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PRSRT

Volume 42, No. 14 • April 4, 2018

### Volume 42, No. 14 • April 4, 2018

### Powers Fire & Rescue receives office space from B&C Mobile Homes

Submitted

Powers Fire & Rescue has received what is being deemed a major donation of an office building which will complement the volunteer fire department's existing fire station on Hwy. 184 in the Powers Community in Jones County. B&C Mobile Homes owners Bo & Beverly Burroughs donated a 28' x 56' double-wide manufactured office building, which was delivered and installed by B&C Mobile Homes personnel last week at the Powers fire station. B&C Mobile Homes is located at 1513 Hwy. 84 East in Laurel, Mississippi.

The 1,568 square foot office building features two meeting space areas, three offices, kitchen, men's and women's bathroom facilities, and is equipped with hot water heaters, a central heat and air conditioning unit along with a wired fire alarm system with battery backup. The value of the office building is \$38,500.00. B&C Mobile Homes owner Bo Burroughs recently joined Powers Fire & Rescue as a volunteer firefighter and is currently enrolled in the Mississippi Certified Volunteer Firefighter 1 course.

"Beverly and I are pleased to donate this manufactured office building to Powers Fire & Rescue in recognition of the incredible job that they do in providing fire, rescue and emergency medical response services to the residents of the Powers Community



Pictured left to right, Powers Asst. Chief Kyle Howell, Powers President Ed Ritchey, Powers Fire Chief Joey Davis (accepting keys to office building), Beverly Burroughs and Bo Burroughs (owners of B&C Mobile Homes). *Photo/submitted* 

and surrounding communities," noted Burroughs. "Beverly and I had no idea just how much the volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders at Powers Fire & Rescue do every week keeping our residents safe. Beverly and I personally challenge every business and individual to support their local volunteer fire department. We encourage residents to get to know their commu-

nity volunteer fire department and volunteer firefighters and be involved in what they do and help support their efforts to save lives and property."

"The donation of this office building is just incredible and will allow our department to move our meeting space from a small kitchen and dining area to a large, modern facility. We will also now have ex-

panded space for storage of gear and equipment and be able, if necessary, to house Powers and mutual aid firefighters during extended operations such as responses to hurricanes, tornadoes or HazMat incidents that may affect our area," said Powers Fire Chief Joey Davis.

Powers Fire & Rescue President Ed Ritchey stated, "We cannot say thanks enough to Bo & Beverly Burroughs and B&C Mobile Homes for their generosity! Bo has been an outstanding addition to our volunteer firefighting ranks, and he and Beverly do so much for the Powers Community that goes unnoticed."

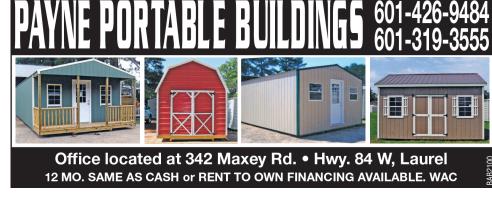
The office building will be connected to an existing emergency backup generator in the event of a disaster situation that interrupts electrical power to the building. Powers Fire & Rescue Assistant Chief Kyle Howell concluded, "We cannot say thanks enough to Bo & Beverly Burroughs for this awesome donation. It is heartwarming to see the incredible support we receive from the residents of the Powers Community and the Powers Water Association. This donation adds to the legacy of our residents who step up to ensure we have the resources we need to provide fire and rescue services to our community."

Continued on page 2













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### Bok Homa Casino brings | Murray named McAllister's Bingo to Jones County

By Linda Cranford

Saturday afternoon, March 24, the word 'Bingo" echoed through the Bok Homa Event Center after a ribbon cutting and Grand Opening ceremony was held to officially bring Bingo to Bok Homa. The Event Center is located adjacent to the Bok Homa Casino in Sandersville.

The grand opening events included an early bird bingo session and regular bingo session in which players won over \$11,500

The early bird bingo session and other sessions are simulcast from the Pearl River Resort Silver Star Casino in Philadelphia.

"We are pleased to now have bingo as a steady gaming offering at Bok Homa Casino. Our bingo events have been very popular among our players, and we wanted to give them the opportunity to play as often as they would like," stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Re-

sort. "Now, they can enjoy this classic game while also having the opportunity to compete against players across the country for progressive jackpots."

The Bok Homa Bingo will be opened four days a week, Thursday through Sunday. Early bird sessions begin on Thursdays at 7 p.m.; regular sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. On Fridays, early bird sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. and the main Bingo begins at 8 p.m. Sunday matinee sessions begin at 3 p.m. (early bird) and 3:30 p.m. (main). Guests have the options of choosing traditional paper game cards, electronic game cards or both! Paper buy-in packages start at only \$15, and electronic packages start at only \$35. Daubers are also available to purchase for only \$1.50.

Guests must be 21 years of age or older to play. No minors are allowed in the event center. For more information on Bok Homa Casino, call 1-866-447-3275 or visit www. bokhomacasino.com.

# PEARL RIVER RESORT BINGO BINGO BINGO BINGO BINGO BING

With Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, center right, by her side 2017 – 2018 Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox cut the ribbon to officially begin Bingo at the Bok Homa Event Center in Sandersville. Photo/Linda Cranford

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continued from page 1

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# General Manager of the Year

By Linda Cranford

Laurel McAllister's Deli general manager Tracie Murray was named the 2017 General Manager of the Year among the corporation's 30 corporate owned stores. The annual McAllister's Deli GM Conference was held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, in February of this year. In addition to the GM of the Year Award, the Laurel deli received eight other

"We had an awesome year," exclaimed Murray. Among the other eight awards was the prestigious McAllister's Deli "Two Million Dollar Club." "

I also won a trip to Cancun, which is my fourth trip with McAllister's," said Murray, who has been with McAllister's since 2007.

In addition to celebrating the company's successful accomplishments, Murray said the conference included sharing some of the do's and don'ts with the new general managers. She said this year there were 13 general managers attending the conference for their first time. Committees of experienced general managers were formed to welcome the new general managers and participate in several break-out sessions offering valuable information and tips.

them about things like developing teamwork, trust and accountability." McAllister's Deli Area Director Mike

committee," said Murray. "We talked to

"I was part of the Design Alliance Team

Moss said in an email, "For the past 10



Photo/Linda Cranford

years Tracie has been working at her deli in Laurel and moved her way up from an assistant manager to the 2017 McAlisters Deli General Manager of the year. Supported strongly by Assistant Managers Glen Blackledge, Ann Grable, and an awesome crew, she and her team were recognized in our annual Corporate General Manager's Conference in Nashville with several awards. The awards ranged from General Manager of the Year, highest sales growth, highest profit, and the exclusive McAlister's Deli 2 Million Dollar Club. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracie, her entire team, and all of our loyal guests for a great 2017."

When asked what she felt the major contributing factor to her success was, without hesitation she said, "My team," then added, "and this town."

### Garden club members honored in dedication service



A dedication service was held at Northwood Park on 7th Avenue in Laurel in memory of garden club members Melissa Downing and Betsy Thaxton. The Northwood Garden Club planted a Gingko Tree and donated a beautiful stone park bench in memory of their precious friends and garden club members. Northwood Garden Club is a member of the Laurel and Jones County Council of Garden Clubs and also the Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. Pictured are Northwood Garden Club members with the family of Melissa Downing and Betsy Thaxton. Photo/submitted

Powers Fire & Rescue donation,

Powers Fire & Rescue is an all-volunteer fire and rescue

department celebrating 30 years of service this year. The

department provides fire, rescue and medical first response

services to residents of the Powers Community and other

communities via automatic aid and mutual aid requests.

The department operates a Fire Engine, Fire Tanker, Heavy

Rescue, Light Rescue, two Brush Trucks and three Medical



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# **Jones County Heart Walk is set for September 29**

By Linda Cranford

A luncheon was held Friday, March 23 for the Jones County Heart Walk Executive Leadership Team to kick off the 2018 Jones County Heart Walk campaign. The Heart Walk is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 29 at 7:30 a.m. at the Jones County Junior College campus.

"I'm sure everyone in this room has been affected by heart disease or stroke, and it opens your eyes when that happens," said 2018 Heart Walk Chairperson Danielle Ashley, chief administrative officer and board attorney for the Jones County Board of Supervisors. Ashley told the story about her father, Dan Ashley, having to have six bypasses seven years ago at the age of 48 and how that affected her family.

"It was a shock," said Ashley. She said they discovered that heart disease was prevalent throughout their family history. "It was eye-opening to see him in that hospital bed. I was only twenty at the time, and I started thinking what can I do to prevent something like this from happening." She said their experience with her father is the reason she is getting involved with the



**Danielle Ashley and Cassie Cox** Photo/Linda Cranford

Heart Walk.

During a short film about the American Heart Association the Heart Walk slogan, "Life is Why," was revealed, indicating that life is why they walk. They also ask the question, "Why do you walk?"

AHA Heart Walk Event Director Cassie Cox said, "All the money donated, whether a personal donation or corporate sponsorship goes, toward the mission of the American Heart Association. The money that we raise here in Mississippi gets reinvested here and then some. Two years ago there was over \$2 million raised in our state

Guest speaker for the luncheon was Luke Johnson, interim pastor at First Baptist Ellisville and radio personnel on the Eagle Hour on Super Talk Mississippi with Shelia Hennis. Johnson talked about when you're young you feel invincible. "But when something comes that is really crazy, that is out of left field, we feel our vincibility, that we are mortal people and need to take our life and our health seriously." He spoke of a friend of his who found out his left anterior descending artery, called the widow maker, was 98 percent blocked. "He was weeks or months away from dying," said

Johnson continued to talk about the need for all of us to take better care of ourselves, that death can come unexpectedly, and the way you live your life is important and can make a difference. He shared how his grandmother suddenly passed away after having a stroke after they had all been together for the holidays. He also shared the story of a companion who passed away on a ministry trip to India after hiking many miles to a secluded village.

"When I think about what we're here for, scripture says a lot about heart," said Johnson. "It says that we are to love God with all our heart. It also says the heart is deceitful. We are supposed to put our heart in it. We're supposed to work at things with all our heart. So what we are here for today, this Heart Walk, I encourage you to put you whole heart into it."

"What I've learned it's one thing to leave when it's your time; it's another thing to be disappointed because you had to check out early," stated Johnson. "I think that what we're here for today is that as a community we can help people not check out early."

For more information contact Cassie Cox at cassie.cox@heart.org or any member of the Executive Leadership Team, which includes Danielle Ashley, Jennifer Boswell, Jon Chiaco, Brian Ginn, Chasity Gray, Shelia Hennis, Scott Pickering and Ashley Rae.

### WJHS Peer Council promotes National Kick Butts Day



West Jones High School Peer Council joined with Generation Free to promote National Kick Butts Day! This day empowers youth to stand out and speak up about the terrible consequences of smoking! Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S., killing more than 480,000 people every year. By getting involved in Kick Butts Day and other activities, America's youth raise awareness about the tobacco problem, encourage peers to be tobacco-free and support effective solutions to reduce tobacco use! Peer Council members interviewed WJH coaches to get their opinions about tobacco use and posted the results around campus! WJH Peer Council hopes everyone will remain tobacco free. Pictured are: Hunter Green, Tanner Anderson, Isabella Brashier, Madalyn Stringer, Lindsay Parker, Marley Mixon, Allie Rainer, Haylee Walters, Victoria Nguyen, Conner Coleman, Maria Terry, Kolbi Holifield, Abby Segrest; Back: Rhiannon Williams, Melanie McLaurin, Chelsey Dry. Photo/submitted



### NJE Students of the Month get treats from Bumpers



Bumpers came on February 28 to serve the North Jones Elementary Student of the Month and Bus Student of the Month students ice cream sundaes. Photo/submitted



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The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a unique fundraising event that allows participants from all walks of life including patients, medical support staff, corporations, civic organizations, faith-based groups and community volunteers, to join together to fight cancer. Teams who have been working hard all year long to raise money will gather together on April 20th at the Laurel Fairgrounds to celebrate anyone who has battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and empower all to fight back against the disease. The event will kick off at 5:00 pm with the survivors' reception and opening ceremonies will begin at 6:00 P.M. We will have great food, fabulous entertainment and lots of fun for everyone. For more information please call 601-433-0066 or 601-433-4311.

# AREA HAPPENINGS

The Area Happenings section is a schedule of activities for non-profit groups only – such as schools, churches and other not-for-profit organizations or family events. You may send your events to: Admin@laurelimpact.com.

Trinity Baptist Church in Laurel will begin a study on the doctrine of the Resurrection. Our text will be 1 Corinthians 15. We will discuss not only Jesus' Resurrection but our future resurrections as well. Join us Sunday mornings for this exciting and informative study.

God loves you and so do we. Join us at West Laurel Baptist Church next Sunday. We are located at 1400 W. 5th Street.

Christ's Church in Laurel will host a rummage sale to benefit Dying to Live Ministries is set for Friday, April 6, from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. and on Saturday, April 7 from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Men's, women's, and children's clothes plus furniture, electronics, and much more.

Huge Rummage Sale at Audubon Drive Bible Church, 2601 Audubon Drive, Laurel on Friday, April 6th at 3:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 7th at 7:00 a.m. Furniture, clothing, housewares, linens. Bake sale also.

Faith Baptist Church in Ovett will be hosting a gospel sing featuring "The Crimson City Quartet" on April 7 at 7:00 p.m. Fellowship with finger foods will follow. Everyone is welcome. Please come worship with us.

There will be a benefit program given for Helen Evans on Saturday, April 7 beginning at 7:00 p.m. This event will take place at Koinonar MB

Church of Laurel, 603 Chippewa Drive (Hoy community). Evans is presently battling breast cancer and undergoing chemo treatments. Your pastor and church family are invited to come and be a blessing on this spiritual event for this humble woman of God.

North West Jones "West Jones" Class of 69 will have a rummage sale for scholarships on April 7 from 7 a.m. until in the lot adjacent to Southeastern Bible College, Highway 15 North. There will be lots of clothes, furniture, and a lot more.

St. John's Day School is having a rummage sale on Saturday, April 7 at the St John's Day School Gym from 6 a.m. until. All proceeds benefit the

Laurel Little Theatre presents the Arabian Theatre's 91st Birthday Costume and Cocktails Celebration on April 7 at 7:30 p.m. It will be a silent movie spectacle . . . Charlies Chaplin's classic comedy "The Gold Rush." Wear your favorite 1920's look if you'd like. Break out your flap-

per dresses and fedoras and gangster suits and join in the fun. Admission is free for LLT season ticket holders (no punch will be taken, you just show your season ticket) or single admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. LLT's reservation line will open March 29 and answers 24 hours a day at 601.428.0140.

The Second Baptist Church family graciously extends an invitation to you and your church to join us in celebrating our 116th year church anniversary and Family and Friends Day. Our anniversary will be held on Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 pm. The theme is "Carefully Joined Together in Christ." Supporting scripture comes from Ephesians 2:19-20. Dr. Geveion Booth, pastor of Blue Mountain Baptist Church, along with his choir, will bring the message and render song service.

New Jerusalem FG Church invites you to our morning worship, "The Power of a Missionary" on Sunday, April 8 at 10:20 a.m. with the climax

> service Sunday evening at 4:00 p.m. The guest speakers will be pastors' Alvin and Nelly Anderson, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and Bluefield's, Nicaragua.

> Oak Grove Baptist Church, Ellisville, invites you to worship with us in our spring revival beginning Sunday, April 8 through Thursday, April 11. Sunday services will begin at 1:30 p.m. and nightly services at 7:00 p.m. We will have a different guest speaker each night.

> Mt. Moriah M.B. Church, 4055 Sharon Road in Laurel, will be having our spring revival on Monday, April 9-11, nightly at 7:00. Our guest speaker will be Rev. George Ducksworth, pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church of Heidelberg. Please come, your presence will truly be a blessing.

### <u>April</u> 9

The Friendship MB Church Mission will have their annual Spring Revival beginning Monday, April 9 through Wednesday, April 11 with services beginning nightly at 7:15. The speaker for the week is Rev. Jaymar Jackson, pastor of Judah MB Church, Laurel. The church is located at 116 Custom Avenue, Laurel.

Christian Valley MB Church invites you to come be a part of our Annual Spring Revival, April 9-13, starting at 7:00 nightly. The speaker for the week will be the Rev. Michael Graves, pastor of the Pearl River Valley Baptist Church of Monticello, MS.

Pleasant Grove Moss, 1466 County Rd 8 in Laurel, will have our 2018 Spring Revival April 9-11 starting at 7:15 nightly. The featured guest speakers will be Rev. Bobby Ray Bolton, Rev. Gary Smith and Bishop Henry Wiliams.

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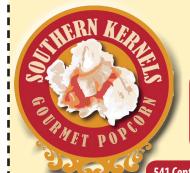
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### Dixie EPA's 10th Annual "Relay for Life" Golf Tourney raises money for ACS

By Linda Cranford

It looked like a Nascar race lineup as approximately 36 Golf Carts lined up four across and nine deep for the afternoon flight of the Dixie Electric Power Association's 10th Annual "Relay for Life" Golf Tourney. The four-man scramble tournament included a morning and an afternoon flight with approximately 38 teams in all participating in the tournament.

According to Lydia Walters, Dixie EPA communications and human resources manager, and Pollyanna Magee, tournament organizer and Dixie EPA communication specialist, the tournament raised \$11,400 for the American Cancer Society this year.

The winning teams for the morning flight were as follows: First place: Dwain Strickland's team - Thomas Prine, Mike Kenny, Dwain Strickland, Joey Landrum; Second place: Scott Thames - Scott Thames, Will Thames, Ernie Joiner, Brent Smithers; Third place: Cooperative Energy - Don Hinton, Trey Cannon, Steven Jackson, Jeff Lazenby.

The winning teams for the afternoon flight were as follows: First place: Community Bank - Justin Holifield, Sawyer Taylor, Al Taylor, Andrew Hudson; Second place: First State Bank - Darren Dodd, Mark Waller, Jim Clark, Joey Landrum; Third place: Hugh Parker Team - Jim Henderson, Steve Brantley, Hugh Parker, Donald Coleman.



The first place team in the afternoon was Community Bank. The team members, Justin Holifield, Andrew Hudson, Sawyer Taylor and Al Taylor, received their winnings from Pollyanna Magee. Photo/submitted



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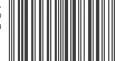
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BIG FRIENDS& FAMILY





Pollyanna Magee presents the morning flight winners with their prizes. They are Thomas Prine, Mike Kenny, Dwain Strickland and Joey Landrum. Photo/submitted

### **Mayor Proclaims April 1-7 National JA Week**

By Linda Cranford

The Junior Auxiliary of Laurel will be celebrating National JA week, April 1-7. On March 26, Mayor Johnny Magee signed an honorary proclamation designating the week as Junior Auxiliary week in Laurel. 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 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, and "An Evening with Junior Auxiliary."

"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", said Bryn Nasajpour JA of Laurel PR chair. "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 commu-

"The National Association of Junior Auxiliaries will soon be entering into our 77th year of serving others and many chapters have been a part of that from the beginning," said Charlotte Jones, NAJA President. "Whether a chapter has been with us for 77 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."

The Junior Auxiliary of Laurel is a part of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries (NAJA), a non-profit organization founded in 1941 with headquarters in Greenville, MS. 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 2016-2017.

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 make their tomorrows better.



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# **Northeast Jones High School Prom** Promise: Mock crash program set

Parents, family members and friends of students at Northeast Jones Elementary School, Middle School and High School should not be concerned when they see, hear, or hear about emergency vehicles responding to the Northeast Jones High School football stadium on Friday, April 6 around 9:00 a.m. In light of current events at schools around the country and heightened anxieties, we want to make sure everyone is aware that there will be a simulated twovehicle crash involving a mock DUI driver and a car with five Northeast Jones High School students on their way to the prom. Emergency services providers will respond to and work the simulated crash scene just like they would a real crash - which involves responding with emergency lights and si-

Northeast Jones High School seniors and juniors, teachers, staff and parents will have the opportunity to watch and learn about the impacts inflicted on the lives of young people when drinking and/or driving distracted, especially during a time of celebration such as the upcoming NEJ prom and graduation. This Prom Promise-Mock Crash Program will start in the NEJ gymnasium at 8:15 a.m. and then move to the NEJ football stadium at 9:00 a.m.

This program encompasses the support and participation from several Jones County



Photo/submitted

and Mississippi emergency services agencies and private businesses including: Glade, M&M. Powers. Rustin and Sandersville Volunteer Fire Departments, EMServ Ambulance Service, Jones County Coroner's Office, Jones County District Attorney's Office, Jones County Emergency Management Agency and Emergency Operations Center, Memory Chapel Funeral Home, Mississippi Highway Patrol, Rescue 7 Air Ambulance, University of Mississippi Medical Center - Safe Kids Mississippi, Red Line Recruitment, Springer Auto Salvage, and deputies, investigators, victim's advocates and K9 units from the Jones County Sheriff's Department.

Northeast Jones High School students, teachers and staff members will participate in this realistic event which is designed to save lives, change outcomes and eliminate poor decision-making. Dr. Jennifer Lowery, supervising principal at Northeast Jones

High School, is a strong proponent of programs designed to increase student safety and has fully supported and endorsed this program. Northeast Jones High School senior and junior high parents are invited to attend and should be prepared to witness a realistic event that is designed to get the attention of students in advance of their 2018 Northeast Jones High School prom and graduation. Jones County residents are asked to share this information personally and via social media platforms to help spread the word about the event and help prevent anyone from assuming a real emergency is occurring at Northeast Jones High School.



# **Jesus is your Answer**

Learning to wait on God's timing. T-R-U-S-T. Have you ever asked the question, "God, where are you?" Honestly, all of us have probably been guilty of asking that question during a crisis or waiting period.. Our mind wants God to wave a magic wand to fix the problem instantly! Of course, that usually isn't the case. God desires for us to trust Him, learn from Him, walk with Him, and have a deep relationship with Him. He will answer/fix the problem, if we will trust Him and wait on His perfect timing!

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9). There are many times when we feel like throwing our hands in the air and giving up believing for our miracle. I'll admit it can be discouraging at times when our prayers seem unanswered. But God never ignores us . . . Never! He is working in our lives every day molding us into the image of

Jesus. Yes, He loves us! We should read this verse again and see the key words...."for at the "proper time" ... we will reap a harvest...'If' we do not give up."

"Those who know your Name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you." (Psalm 9:10)

Yes, God's timing is always perfect; never early, never late! Our human nature tends to want our answers now, not later. Thankfully, we have a loving Abba Father (Daddy) that sees the big picture and knows the perfect timing to answer. God desires for us to learn to trust when He doesn't answer the moment we ask. Another key phrase in this scripture is we "can't give up!" His promises are true, and if we don't receive our miracle the moment we ask, we should trust Him and rest in His peace knowing

He will answer at the right time. We must understand that He always does what's best

As we learn to walk with God daily, we understand He doesn't always give us what we want. Again, He does what is best for us. If we pray for a "plan A" and he gives us a "plan B", we should thank Him because He knows what's best! Would you give your toddler a sharp knife to play with just because he or she asked for it? Of course you wouldn't! As a parent, you try to do what's best for your child. Friends, we might not see it at the time, but it's usually revealed down the road of life. God always does what's best for us!

"Be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." (2 Chronicles 15:7) Please don't give up on God because He hasn't and never will give up on you! Yes, Jesus loves me this I know...Jesus is The answer! Jesus is your answer! Amen!





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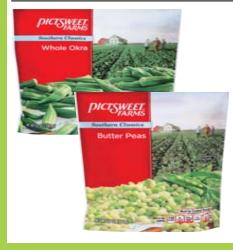


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## Figueroa named 2017 Wendy's High School Heisman finalist

By James Pugh

Score 53 goals in a single season, and its bound to get noticed.

Northeast Jones girls soccer standout Esmeralda Figueroa has been named a finalist for the 2017 Wendy's High School Heisman award in Mississippi. The winner of the prestigious award will be announced during a banquet luncheon at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in Jackson, Miss. on April 19.

"I never thought I would be at the point," said Figueroa. "I had always hoped to be, but I never thought I would be a finalist for the Wendy's High School Heisman award."

The senior forward finished with 155 goals during her career at Northeast Jones. She tied with former teammate Morgan Mansell with the most ever in school history.

"The list goes on with ways she has been recognized," said Northeast Jones head soccer Matt Reid. "And she deserves every bit of the recognition. I think she is used to it now with all the banquets, awards, offers, and scholarships. That comes with the territory of scoring 53 goals in a season. She's also been named MAC All-Star and so on [for her accomplishments on the field]."

Figueroa was also named Sports601's Girls Soccer Player of the Year

If she wins the award, Figueroa will be granted a 1,000 dollar college scholarship. One girl and one boy from each state win the award every year. Those winners have a shot at



Esmeralda Figueroa

Photo/James Pugh

being a national finalist and will receive an additional 5,000 dollar scholarship. The overall national winner is awarded a 10,000 dollar college scholarship.

The "intangibles" as Reid says is what also made his senior forward a star during the 2017-2018 season.

"It was the things that can't be put on a stat line," Reid noted. "It was the leadership and character and her taking ownership and realizing it was her last go around here at NEJ. Not only did she do all those great individual things, I think she made her teammates better in other ways."

One of this year's other Mississippi finalists is a travel ball teammate of Figueroa.

"Aubree Dillon is a finalist that I know," said Figueroa. "She is from Madison-Ridgeland Academy (MRA), and she is a teammate of mine in RUSH. She's a great player as well."

Figueroa signed with JCJC women's soccer last month. She chose the Lady Bobcats over several D1 colleges, including Northwestern State and Southern Miss, and four-year universities such as William Carey, SUNY Farmingdale State in New York, West Alabama and West Florida just to name a few.

She will join her sister, Araceli Figueroa at JCJC. Both made their decision public inside Northeast Jones' Media Center on February 26.

"I'm going to keep working hard and training," said Figueroa. "I'm going to believe in myself and keep doing what I'm doing."

## West Jones captures its second win over South Jones in Region 5-5A

By James Pugh

It was quickly becoming a trend as if it was the hip thing to do. Inning after inning, someone, whether a Brave or a Mustang, left stranded on base. Someone had to break the trend and break the 1-1 tie that carried into the third, fourth, fifth and sixth inning.

West Jones was that someone Thursday night in Ellisville. Scoring three runs in the top of the seventh, and holding off the Braves with the bases loaded in the bottom of the same frame, West Jones defeated South Jones 4-1 for the second time this week.

With the win, West Jones improves to

16-1 on the year and remains unbeaten in Region 5-5A at 5-0.

The Mustangs are on track to win their second consecutive 5-5A baseball title. To do so, they will have to sweep county rival Laurel next week.

South Jones falls to 8-7 overall, and 3-2 in the region.

A bases-loaded walk in the top of the seventh broke the 1-1 tie Thursday night. West Jones junior slugger Garrett McLaurin added two more runs in the inning with bases loaded double to left

McLaurin led the Mustangs with three hits in his three plate appearances. Dustin Dickerson also had a multiple hit night with a double and single. Walker Thompson, Kris Riley and Colson Harris each had a hit apiece.

Similar to Dickerson's outing on the mound Tues-





Photo/James Pugh



day night in Soso vs. South Jones, West Jones starting pitcher Hayden Bryan allowed just two hits in over six innings of work. Bryan, who earned his fourth win from the mound, finished with 11 strikeouts against 28 batters faced. Kris Riley closed out the game in relief and was awarded the save.

Bryson Sumrall and Tyler Ducksworth had the solo hits for South Jones.

South Jones starting pitcher Max Sharp took the loss on the mound, allowing three earned runs on six hits in 6.1 innings pitched. He finished with seven strikeouts.

West Jones plays Southeast Lauderdale on Saturday at the Enterprise Easter Tournament. South Jones will face another Region 5-5A foe next Tuesday night on the road vs. Wayne County.





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Simpson County +/- 95.5 Acres. If you are looking for a piece of land that is a blank slate to do with as you wish, this property might be for you. Located on Henry Thurman Road a few miles off Highway 13 southwest of Magee, this tract has been cleared and sprayed with site prep herbicide. It is primed and ready for tree planting, pasture conversion, and/or a mini farm. There are plenty of nice spots for a home site as well. The eastern edge of the property is still wooded and borders East Prong Sil-

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Lincoln County +/-76.5 acres. This little piece of paradise is a hunter's dream! Located near Brookhaven and Wesson, just three miles from Lake Lincoln, the property boasts a creek and a small pond. This is a prime Mississippi location for hunting whitetail deer, turkey, and small game. It is also a great timber investment with beautiful hardwoods and pines. With excellent roads on both sides of the property, access is easy. There are three options for purchasing this real estate. The 23 acres north of the road are listed at \$2700/ acre. The 53.5 tract south of the road is listed at \$2250/acre. Or buy all of it for \$2250/acre. Call Jeff Windham at 601-297-1958 or Ralph Franks at 601-441-9706 at Walley Properties, LLC or visit walleyproperties.com for maps and info on this listing.

+/- 81 Acres Located on Sandersville-Eucutta Rd and Florence Church Rd. just a few miles from East of I-59 and the town of Sandersville. This property offers Timber Investment, Recreation and Great Hunting along with Several Great House/Campsites. Property would make great pasture as well. Conveniently located for an Out of Town Get-a-way!!!!! \$206,550Call Woods & Waters Realty at 800-526-3961. See more at mfmland.com.

Covington County +/-46 Acres. Sealed Land and/or Timber Sale -- If you have been searching for a small property with outstanding rec-reational possibilities, you may want to consider this tract. For a limited time only, sealed bids for land and/ or timber are being accepted for this land located six miles northeast of Seminary and one-half mile south of

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Highway 588. The property has road frontage on Toxie Crosby and Salt Dome Roads. Sealed bids can be for land only, timber only, or land with timber lying in Section 4, Township 7 North, Range 14 West, Covington County, MS. For those interested in the timber, this property offers an excellent quality 35-year-old pine plantation. Bids will be opened on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 3:30 p.m. at the Law Office of Freida Gunn Collins, 202 Ivy Street, Ellisville, MS 39437. For more information, contact Walley Properties LLC. at 601-477-3014 or visit our website, walleyproperties.com, click on the Timber for Sale tab and download the sealed bid information.

Jones County +/- 47 Acres. 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!

Jones County +/- 83 Acres A property like this one doesn't come around very often. This prime piece of land joins the west side of beautiful Lake Bogue Homa where the fishing is great! With one-quarter mile frontage on Magnolia Road, this tract boasts a mix of pines and hardwoods making it a gorgeous area for a nice estate, a weekend getaway camp or to subdivide into several home sites. Located in the Northeast Jones School District, this property is priced to sell at \$228,000. Call Walley Properties, LLC at 601-477-3014 or visit walleyproperties.com for maps and more information.

Lamar County Two +/- 3-Acre Lots. Searching for a nice, large wooded lot on which to build a home? One of these three-acre lots may be just what you are looking for. Located on the Purvis to Oloh Road about five miles from Purvis, Lot #4 and Lot #5 offer several sweet spots for a house site. The beautiful trees provide just the right amount of privacy. This is also a great area for young families as it is situated in one of the toprated school districts in the state. Lot

#4 is priced at \$28,900 and Lot #5 is priced at \$31,900. Contact Clifton at 601-606-4336 at Walley Properties LLC. or visit walleyproperties.com for maps and info.

Simpson County +/- 79 Acres. This beautiful property is located just 2 miles off of Hwy 49 South on Mc-Nair Springs between Mt. Olive and Magee. It has open fields currently being used as hay fields, natural timber stands, 2 ponds and a 3BR, 2BA house. This property is ideal for anyone looking for a weekend hunting retreat, cattle farm, or a beautiful setting to build a home. The open fields are great for deer and turkey and could easily be used for cattle farming. The house located on site would make a great farmhouse, hunting camp or rental investment. This property is offered at \$199,500. Contact Bennett at 601-913-0340 at Walley Properties LLC, or visit walleyproperties.com for maps and info.

Jones County +/- 109 Acres. Situated in the Moss Community of Jones County near the Jasper County line, this beautiful wooded property contains a mix of natural pines and hardwoods. With plenty of frontage on Shady Grove-Moss Road, this location offers numerous possibilities for a home site or minifarm. Its amenities include fenced pasture land with a barn and shed on site. Water sources for area wildlife include a small pond and the Tallahoma Creek which runs along a portion of the property's southeast border. Whoever buys this listing will enjoy the benefits of country living with the convenience of being less than 15 minutes away from Laurel, Stringer and Bay Springs. This property is located in the West Jones High School/North Jones Elementary School area. Priced at \$400,000. Call Walley Properties, LLC at 601-477-3014 or visit walleyproperties. com for maps and more information.

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Cute Starter Home, 28x56, 3 bed/2 bth Double Wide, vinyl siding, shingle roof, ready to live in. Price \$20,500 as is! Call 601-520-0710 or TB Sales @ Facebook

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Used Houses. Singlewides and doublewides. 3, 4, 5 and 6 bedrooms. Will deliver and setup. Call Tony Purvis, 601-543-9022, 601-261-6005.

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**HOUSES FOR SALE** 



Rare opportunity, irreplaceable location, gated private estate perched on approximately 5 acres. Breathtaking waterfront home. West Jones School. 4br/2.5ba, custom stone floors, fireplace, open floor plan. only. \$325,000. 850-619-1112.

Ellisville - 3BR, 2BA. Feels brand new! This immaculate home offers prime location! Convenient to so much with the town Ellisville being right around the corner and a 15-minute drive to Hattiesburg or Laurel. Small, quiet, family friendly neighborhood that ends in a cul-desac so you get the feel of a subdivision with little to no traffic but still lots of space to spread out on this 1.49 acre mol level lot! The kitchen offers beautifully finished cabinetry and high grade granite that can also be found in the master bath. Sellers have recently installed wood look ceramic tile through hallway and all bedrooms so this home has no carpet! Also has office space! So much to offer! This home will not last! Call for your showing today.

For sale: Camp on Leaf River, remodeled, all new appliances. Great vacation spot forever. Swimming, fishing and RV riding included. 601-

601.408.5926

3200 sq.ft., 30+ acres, 4 acre pond, 3br/3ba, man cave. Northeast area. 601-323-9993.

2br/1ba, 900 West Main Street, Sandersville. Washer/dryer included. 1120sq.ft., \$50,000. 601-323-1793.

4.5 miles from Waynesboro, 3br/2ba, living room, den, kitchen, all furniture included, double carport. 18ac. more or less, mostly pasture, some timber. Two free standing carports with lots of storage amenities. Will take bids on this with the right reject any or all bid's, minimum bid \$165,000.00, 601-381-2745 or 601-735-6632.

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5 acres of prime land and 4br/2 5ba beautiful home. 4400 sq.ft., greatroom upstairs, granite counter top in kitchen with all new stainless appliances, stone fireplace, double carport, large shop and small shop. In a prime location only minutes from Laurel or Hattiesburg. Great school district. Located at 469 Pittman Rd., Ellisville, MS. 601-270-5574, 601-752-2764.

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Ellisville - 3BR, 2BA. Feels brand new! This immaculate home offers prime location! Convenient to so much with the town Ellisville being right around the corner and a 15 min ute drive to Hattiesburg or Laurel. Small, quiet, family friendly neighborhood that ends in a cul-de-sac so you get the feel of a subdivision with little to no traffic but still lots of space to spread out on this 1.49 acre mol level lot! The kitchen offers beautifully finished cabinetry and high grade granite that can also be found in the master bath. Sellers have recently installed wood look ceramic tile through hallway and all bedrooms so this home has no carpet! Also has office space! So much to offer! This home will not last! Call for your showing today. 601.408.5926.

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Brick ranch style on 32.5 acres w/ hunting and fishing privileges. 1536 sq.ft., 3br/1ba, LR, large kitchen/ dining area w/stove and refrigerator, den w/fireplace, utility room, heat pump. 18 miles to Laurel. 12 miles to Waynesboro, \$610/month, deposit required. Phone 601-428-5126.

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2/3 bedroom homes for rent. 601-

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House for rent in North Laurel. 2BR/1BA., C/H/A, 2809 Carter Ave., C/H/A, \$400 deposit, \$575 month. 601-319-2938.

c/h/a, located 79 Calvin Figgers Drive in Waynesboro. \$650/month rent + utilities. 601-824-7172.

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\$650 month. 601-319-2938.

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Flagpole sale! 24-Ft. Liberty Double flyer with two 3x5 flags of your choice delivered and installed, only \$249 plus tax. American Flagpole Company. 601-649-0748

Natural ventless gas log insert "34x"20,used very little (decided to burn wood in fireplace instead). Has blower & remote control & book. Paid \$1300 was asking \$600 reduced to \$450. 601-319-5291.

Continued on ... Page 12

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7700 Ford Tractor 80hp, try on my farm, \$7500; Bush hogs 6ft. & 7ft., try on farm, \$700 & up; 24ft. hay feeding wagon, \$1700. Heavy Duty PTO driven tiller, \$900 and other equipment. Call for information. 601-433-0982.

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### **ESTATE SALE**

Lee Downing Family Estate Sale, 67 Bay Circle (off Old Bay Springs Road). Friday, April 6th, 7am til 5pm; Saturday, April 7th, 8am til 4pm. Sofas (3), end tables, recliner, book shelf, entertainment center, occasional tables, kitchen table and chairs, hutch, Duncan Fife table and 8 chairs, China cabinet, cedar chest, dresser and mirror. 2 full and 1 king size mattresses, desk, night stands, computer desk, vintage wash stand, formal chairs, coffee tables, dropleaf table, curio cabinet, tea cart, baby changing table, 110 A/C unit, kitchenware, small appliances, linens, mirrors, artwork glassware, lamps, crystal, Spode, Bellick, books, records, albums, VCR player, TV's, Hot Wheels, Christmas, clothing, Lionel model train, corning ware, patio furniture, yard tools, golf clubs, tools and much, much more. (estatesales. net)dp.

Louise Wilson at 63 Honeysuckle Trail, Laurel. Antiques, butcher block, rattan, rugs, vintage Choctaw baskets, windsor chairs. Art includes Billy Ford, Obie Clark, Saturday, April 7th and 14th, 8:00 to 3:00.

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**Specialty Hauls** 

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Mama's Mattress Max! 20 different styles to try out. Sets start at twin \$145, full \$165, queen \$185, king \$295. Will split sets. Blackwell's Furniture, 5200 Hwy. 84 West at Calhoun. 601.649.6111

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### **AUCTIONS**

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Gulf Shores Condos, \$125/nights. Houses, \$250/nights. Weekly specials available. Connie Daughdrill,

### GARAGE SALES

Rummage Sale, 60 Reid Road, Laurel. Fri.-Sat., April 6-7, 8:00 until.

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Yard Sale, April 6-7, 307 Pecan Grove, Ellisville. Clothes, household.

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### **Cooke signs with MGCCC basketball**

By James Pugh

Laurel basketball standout Colby Cooke has signed with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

The senior forward did so Tuesday at noon in front of friends, family, coaches and school administrators inside of Laurel High School's library.

"Colby is one of the most humble and hardworking players I've ever coached," said Laurel boys head coach Marcus Price. "He comes in every day and approaches the day the same way. He's not emotional, and he doesn't waiver in terms of intensity.

"He was one of the guys that kept us together this year because we had a lot of guys that had never played varsity before. He was that guys we could count on with we needed a bucket or someone to take a charge or someone to block a shot."

Meridian Community College made a big push for 6'7 senior forward, but Cooke settled on MGCCC as his school of choice.

"I chose Gulf Coast because I felt like that was the best place for me," Cooke said. "I thought about the other recruits that would be coming in with me, and I felt that

is where I fit best. Meridian recruited me hard, but at the end of the day [choosing] Gulf Coast was what was best for me."

Cooke averaged just over 10 points and six rebounds per game during the 2017-2018 season.

He evolved into a more consist player during the offseason heading into Cooke's senior season said Price. "He's going to be a prototypical stretch forward," said Price. "He is 6'7, and he

can shoot the three. He's a great free throw shooter and has a great mid-range game. "He evolved as a player because last year he wasn't as consistent as he was this year shooting the three ball. Even after the sea-

son, he's been coming to the court every day and getting workouts in trying to prepare himself so that when he gets on campus [at MGCCC], he'll be well equipped to deal with whatever situation may rise.

Price adds that Cooke has been a joy to

"If we have men like him every year," said Price, "then our program will continue to be the success that it's been."



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