site/ mini-farm investment property with plenty of recreational opportunities and a gorgeous hunting landscape containing a mixture of pine plantation and hardwoods. Priced at \$120,000. Don't delay. Call Bennett at 601.913.0340 at Walley Properties LLC or visit walleyproperties. com today!

Newton County +/- 13 Not too big and not too small, this piece of land is just right for anyone who wants to create the perfect weekend getaway. Located on Logan Road in southwest Newton County, this property is within the Tallahala Wildlife Management Area. It has plenty of public road frontage and would make a great campsite. With thousands of acres of public land readily available, this site offers many recreational opportunities. The property consists of a mature pine plantation with gently rolling hills. Priced at \$37,768. Contact Marc at 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties LLC. or visit walleyproperties.com for maps and info.

+/- 37 Acres Located on Brushv Creek Road, just NE of Lucedale, MS. This tract consist of 21 acres of row crop field with remainder in mixed hardwoods and pine. Great House Site. If you are looking for some land for Growing Crops,

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Jasper County +/- 224 acres. Outdoorsman's paradise, this property offers a gorgeous 2,520-squarefoot, two-story lodge overlooking a private 9-acre lake. Timber consists of mature hardwoods, natural hardwood regeneration and various aged pine plantations. Food plots are in place and ready to be hunted. The Tallahoma Creek dissects the property which is located on a dead end public road just north of Montrose. Priced to sell at \$720,000. Call Wallev Properties LLC, at 601-477-3014 or visit our website at walleyproperties com for more info

+/- 219 Acres Priced to sell quick!! Located on just outside of Topton, AL, and one hour from Mobile, AL Has road frontage on CR 19 along with power and water available. great secluded House/Camp Has Site sitting underneath beautiful mature longleaf pines and hardwoods. Dark and Rich Waters of Bilbo Creek runs through the property with Hardwoods make for great wildlife habitat. Has Lake. Has several cleared areas that will make large and plentiful food plots. Has some young pine and some thickets for deer to bed in. This tract truly has it all! Don't miss this one of a kind Hunting/Recreational Tract. Reduced - \$306.600 Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more at mfmland. com.

+/- 47 Acres Located on Hwv 594. just a few miles East of Leakesville, MS, this tract is perfect for someThis One Pass You By!! \$108,000 Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more at mfmland. com.

+/- 104 Acres Located on Chickasawhay River in Wayne County, MS, just West of Waynesboro, MS. This tract is perfect for hunting and recreation and even a place to call home. Property is a fresh cut over with hardwood/pine trees remaining on the River. Property has a lake site and a power line running across it with a planted field. Maiestic Hills and Abundant Wildlife!! Will make a Great Timber Investment, Ask us about Cost Share with the reforestation of the property. \$182,000. Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more at mfmland.com.

Lamar County +/- 40 Acres. Near Lumberton on Lake Hillsdale Road, this property features old pasture with fences, a mix of pines land and hardwoods, small ponds, an old house and a pole barn. It's the perfect spot for anyone looking to build a home or possibly remodel the old home currently on site. Once used as a cattle farm/mini farm, this property could be restored with a little work Wildlife is abundant in the area providing great hunting opportunities. Priced to sell at \$85,000. Call Bennett at 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties LLC, or visit walleyproperties.com for maps and info.

+/- 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.

Greene County +/- 120 Acres. This 120-acre Greene County property offers an excellent opportunity to invest for the future. With a one-quarter-mile long deeded easement off Will Best Road, this land is approximately eight miles northeast of Rich-ton. The entire northern boundary borders the DeSoto National Forest, which provides the prospect for outstanding whitetail deer and turkey hunting. Water sources running through the property include Hall Branch, Gator Branch, and Piney Woods Creek. Located in the very

northeast corner of Greene County, this rural property contains 35 acres of thinly loblolly pines. The other 85 acres have been clear-cut recently burned, and replanted with containerized loblolly pines. A diamond in the rough, this property is primed and ready for the future. Priced to sell at \$190,000. Call Bennett at 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties LLC or visit walleyproperties.com for more information.

Greene County +/- 120 Acres. This 120-acre Greene County property offers an excellent opportunity to invest for the future. With a one-quarter-mile long deeded easement off Will Best Road, this land is approximately eight miles northeast of Richton. The entire northern boundary borders the DeSoto National Forest. which provides the prospect for outstanding whitetail deer and turkey hunting. Water sources running through the property include Hall Branch, Gator Branch, and Piney Woods Creek. Located in the very northeast corner of Greene County, this rural property contains 35 acres of thinly loblolly pines. The other 85 acres have been clear-cut recently burned, and replanted with containerized loblolly pines. A diamond in the rough, this property is primed and ready for the future. Priced to sell at \$190.000. Call Bennett at 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties LLC or visit walleyproperties.com for more information.

Jones County +/- 76 Acres - Sealed Bid And/Or Land Sale. This multiuse property is located in the Moselle Community. Sealed bids on the land and/or timber will be opened March 1, 2018. The site offers many possibilities for the savvy buyer. The property has more than one-quarter mile frontage on Tower Road, just minutes away from U. S. Hwy. 11 and I-59 (Exit 85). Although rural, the property is conveniently located less than 25 minutes from Laurel, Ellisville, Petal and Hattiesburg. It features an impressive, well-man-aged 30-year old pine plantation and a potential lake site. Other possibilities include creating your own private estate or weekend getaway, maintaining the existing tree farm, enioving outdoor recreational activities or developing several excellent home sites. The property is located in the Moselle Elementary (K-6) and South Jones High School area. For bid information, visit walleyproperties.com and click on the Featured Property link to download the bid packet or call Walley Properties LLC. at 601-477-3014.





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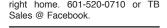
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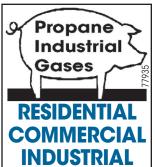
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Antique Auction, As featured on HGTV Home Town. Bullock Road Seminary, MS. Special Auction of fine antique furniture, February 17th at 2pm. Auctioneer Steve Neeley Lic#1325 www.eaa2.com. 601-543-3629 / 601-722-0130.

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2017 Hyundai Elantra. \$13,995 at Hattiesburg Cars. Call our Local toll free number 855-242-0775. See more at Cars601.com

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