

Back in the conversation

Diamond Dawgs claw back into SEC tourney contention with series win, **Page 1B**

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TUESDAY | APRIL 18, 2023

County released from \$2.35M debt, pays \$150K more to LINK

BY BRIAN JONES bjones@cdispatch.com

The Lowndes County Board of Supervisors ducked a \$2.35 million industrial development obligation during Monday morning's meeting but found themselves on the hook for an additional \$150,000 in professional services money to the Golden Triangle Development LINK.

First, LINK representatives

told the supervisors approximately \$2.35 million in obligations to the Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority were no longer needed.

In 2021 the county entered an agreement with LCIDA that obligated it to issue \$2.35 million in bonds to support upgrades to water and sewer infrastructure at the industrial park, clearing and grubbing land at the Infinity Megasite and build-



Fisackerly

ing a 50,000- to 100,000-squarefoot speculative building. LINK Chief Operations Offi-

Higgins

cer Meryl Fisackerly explained the water and sewer improvements were funded via the economic development package passed to support Steel Dynamics' \$2 billion expansion project.

"Now that we've located the Aluminum Dynamics facility, the site cleaning and the building are no longer needed," she said.

The board voted unanimous-

ly to strike the expenditure from its agreement with LCI-DA.

With the good news out of the way, LINK CEO Joe Max Higgins told the board it needed to pony up another \$150,000 or so in funding for professional services.

"Our contract allows us to be reimbursed for legal, surveys, environmental, engineer-*See LINK*, 3A

From pen on paper to needle on skin



Grant McLaughlin/Dispatch Staff

Alan Taylor tattoos an Alice in Wonderland image on Trisha Renee Lazarus' arm Wednesday evening at Taylors shop, Tatt2d Voodoo. Taylor has been a professional tattoo artist for more than three years and recently opened his shop at 115 13th St. S. in February. He developed his love for tattooing as a child while watching his mother, Lisa, draw and paint.

Alan Taylor's journey to owning his own tattoo shop in Columbus

County gets keys for Ecolab building

Site will eventually house coroner's office

BY BRIAN JONES bjones@cdispatch.com

Monday morning the Lowndes County Coroner's Office got one step closer to a new home.

new home. Board of Supervisors President Trip Hairston signed the agreement closing

the county's purchase of the old Ecolab building on Lehmberg Road in East Columbus. The approximately 20,000-square-foot building will eventually house the coroner's office, as well as an alternate command center for Lowndes County Emergency Management.

The coroner's office is currently in the old Maxxim Medical building, located off of Yorkville Park Square off of Highway 69 South. New Hope-based Apex Ammunition is in the process of buying that building.

"We're excited about closing," Hairston said. "We're going to start the process of moving the coroner

BY GRANT MCLAUGHLIN grant@cdispatch.com

A lan Taylor opened his new tattoo business, Tatt2d Voodoo, at 115 13th St. S. on Valentine's Day. His goal? To take a childhood passion for art and a lifelong dream and turn it into a thriving business.

Taylor said he decided to open the shop, not necessarily because he wanted to be a business owner, but because of a love for the art form, for which he has always held a soft spot.

"Owning my own business is just a perk of it," Taylor said. "The dream is just tattooing. That's my love. That's my passion."

With that love of tattooing, Taylor has turned a job he once held as an employee and created a thriving business that is booked through mid-May. But the journey from working in tattoo parlors to owning his shop just isn't the whole picture, Taylor said.

Taylor said he would watch his mother draw and paint when he was growing up. He later pursued that passion after graduating high school in 2004. He said the colorful nature of his mother's art and the cartoons he watched as a kid laid *See TAYLOR. 6A* over there."

In February the county made an initial offer of \$400,000 to Ecolab, and after negotiating settled on a price of \$500,000. Ecolab ceased operations there in mid-2022.

District 5 Supervisor Leroy Brooks urged the board to quickly come up with a plan as to how Coroner Greg Merchant's office will be shifted over to the new location.

"Now that we're moving forward we need to be expeditious trying to develop that plan of action," Brooks See ECOLAB, 3A

> A crowd forms outside of Dudy Noble Field

hours before the Mississippi State

Saturday. Though

sports dominated

the weekend,

many families

used the game

and other events

as a way to bond

during Super Bull-

dog Weekend.

vs. Ole Miss baseball game on

Fans use Super Bulldog Weekend as way to mark reunions, wedding showers, more

Thousands flood Starkville for 37th event

BY ABIGAIL SIPE ROCHESTER

arochester@cdispatch.com

STARKVILLE – This weekend, record breaking numbers of Mississippi State fans, alumni and visitors flocked to the city for the 37th Super Bulldog Weekend, which was focused mostly on the Maroon and White spring football game and the Bulldogs' three-game baseball series against Ole Miss.

But for many, the sports were just an excuse to be together with the people they love, as they celebrated the spring version of homecoming. On Saturday, walking from Davis Wade to Dudy Noble felt like stepping into reunion after reunion.

Jim White from Newton was tailgating in The Junction with old friends from Acacia fraternity before the Maroon and White football See SBW, 3A



Abigail Sipe Rochester/Dispatch Staff

INSIDE

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FIVE QUESTIONS

 What iconic American rock band fronted by Micheal Stipe released the studio album, "Collapse into Now," in 2011?
 In 2016 President Obama became the first sitting U.S. president in nearly 90 years to visit what Caribbean country?
 Who is the subject of the

Who is the subject of the book "See What I Have Done," released in 2017, and a film, "Lizzie," released in 2018?
4 Name one of the only two men's players to receive the FIFA Ballon d'Or during the six years it was awarded, from 2010 to 2015?
5 Which Fiennes brother played Lord Voldemort in the "Harry Potter" movie series: Joseph or Ralph?

Answers, 6B

CALENDAR

Today

Concert: Columbus Choral Society will hold its spring concert, "Why We Sing," at 7 p.m. at Artz Community Hall, First United Methodist Church (602 Main Street).

■ Winemaker Dinner: Harvey's Columbus will host a winemaker dinner with Jean Arnold at 6:30 p.m. The event will feature a five-course dinner and a sampling of Kate Arnold Wines from Washington, Oregon and California. Seating is limited and tickets are \$85 per person. To reserve tickets, call (662) 327-1639 or email colharv@ eatwithus.com.

Wednesday

Tales from the Crypt: MSMS will host the annual Tales from the Crypt

program at 7 p.m. in Friendship Cemetery. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students K-university.

Thursday

Community Event: Amy Moe-Hoffman, curator for the MSU Dunn-Seiler Museum will give a presentation at the Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum (206 Fellowship St., Starkville) at 10 a.m. The presentation will be about fossils and the deep history of North Mississippi they represent. Moe-Hoffman will bring specimens. Free to attend. ■ Lecture: MSU will host the 2023 Carlton Owen Lecture presented by the series namesake, Carlton Owen, who will present "Life Lessons from The Environmental Edge," at 2 p.m. in Tully Auditorium, Thompson Hall. Free to attend.

LOCAL FOLKS



Sam Wansley, of Columbus, enjoys helping others in need.

PUBLIC Meetings

Today: Columbus City Council, 5 p.m., Municipal Complex **April 19:**

Mayor's press conference, 10:30 a.m., City Hall

April 20: City Utilities Commission, noon, Columbus Light and Water office April 27: Columbus City Council work session, 10:30 a.m., City Hall

Hosemann holds fundraiser at Trump's Mar-a-Lago

'Lt. Gov. Hosemann supports President Trump because his policies created higher wages, a growing economy, new jobs, low inflation, and a more secure border'

Casey Phillips, senior adviser to the Hosemann campaign

BY BOBBY HARRISON Mississippi Today

Donald Trump has not offered an endorsement in Mississippi's Republican primary for



Hosemann lieutenant

governor, but one of the candidates did have a recent fundraiser in what is essentially the former president's home.

Incumbent Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann, who is being accused of being a closet Democrat by opponent Chris McDaniel, held a fundraiser earlier this month at the Mar-a-Lago resort, which is one of Trump's more wellknown properties and is also the property he now calls home.

In addition, Mar-a-Lago is the property raided by the FBI reportedly because of the former pres-

ident's alleged unwillingness to return classified documents.

In a statement to Mississippi Today, Casey Phillips, senior adviser to the Hosemann campaign, said, "Lt. Gov. Hosemann supports President Trump because his policies created higher wages, a growing economy, new jobs, low inflation, and a more secure border. We were happy to be invited to host a fundraiser at Mara-Lago back in December and it turned out to be a great event."

An invitation circulated on social media for the April 5 Mar-a-Lago Club fundraiser at Palm Beach, Florida, lists all members of Mississippi's Republican congressional delegation on a host committee, though, sources say none actually attended the event. The invitation highlighted a photo of Hosemann and of the new state flag that in 2020 replaced the flag that contained the Confederate battle emblem in its design.

Hosemann supported the flag change. McDaniel opposed the change, say-

ing it should be decided by popular vote.

Hosemann was photographed at the event being endorsed by George Colella of the Born to Ride for 45, which is a pro Trump motorcycle group. A Confederate battle flag is displayed on Colella's biker vest.

On social media, Colella posted, "Born to Ride for 45 proudly endorses Lt. Gov. Hosemann. He has an amazing track record and (is) an asset to state of Mississippi."

McDaniel, a conservative state senator from Iones County, unsuccessfully sought Trump's endorsement in 2018 when he challenged U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who the then-president did endorse.

A pre-president Trump did voice support for Mc-Daniel in his 2014 U.S. Senate race against Thad Cochran.

"Chris McDaniel looks like he will win in Mississippi - great news and victory for Tea Party," Trump proclaimed on social media.

McDaniel, of course, did lead Cochran in the Republican primary in 2014, but did not garner the majority needed to avoid a runoff. In the runoff, Cochran defeated Mc-Daniel.

Alabama town mourns after 4 killed at teen birthday party

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DADEVILLE, Ala. -Students in the tiny Alabama town of Dadeville wore their black and gold school colors Monday as they mourned two seniors were among four young people killed by gunfire at a Sweet 16 birthday party over the weekend.

Less than six weeks from graduation, faculty, staff and students filed past flags at half-staff to meet counselors waiting to talk about the shoot-

ing, which also injured 28 at the Mahogany Masterpiece dance studio off the courthouse square. The school, with its 485 students in grades 6-12, is central to community life in Dadeville, population 3,200, where "Home of the Tigers" is painted on the water tower and local businesses sport signs proclaiming "This is Tiger Country."

Investigators were still trying to piece together what happened at the party, where numerous

gunshots left the dance studio's windows pocked with bullet holes. While police sought clues, others said they were tending the community's heart.

"It's going to be a tough time for graduation and for these kids," said Heidi Smith, a spokesperson for the 46-bed Lake Martin Community Hospital, where a number of victims were treated. "We will be here for them and their families for the duration."

The weekend was marked by a series of high-profile shootings in the U.S. One left two people dead and four wounded Saturday in Louisville, Missouri; another resulted in four men being shot - one fatally - in Los Angeles; and a third left two women wounded at Lincoln University in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Dadeville locals were quick to say that such violence was uncharacteristic of their community, but gun deaths are more common in Alabama than in most places.



email: community@cdispatch.com

Subject: NATS

COMMERCIAL DISPATCH **OBITUARY POLICY**

Obituaries with basic information including visitation and service times, are provided free of charge Extended obituaries with a photograph, detailed biographical information and other details families may wish to include, are available for a fee. Obituaries must be submitted through funeral homes unless the deceased's body has been donated to science. If the deceased's body was donated to science, the family must provide official proof of death. Please submit all obituaries on the form provided by The Commercial Dispatch. Free notices must be submitted to the newspaper no later than 3 p.m. the day prior for publication luesday through Friday; no later than 4 p.m. Saturday for the Sunday edition; and no later than 7:30 a.m. for the Monday edition. Incomplete notices must be received no later than 7:30 a.m. for the Monday through Friday editions. Paid notices must be finalized by 3 p.m. for inclusion the next day Monday through Thursday; and on Friday by 3 p.m. for Sunday and Monday publication. For more information, call 662-328-2471.

AREA OBITUARIES

Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Lowndes Funeral Home. Lowndes Funeral Home of Columbus is in charge of arrangements.

Lester Schrock

MACON - Lester Tobias Schrock, 90, died April 15, 2023, at his residence. **Funeral services**

will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, at Magnolia Mennonite Church. Burial will follow in the for the Mennonite Disaster Service. He was a member of the Magnolia Conservative Mennonite Church of Macon.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Tressa Knepp, Treva Collins, Vernon Schrock, Glenn Schrock, Fred Shrock and David Schrock; and one grandchild.

He is survived by his wife, Louise Schrock; sons, Kenneth Schrock

incomplete and will be announced by Lowndes Funeral Home. Lowndes Funeral Home of Columbus is in charge of arrangements.

See **OBITUARIES**, 5A



Jimmy Knight

COLUMBUS - Jimmy Knight, 71, died April 16, 2023, at Windsor Place.

church cemetery. Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on today, at the church. **Cockrell Funeral Home** of Macon is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Schrock was born on June 2, 1932, to the late Ezra and Clara Schrock. He was formerly employed at Star Tank Boat Company in Goshen, Indiana and was co-owner of Macon Ready Mix Concrete Company. He was a volunteer

of Taylorsville, James Schrock of Starkville, Mark Schrock and Tom Schrock, both of Macon: brothers, Ivan Schrock of Goshen, Indiana, Calvin Schrock of Atmore, Alabama, Galen Schrock of Macon and Titus Schrock of Camilla, Georgia.

Gerry Murphy

COLUMBUS - Gerry Murphy, 70, died April 14, 2023, at Trinity Personal Care. Arrangements are

STARKVILLE/MSU SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



ARE YOU AN UNPAID CAREGIVER IN NEED OF A BREAK?

RESPITE VOUCHER PROGRAM

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Respite care is available for anyone who is providing unpaid care for a dependent person of any age with a significant disability or chronic illness requiring 24/7 care.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Call the Mississippi Access to Care (MAC) Center at 1-844-822-4622 and speak to a resource specialist to receive assistance with completing an application or to request an application from your local office.

HOW DOES THE RESPITE VOUCHER PROGRAM WORK?

These vouchers may be used to pay an in-home care agency, an Adult Day Center, or a private individual to provide care to the dependent person while the caregiver is away.

A CAREGIVER CAN BE REIMBURSED UP TO \$590 ONE-TIME REIMBURSEMENT.

This voucher program is intended to assist families and individuals who identify with having a critical need for relief from caregiving. This publication/project was supported by Grant Number 90LRLI0037-01-00 from Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Should you have any questions about MAC Center please feel free to call 1-844-822-4622

Caregivers are encouraged to choose care providers who have the skills necessary to manage the special care needs of family members. Each family is responsible for choosing a care provider. If you need assistance to locate a respite care provider in your area, please call toll-free to reach a MAC Center Specialist near you (1-844-822-4622).

Each Provider:

Cannot reside in the same household as care recipient

Respite care can be provided in the following places:

- The caregiver's home or approved site by caregiver (examples: parks, restaurants, movies)
- Cannot receive payment before respite services are provided
 - A licensed care center

Vouchers can only be used to pay for breaks (respite) for caregivers. They may NOT be used to:

- Pay the family caregiver directly for the care they are providing.
- supplies.



- Pay for care that occurred before the voucher was issued.
- Pay medical bills or purchase medical Offset the cost of paid care already in place.

This publication/project was supported by Grant Number 90LRLI0037-01-00 from Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Should you have any questions about MAC Center please feel free to call 1-844-822-4622





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If you don't read The Dispatch, how are you gonna know?

:

Mississippi to require consumption-based water billing

'Water bills based on property values squeeze the middle class'

Gov. Tate Reeves

BY MICHAEL GOLDBERG The Republican governor signed House Bill 698 months after Ted Henifin, who was appointed in No-JACKSON - Missisvember by a federal court sippi Gov. Tate Reeves to help improve Jackson's signed legislation Friday requiring localities to water infrastructure, released a proposal calling base water bills on personfor billing water based on al consumption, blocking property values rather a proposed reform by the than personal use. federally appointed man-

Henifin said the new billing model would be a more equitable method of pricing water in a city where roughly 25 percent of residents live in pover-

ty. It would be unfair to charge people for water based on factors unrelated to how much they consume, Reeves said in a statement on Fridav.

"Water bills based on property values squeeze the middle class," Reeves said. "They can't afford to pay more for the home they already own. Water bills will continue to be based off of personal consumption - just like what is being done throughout the rest of the country."

Rep. Shanda Yates, an independent from Jackson, introduced the legislation, which passed with bipartisan support. Several Jackson-area lawmakers opposed the bill.

Repeated breakdowns in Jackson have caused many in the majority-Black city of about 150,000 residents to go days and weeks at a time without safe running water. Last August, people waited in lines for water to drink, bathe, cook and flush toilets. Henifin was appointed after the U.S.

Justice Department won a federal judge's approval for a rare intervention to fix the city's water system.

In January, Henifin released a proposal calling for a monthly cap on water fees for homes and commercial properties. The proposed solution was a response to the loss of revenue Jackson has experienced as its tax base eroded over the past few decades. It also would reduce the system's dependence on city water meters, which have been mired in problems, Henifin said.

"We are fundamentally flawed in the United States in that we price water only to burden that lower end of the economic spectrum, and we don't even attempt to get more revenue from the upper end," Henifin said in a December interview with The Associated Press. "If you look at property values as a surrogate for income, we could generate more than enough revenue to actually own and operate and maintain the system."

The new law takes effect July 1.

SBW

Associated Press/Report for

America

tal city.

Continued from Page 1A

ager of the troubled water

system in the state's capi-

game. Though the fraternity disbanded shortly after White graduated in 1970, he said the group has been using Super Bulldog Weekend as a way to get together ever since.

"We've been here since the ... early '70s," White said. "We like to get back together every Super Bulldog Weekend that we can. It's just a day to come back to State and relive memories and make new ones.'

White said his friends have been at almost every Super Bulldog Weekend since he graduated in 1970, though they missed the past few years because of COVID. This year, they all returned, traveling from Florida, Georgia and all over Mississippi to tailgate together.

Between Davis Wade

was another tent overflowing with a family who were also using Super Bulldog Weekend to get back together. But upon closer inspection, their tent contained more than an average tailgate. Instead, the family was hosting a wedding show-

and Dudy Noble, there

Jeremiah Dumas, a Starkville resident and former alderman whose family has been on the Mississippi State campus "in some form" since 1958, said Super Bulldog Weekend is an integral part of their family traditions, and seemed like the perfect time for the shower.

"We're big tailgaters for football, which means a lot to us," Dumas said. "And the couple actually

building needed to be

... their first date was a football game, so it felt fitting to have a tailgate in their honor."

Dumas said relatives from all over the state and Tennessee would be driving to the campus to celebrate the couple. They would also be going to the baseball game afterwards, which felt like a natural combination.

"My niece is getting married, so we're doing a shower for her, and then obviously between the football game and the baseball game. It'll be a great time to celebrate them and hopefully celebrate some wins today," Dumas said.

Outside of Dudy Noble, Rachel Claus from Ohio was waiting in line to get into the game. She and her family were camped out hours before the game, starting before 11 a.m. But Claus said the line was worth it, for the sake of her grandmother, Claudia Allday.

celebrating "We're some family time," Claus said. "It's Nana's 76th birthday today, but you wouldn't know it from looking at her."

"First time at The Dude," Allday said. "Perfect way to celebrate."

Allday was also looking forward to the concert after the baseball game, saying she is a huge Brett Eldredge fan. Though she may not have attended the baseball game alone for her birthday, she said she didn't want to miss the concert.

But even off campus, families continued to use Super Bulldog Weekend as a way to spend time together. Starkville businesses, flooded with customers who were looking for places to eat, shop and rest between games, experienced the love as well.

Darin Veall, owner of Starkville Cafe, estimated his staff served at least 500 people before noon. Though these crowds are good for business, Veall also said he enjoyed getting to see the families who return annually for Super Bulldog Weekend.

'We've been here for ... 76 years," Veall said. "Just this morning, we had people who were saying they haven't been back here in 40 or 50 years since they graduated from college ... We had one table today that had four generations sitting at one table who all went to Mississippi State and all ate at the Cafe."

© The Dispatc



LOWNDES COUNTY

Lowndes County is seeking public input or public comment on the benefits or concerns with a proposal to create an ordinance requiring a heavy-haul permit for commercial trucks hauling heavy loads on County roads in Lowndes County, Mississippi. A public hearing will be held at 9:15 AM on Monday, May 15, 2023 in the Board of Supervisors boardroom at the Lowndes County Courthouse located at 505 2nd Avenue North, Columbus, MS 39701.

Continued from Page 1A

Ecolab

said. "This needs to be a priority. I'm saying that because there's always something popping up." County Administrator

Jay Fisher said planning was already in progress.

through of the building to get our eyeballs on it," Fisher said. "The next thing



carved out for storage of bodies. "There are two warehouse areas, and the

south side area has its own HVAC," Fisher said. "It could be separately vented and all that from the front portion. There's a hard wall that separates it from the office space."

Also at Monday's meeting the board formally requested that Apex allow

the county to lease the

space that Merchant's of-

city of Columbus have

jointly owned the building

for about 10 years, and

agreed to sell it to New

The county and the

fice is in now.

The sale is moving into its final stages, and part of the deal includes leasing some of the building the coroner's office is in back to the county until it can be relocated.

Monday morning the supervisors voted unanimously to formally ask Apex for that lease for a term of 12 months at a cost of \$1 per month.

Hairston told The Dispatch after the meeting he

expected the sale to close

within the next couple of

weeks. It has taken longer

to get due diligence done

their attorney they're

willing to close as soon as

possible, and of course 'as soon as possible' some-

than expected, he said. "We've heard from

times takes a little longer than we all want or expect," Hairston said. "It's just been getting surveys done and making sure there are certain kinds of right of way because the shooting range is behind it."

board needs **Fisher** to help me

prioritize where (Merchant) needs to go and how to get it set up for him to operate as coroner.'

Fisher said he thought the back portion of the

LINK

Continued from Page 1A

ing and the other costs that we incur to get work done," Higgins said. "This budget year, that budget was set at \$100,000, and we've already spent \$200,000.'

Much of that money was spent in connection with landing the aluminum mill, Higgins said. He asked the supervisors to approve an additional \$50,000 over the money that's already been spent to cover the rest of this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

additional "An \$100,000 gets us to where we are today, but we know we've got work out there being commissioned," Higgins said. "We would like you to entertain going to \$250,000 total. That gives us \$50,000 to play with. If it looks like we might go over that, we'll be back before you, but we have high hopes we will not."

Hope-based Apex in December for \$200,000.

District 1 Supervisor Harry Sanders wanted to know why the LINK needed the money.

"Why do you need the money?" Sanders asked. "Do you not have the money in your account?"

"I don't want to pay bills on your behalf that we can't get reimbursed on," Higgins said. "These are costs our organization is incurring at your request and for you."

Higgins said Lowndes County had a higher workload than Oktibbeha or Clay counties, which the LINK also represents.

"Y'all have a higher number of projects that are looking and in development and a higher number of projects that actually locate," Higgins said. "... We felt like \$100,000 was a good enough number in September. Little did we know the 54,000-pound gorilla was



Sanders Brooks

going to walk in."

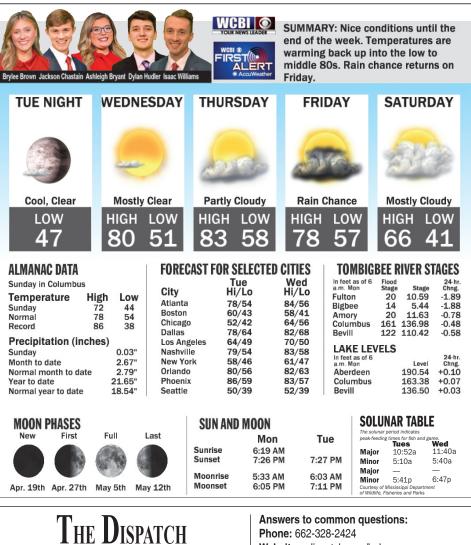
District 5 Supervisor Leroy Brooks said the money was well spent.

"If we're going to be in the game with economic development, it's going to cost money," Brooks said. "A couple hundred thousand dollars for me is a hell of a lot of money, but in the scheme of things it's not much money. ... You don't get a \$2 billion investment that doesn't cost money (to recruit)."

Brooks moved, and President Trip Hairston seconded, to increase the LINK's reimbursement for professional services to \$250,000. The motion passed unanimously.

If you desire to provide written comments, please have such documentation to our office by 9:15 AM on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

You may submit this documentation in person, by email, or via mail. Drop off: 1121 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Columbus, MS 39701 Email: dstarnes@lowndescountyms.com Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1364, Columbus, MS 39703



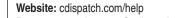
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POSSUMHAW

For the love of spring

I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose, I would always greet it in a garden. – Ruth Stout, Queen of Mulch gardener (1884-1980)

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles. – Doug Larsen, Newspaper Columnist (1926-2017)



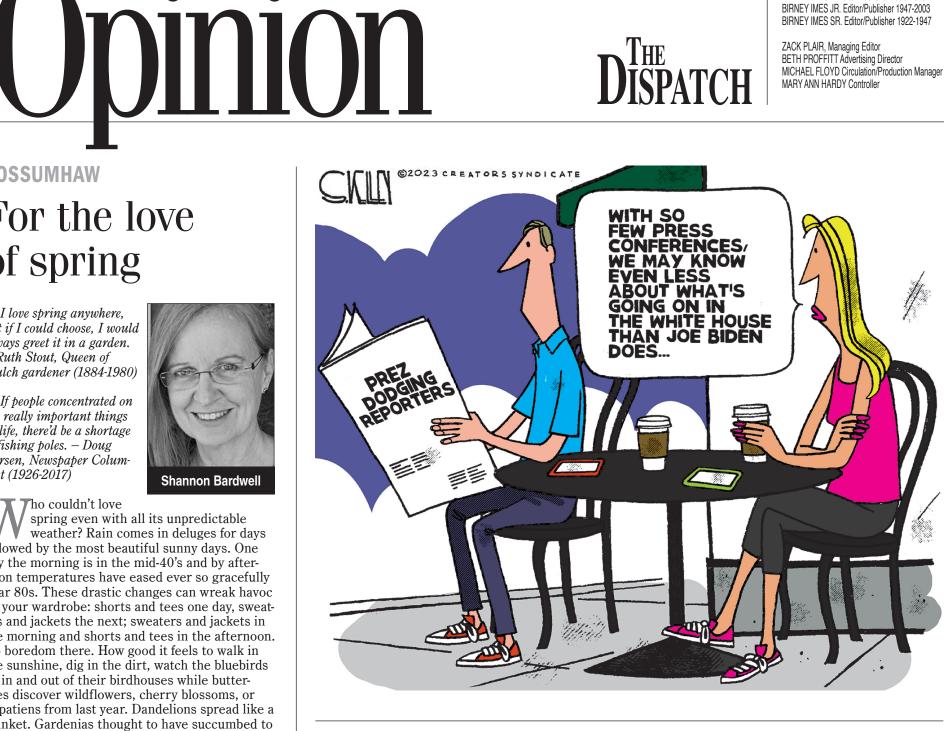
ho couldn't love spring even with all its unpredictable weather? Rain comes in deluges for days

followed by the most beautiful sunny days. One day the morning is in the mid-40's and by afternoon temperatures have eased ever so gracefully near 80s. These drastic changes can wreak havoc on your wardrobe: shorts and tees one day, sweaters and jackets the next; sweaters and jackets in the morning and shorts and tees in the afternoon. No boredom there. How good it feels to walk in the sunshine, dig in the dirt, watch the bluebirds go in and out of their birdhouses while butterflies discover wildflowers, cherry blossoms, or impatiens from last year. Dandelions spread like a blanket. Gardenias thought to have succumbed to the freeze have tiny leaves bursting out. There's hope after all. Hummingbirds started to feed at the feeders the moment the feeders went out.

If you're a fisherman it's time to ready the boat and gear while the weather is most desirable, not to mention fish that are spawning. A quote found in "Mississippi Sportsman" magazine says, "The movement to shallow water beginning about a month before the spawn is probably instinctive but fine tuned by water temperature. Regardless of what factors control winter distribution, the crappie are back in the shallow spawning areas when the water temperature starts approaching 60 degrees." Since we have an avid crappie fisherman in the household that's all we can say about that except fishing is another enjoyable spring event.

On the home front I've planted the tomato plants in pots embraced by wire cages, fresh potting soil and light fertilizer. Within days the height of the plants had tripled. Eggplant, squash, sweet peppers, are planted in the raised beds with half compost soil and half bagged soil. Like a new relationship we'll see where it goes, so far, so good.

Most of the new flowers from the garden center have not been planted yet as I decide where they should go. Placement depends on a couple of factors: sun or shade, visibility from the house or porches, and access to water sources. The plants from the greenhouse that thrived throughout the winter were already in pots so those were moved out first, some in their old places and some in new places. Watering cans were also distributed. The next day there on the front porch inside the watering can was a little tiny tree frog, my first for the year. Last year I had half-adozen and they brought me so much joy. They are unafraid as you talk to them like you would any pet. They position themselves in the hollow of the handle of the watering can. About six feet above the watering can is the night lantern. The frogs will be waiting to feast on night bugs drawn to the light.



DISPATCH

FROM JACKSON

One last effort to explain MAEP to Speaker Gunn

esponding to questions from members of the media recently about funding the Mississippi Adequate Education Program, House Speaker Philip Gunn, R-Clinton, asked for a show of hands of those who understood the school funding formula.

"Nobody really understands it. (School) superintendents don't understand it," Gunn said, making it clear his question was rhetorical. "We had a plan five or six years ago that wa bly understandable." Gunn was referring to the plan put forward by him and then-Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves. That plan was rejected by the Senate despite both Gunn and Reeves putting on a full-court press to pass it. The fact of the matter is that there are many similarities between his failed plan and the MAEP. Both are vehicles to provide the state's share of funding to meet the needs of local school districts needs like teacher salaries, utilities, custodial help, textbooks and other basic needs. And both meet those needs by providing some amount of money on a per pupil basis. The key difference is that the per pupil spending, known as the base student cost, was determined in the Gunn plan by the Legislature. Legislators could make that base student cost whatever they wanted it to be. The Legislature could lower or increase the base student cost each year based on their whim. The ability of the Legislature to establish the base student cost is what makes the Gunn/Reeves plan so simple. Besides that simplicity, it also might appeal to Gunn and others because there is no way to



underfund a formula that is not based on any objective criteria, but simply based on the thinking of legislators.

If there is no way to objectively determine what full funding is because full funding is whatever legislators say it is, then there is no way for the public to hold politicians accountable for not fully

funding education.

Gunn was the primary reason full funding of MAEP was blocked during the recently completed 2023 session. He refused to put additional funds in a formula he referred to as a "black hole" and as confusing. The 2023 session will be Gunn's last regular session as he is not running for reelection. Taking him at his word that he does not understand MAEP after five terms in the House (three as speaker) and after serving as a local school board chair, here is one last effort to explain the formula to him. First of all, based on the MAEP law, the state Department of Education determines the instructional, administrative, maintenance and ancillary costs for level 3 or adequate schools. The MAEP base student cost is then ascertained by averaging the cost in each of those four areas instructional, administrative, maintenance and ancillary - of educating a child in those adequate districts. But it is important to note those adequately performing districts that spend significantly more or less than other school systems are not used in developing the base student cost. And in developing the all-important base student cost, the formula is weighted in favor of using school districts that spend less than in using school districts that spend more.

The formula also calls for every district to provide a portion of the MAEP base student cost. Districts are supposed to provide in local funds whichever is less of 28 mills (a mill is a taxing unit for property) or 27 percent of the base student cost. The state is supposed to provide the rest of the cost.

For whatever it is worth, nearly all school districts levy more than 28 mills.

The formula is calculated every four years. In the years between those recalculations, the formula is supposed to be adjusted based on a modest inflation factor.

When the Legislature enacted MAEP in 1997, the goal was to ensure that all districts have a base level of funding that theoretically would be enough to provide an adequate education. And here is perhaps the most important aspect of the formula: the state provides more funds for property poor districts than it does for affluent districts. But in helping those property poor districts, there was a commitment made in 1997 that those wealthier districts would not receive less funding under the new formula than under the old formula. There is an argument that now, about 25 years after the formula was created, that the wealthier districts should be paying more of their own funds for the basic operation of their schools and thus freeing up more state funds for poor districts. The Senate wanted to have that debate in the 2023 session and then fully fund MAEP for the first time since 2007-2008. Gunn prevented that debate from happening in the House. Apparently, he said, he did not understand the formula. Bobby Harrison, Mississippi Today's senior capitol reporter, covers politics, government and the Mississippi State Legislature. He can be reached at bharrison@mississippitoday.org

Another year, another season, another month, another day, much to be thankful for.

Shannon Bardwell is a writer living quietly in the Prairie. Email reaches her at msdeltachild@msn.com.



Voice of the People

We encourage you to share your opinion with readers of The Dispatch.

Submit your letter to The Dispatch by:

E-mail: voice@cdispatch.com

Mail: P.O. Box 511, Columbus, MS 39703

In person: 516 Main St., Columbus, or 101 S. Lafayette St., No. 16, Starkville.

All letters must be signed by the author and must include town of residence and a telephone number for verification purposes. We request the tone of your letters be constructive and respectful and the length be limited to 450 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity, grammar and length. While commentary on national issues is always welcome, we limit candidate endorsements to one per letter-writer.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, April 18, the 108th day of 2023. There are 257 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Massachusetts, warning colonists that British Regular troops were approaching.

On this date:

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman near Durham Station in North Carolina.

In 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires; estimates of the final death toll range between 3,000 and 6,000.

In 1923, the first game was played at the original Yankee Stadium in New York; the Yankees defeated the Boston Red Sox 4-1.

In 1954, Gamal Abdel Nasser seized power as he became prime minister of Egypt.

In 1955, physicist Albert Einstein died in Princeton, New Jersey, at age 76.

In 1966, Bill Russell was named player-coach of the Boston Celtics, becoming the NBA's first Black coach.

In 1978, the Senate approved

the Panama Canal Treaty, providing for the complete turnover of control of the waterway to Panama on the last day of 1999.

In 1983, 63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

In 2002, police arrested actor Robert Blake in the shooting death of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, nearly a year earlier (Blake was acquitted at his criminal trial but found liable in a civil trial).

In 2015, a ship believed to be carrying more than 800 migrants from Africa sank in the Mediterranean off Libya; only about 30 people were rescued.

Obituaries

Continued from Page 2A

James Adams

COLUMBUS – James "Jimmy" White Adams, 72, died April 14, 2023, at his residence.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. today, at Salem Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the cemetery. Cockrell Funeral Home of Macon is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Adams was born on May 16, 1950, in Macon, to the late Lemuel Stuart Adams Jr. and Ruth White Adams. He was a graduate of Noxubee High School. He attended Hinds Community College and East Mississippi Community College. He was formerly employed at Standard Oil and Weyerhaeuser.

He is survived by his siblings, Lem Adams and Debra Jones, both of Columbus.

Memorials may be made to Salem Memorial Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Ethan Ewing, 101 Elkin Ct., Macon, MS 39341.

Tony Hill

WEST POINT -Tony Lee Hill, 68, died April 14, 2023, at UAB Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Funeral services were at 3 p.m. Mon-

day, at Cairo-Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Cedarbluff, with Rev. Danny Avery and Rev. Jason Stewart officiating. Burial followed at Cairo Cemetery. Robinson Funeral Home of West Point is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hill was born on July 1, 1954, to Eunic Bernell Young Blissard and the late Leroy Franklin Hill.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his wife, Rebecca Hill; and step-father, Joe BlisHome, with Dr. James Towery officiating. Burial followed in Greenwood Cemetery. Visitation was from 1-3 p.m. prior to services at the funeral home. **Calvert Funeral Home** of West Point is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Prisock was born on Jan. 31, 1947, in West Point, to the late Nettie Pearl Davis and Roy Barron Davis. She was a graduate of West Point High School. She was formerly employed as a Customer Service Representative and was a stay at home mom.

Pallbearers were Jackson Prisock, Lawson Towery, Tanner Prisock, Owen Prisock, Andy Miller and Brent Walker.

She is survived by her husband, Dwight Prisock; children, Thomas Prisock, Stephen Prisock and Jennifer Towery; siblings, Boyce Davis, R.B. Davis, Fay Barber and Becky Weaver; and nine grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Thomas Lucas

SULLIGENT, Ala. – Thomas Lucas, 74, died April 13, 2023, at his residence.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Sunday, at Otts Funeral Home Chapel, with Jason Clifton officiating. Burial followed at Fellowship Cemetery in Vernon, Alabama. Visitation was from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, at the funeral home. Otts Funeral Home of Sulligent is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Lucas was born on Jan. 20, 1949, in Lamar County, to the late Melvin Lucas and Grace Wheeler Lucas. He attended Lamar County High School and joined the United States Navy. He was formerly employed as a truck driver. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Jim Hester and Ramona Lucas. He is survived by his wife Phyllis Lucas of Sulligent; daughter, Melanie Reeves of Sulligent; sisters, Sharon Johnson of Georgia, and Jackie Hattaway of Florida; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Pallbearers were Ricky Blaylock, Bradley Blaylock, Damon Coleman, CJ McClemore, Ty Woods and Tim Clark.

tist Church, with Rev. Hal Selby officiating. Burial will follow at Memorial Garden Park Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. prior to services at the church. Welch Funeral Home of Starkville is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hartness was born on Oct. 14, 1946, in Louisville, to the late Leroy and Earline Malone Hartness. He was a graduate of Noxapater High School, attended East Central Community College, and earned his BS, MS and PhD from Mississippi State University. He was formerly employed with the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service in Marshall County, was the public address announcer for Starkville Academy Athletics, and an auctioneer.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Mae Horne, Estelle McLaurin and Faye Powell. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Phillips Hartness; children, Laura Hartness Smith, Phillip Lee Hartness; sister, Kay Emmons; and five grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Starkville Academy All-In Campaign, 505 Academy Rd., Starkville, MS 39759.

George Strickland

STEENS – George Strickland, 57, died at his residence.

Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Hairston-Hairston Funeral Home. Hairston-Hairston Funeral Home of Columbus is in charge of arrangements.

He was born on June 10, 1965, in Columbus, Georgia, to the late Bruce Strickland Sr. and Linda Lee. He was formerly employed as a mechanic. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Glenn David Stickland, Teresa Strickland, Charles Strickland and Bruce Strickland Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Ann Juneman Strickland; and brother James Strickland.

Jody Newman

NORTHPORT, Ala. Jody Allen Newman, 83, died April 16, 2023, at Forest Manor Nursing Home.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. today, at Otts Funeral Home Chapel, with James Godsey officiating. Burial will follow at Mt. Vernon Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the funeral home.

Mr. Newman was born on Feb. 25, 1940, in Fayette County, to the late Arnold Edwin Newman and Eunice Delores Otts Newman. He was a graduate of Kennedy High School. He was formerly employed by Sanderson Plumbing in Columbus. He was a member of Kennedy Church of God.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Billy Newman and Brenda Gordon.

James Bozeman

SULLIGENT, Ala. -James "Junior" Bozeman, 89, died April 16, 2023, at his residence. **Funeral services**



will be held at 3 p.m. today, with Arnold Sheets and Dean Hendrick officiating, at Otts Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Mt. Hebron Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the funeral home. Otts Funeral Home of Sulligent is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bozeman was born on Jan. 13, 1934, in Lamar County, Alabama, to the late Dallas and Lorain Bozeman. He was formerly employed by Sears and owned a Citgo and Bozeman Pub in Waukegan, Illinois and Round Lake Beach, Illinois. He was a member of Freewill Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Nelda Lois Bozeman; daughter, Janie Stegall; and sister, Robbie Carr.

He is survived by his children, Judy Starling and Pamela Sheffield, both of Panama City Beach, Florida, Sherry Bozeman of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Keith Bozeman of Sulligent Alabama, Brenda Hedrick and Bobby Stegall, both of Fulton, Mississippi, Linda Stegall of Indianapolis, Indiana, Lisa Stegall of Sulligent, Alabama; brothers, Lloyd Bozeman of Taylor Ridge, Illinois and Furman Bozeman of Columbus; 21 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Rex Lacy, Jarrett Bozeman, Garrett Bozeman, Dallas Bozeman, Nick Stegall, Steven Lloyd and Larry Webb.

Shane Weiger

William "Shane" Weiger, 32, died March 26, 2023, in Orlando, FL, after a short, but courageous, battle with leukemia.

Shane was born July 6, 1990, in Mobile, AL. He moved often with his military family, living in Niceville, FL, Columbus, GA, Clovis, NM, and Columbus,

MS. Shane graduated from Columbus High School, where he played trumpet in the band. He then attended Mississippi State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography in 2014.

After graduation, Shane moved to Orlando, FL, working at the theme parks of Disney and Universal. His interests included cats, music, video games, and amusement parks.

Shane is survived by his parents, Sue and Kurt Weiger; a grandmother, Connie Sifers; 4 aunts, Pam Weiger, Sarah Sifers, Amy Orr, and Dawn O'Neill; 1 uncle, Carl Plaugher; and 4 cousins, CJ Patterson, Johnson Orr, Sam Orr, and Liberty O'Neill. He was a gentle soul, and his ability to bring joy to all he came in contact with will be sorely missed.

Memorials may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital or Columbus Lowndes Humane Society.

Paid Obituary

Bobbie Gore

sard.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his daughters, Tina Smith of Alabama, Trisha Dorroh of Starkville and Jana Hill of Cedar Bluff; sister Ruth Wooten of West Point; and three grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Toby Wooten, Riley Wooten, Cole Wooten, Yancy Wooten, Mike Smith, Stan Dorroh, Gary Kisner.

Memorials may be made to Cairo-Cumberland Presbyterian Church c/o Judy Chrismond 23225 Hwy 50 W., West Point, MS 39773.

Rita Prisock

WEST POINT -Rita Carolyn Davis Prisock, 76, died on April 12, 2023, at Methodist North Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Funeral services were at 3 p.m. Sunday, at Calvert Funeral

Ron Hartness

STARKVILLE – Dr. Ronnie "Rob" Lee Hartness, 76, died on April 14, 2023, at his residence.

will be at 1:30 p.m. today, at Adaton Bap-



Patricia Barksdale

Patricia Ann McCrary Barksdale, 85, of Columbus, MS, passed away Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-GT.

Visitation will be Tuesday, April 18, 2023, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Columbus, MS. A funeral service will follow at 2:00 PM with Bro. Steve Lammons officiating and Bro. Ralph Windle assisting. Interment will be in Beersheba Cemetery, Columbus, MS, with Lowndes Funeral Home, Columbus, MS directing.

Mrs. Barksdale was born June 29, 1937, to the late Louis Edward and Mary Lucille Easter McCrary, in Lowndes County, MS. She married the late W. H. "Buddy" Barksdale on August 28, 1954. Mrs. Barksdale worked as a machine operator at United Technologies for 45 years before retiring in 2000. She was a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Columbus and enjoyed cooking and spending time with her family.

Mrs. Barksdale is survived by her son, Bobby (Teresa) Barksdale, Columbus, MS; daughter, Debra (Tim) Parson, Opelika, AL; grandchildren, Brian (Amy) Barksdale, Brad (Liz) Barksdale, and Brittany (Matthew) Packer; great-grandchildren, Ronni-Beth Barksdale, Brian Robert Barksdale, Heinz Barksdale, Murphy Barksdale, Al Barksdale, Remington Packer, and Camryn Packer; and sisters, Gerrie (Don) Davis and Betty Massey.

Pallbearers will be Brian Barksdale, Brad Barksdale, Matthew Packer, Tim Massey, Tommy Massey, and Todd Davis. Honorary pallbearers will be Ray Crane, Jimmy Hildreth, Donna Silas' Sunday School class, and Men of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to Trinity Healthcare Sunday Fund, 250 Airline Road, Columbus, MS 39702.

Lowndes Funeral Home

www.lowndesfuneralhome.net



Bobbie McClain Lewis Gore, 92, wife of Albert N. Gore, Jr., passed from this life into her eternal life on April 13, 2023. She was born in 1930 to the late George Leonard and Cora Fondren McClain.

Bobbie graduated from Mathiston High School where she was a standout member of the girls' basketball team. She



attended Clarke College and received her BS in Education from Mississippi College. Bobbie went on to earn her Masters of Library Science from Mississippi State University and was a librarian for Henderson Junior High and Starkville High School before retiring from the Starkville Public Schools. A member of the Mississippi Association of Educators, she served as president and was a delegate to the National Convention in Dallas, Texas.

Bobbie cared for others deeply and was a beloved friend, encourager and advocate for students, coworkers and family members. She was there for her siblings and their families in times of need and joy and was a favorite aunt or like a second mother to nieces and nephews.

Never bored, she was a voracious reader, active in advocating for those in need, and always kept up with current events. An avid sports fan, cheering on her teams was her great pastime.

She was preceded in death by three sisters: Helen King, Reba Harris and Betty Boyd; two brothers: E Fondren McClain and George Leonard McClain, and the father of her children, Dr. George R. Lewis. Bobbie is survived by, in addition to her husband, daughter Denise Lewis Waldrep (Brian), and Dr. Michael K. Lewis, grandsons Carey G. Smith (Kira) and Austin K. Lewis, stepdaughter Celeste Barczewska (Ralph), stepson Al Gore (Jeannette), stepgrandsons Todd Waldrep (Sara), Andy Waldrep (Mary), David Jackson, and Rudi, Aiden, and Garen Barczewska, and 3 great-grandchildren and special friend K.J. Sora-Lewis.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Red Cross at PO Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839 or Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068.

Funeral services were Monday, April 17, at 2:00PM at the Welch Funeral Home Chapel, with visitation at 1:00 prior to the funeral. Burial followed at North Union Cemetery in Bellefontaine.

You may go online at www.welchfuneralhomes. com to leave a condolence.

Paid Obituary - Welch Funeral Home

Funeral services



HEALTH TIP

■ Brush your tongue: Your tongue can harbor bacteria in your mouth, which can spread to your teeth, increasing your risk of decay. You can brush your tongue with your toothbrush, or even buy a special tongue brusher. Source: www.goodhousekeeping.com

Health tips from Dr. Mike Roizen

shooting pain.

heart palpitations, and

Tick, tick, lck!

Around 59 million Americans participated in hiking activities in 2021, in part because fresh air, exercise, and beautiful scenery helped shake off COVID-19 angst.

But to truly enjoy the outdoors, you need to protect yourself from tick bites. The Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention says that around 300,000 cases of Lyme disease are caused by tick bites annually, accounting for 86 percent of reported cases of tick-transmitted illness. Untreated, Lyme disease can lead to chronic fatigue and arthritis, neurological problems,



Another tick-borne illness is alpha-gal

syndrome. The American Gastroenterological Association has just released clinical guidance to help doctors and patients figure out if unexplained digestive symptoms, such as abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea and

vomiting, come from this infection, which triggers an allergy to eating meat from mammals, as well as mammal-derived products such as dairy. A blood test can identify immunoglobulin E antibodies to alpha-gal. Relief comes from not eating those foods – which I advise

everybody to do anyway in order to live younger longer. There's also an alert out about the tick-borne illness babesiosis, caused by the same tick that transmits Lyme disease. Early symptoms include fever, chills, sweats, headache, body aches, loss of appetite, nausea and hemolytic anemia.

For protection from tick bites, hike on cleared trails; wear socks, long pants and long sleeves; use tick-repellent DEET. When heading indoors, check your body for ticks and remove them with sharp tweezers. Save the critter in a pill bottle and if you develop symptoms, see a doctor (with your captured tick) for treatment pronto.

Mike Roizen, M.D. is Chief Wellness Officer and Chair of Wellness Institute at Cleveland Clinic.

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Facebook Live Sale From theEstate of Bill C. Breazeale Tuesday, April 18 Beginning at 6pm



Taylor **Continued from Page 1A**

the foundations of his colorful neo-classic style of tattooing, complete with dark outlines and colorful shading techniques.

"She would come in the mornings when I was getting ready for school, and she had these little flowers that she would sit and draw," Tavlor said. "She also did like sculpting clay figurines, and she would paint. I spent so much of my late elementary and middle school years watching her draw and everything.'

Taylor at first struggled to find a place to take him as an apprentice, which is legally required to be a professional tattoo artist in Mississippi. Without the apprenticeship, he began tattooing illegally out of his home to make money.

In the tattoo industry, completing an apprenticeship takes at least nine months and can be costly. For an artist to be taken under a shop's wing, a prospect must be wellknown, or the student can pay for the education and equipment through the shop. Taylor first tried in Tupelo but was

quickly turned off by the price tag.

"They wanted \$5,000 upfront, and I had to buy all my needles, machines, inks and everything," he said. "I was 18, fresh out of high school. Where do you get \$5,000 at that point? I couldn't afford it."

Taylor stopped tattooing in 2007, after realizing how dangerous it was to be an artist without a license, which he said undercut the hard work of others who put in the time and effort to tattoo legally.

"I wanted to do it the right way," he said. "It really was thrown back in my face, just how wrong that was, and how dangerous something like that can be. It was enough that I didn't want to feel that way anymore."

Taylor waited 13 years before picking up a tattoo gun again. In 2020, he connected with artists at Dark Water Tattoo in downtown Columbus and finally had the means to start this apprenticeship, which he completed later that year. "All those years later, I got the opportunity to do

it the right way," he said. "Having a mentor was huge for me in building that foundation."

Taylor worked at Dark Water for two years. In that time, he built up his skills with neo-classical tattoo styles, combining the classic rich, dark, pronounced lines of the American traditional tattoo technique with colorful reds, blues, greens and purple shadings of a more modern style.

Last fall, though, he left the chair in Columbus to join a team of artists at Pale Horse Tattoo in Pontotoc, learning the business side of his profession and developing his shop ideas.

Taylor returned to Columbus in February when he opened Tatt2d Voodoo near the Mississippi University for Women campus.

"There is nothing better than owning your own shop," he said. "There is a lot of responsibility, and vou don't have managers to come in and fix things for you. There's a lot of

owning your own business than there is trying to work for somebody else."

With his tattoo shop firmly cemented in Columbus, Taylor said he is looking to expand his operation by adding a few artists and is even training his wife, Amy, as an apprentice.

"I'm going take it as far as I can go with it," he said. "It's humble beginnings, but you got to start somewhere. I think for our five-year plan, I see adding maybe two or three artists, and we are looking at how to break up the studio. That way, we can have something more private for the clients."

Linda Houston 503 6th St. S. Columbus, MS Friday 4/21 -Sunday 4/23 Fri. & Sat. 9-4 • Sun. 1-4 Facebook Live Sale • 6pm Monday, April 24

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responsibility that comes with it, but there's so much more freedom in

Two arrests made after gunfire at KFC

DISPATCH STAFF REPORT

STARKVILLE – Two teenagers were arrested after a gun went off at KFC on Highway 12.

Jordyn Barrett, 18, and a 16-year-old male were arrested on Saturday afternoon at 127A Highway 12 W.

Barrett and the other teen were physically fighting in the parking lot outside

of the KFC when the 16-year-old allegedly drew a gun. The teenagers started fighting over the gun until it went off, a Starkville Police department press release said. There were only minor physical injuries from the fight, said Brandon Lovelady, public information officer with the police department.

Barrett has been charged with simple assault. The 16-year-old male, who is being referred to youth court, was charged with simple assault and possession of a firearm by a minor.



Barrett

Wednesday, April 19

Tales from the Crypt at Friendship Cemetery 7- 10 pm. Award-winning performances by MSMS students. Tickets \$5 adult, \$3 student. Purchase tickets at preservecolumbus.com or at the cemetery.

Friday, April 21

Morning Tour 9 - 12. Ridge House. Kuykendall House. Mississippi Roadshow, Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Trotter Convention Center 10 - 5. Tickets available online at http://mpbfoundation.org/ msroadshowtickets. Ticket includes all day event, food, and appraisal of one item (small enough to carry). Event will be filmed.

Lunch & Learn 11:30 - 1:00 at the Lee Home. Robert Ivv addresses Far Bevond Tara: Richness and Diversity of Historic Columbus Architecture. SOLD OUT Afternoon Tour 2 - 5 pm. The Parsonage. Aldan Hall. Sunset

Lecture/ Demonstration. Dr. Jack May. Mixing Paint for Early American Colors. The Paint Store. 418 Main Street. 2 - 3 pm. FREE event.



· Sip and See. Beard's Furniture & Antiquities. The Melange. 248 Chubby Drive. 2 - 5 pm. FREE event. • Tales from the Crypt at Friendship Cemetery 7 - 10 pm. Award-winning performances by MSMS students. Tickets \$5 adult, \$ student

Saturday, April 22

• Morning Tour 9 - 12. Kidd's Tavern. Primrose • Lunch & Learn 11:30 - 1:00. Dr. Bridget Pieschel with MUW History, Art, and Music Departments explore President Taft's 1909 Visit to Columbus and MUW. A stunning collaboration produces an unforgettable experience. Ticket \$35. Cochran Ballroom on MUW campus (inquire of entry guard at gate).

 Afternoon Tour 2 - 5 pm. Amzi Love. Temple Heights. · History for Sale. Historic Homes That Could Be Yours! Always wanted to own a historic home? This is

your chance! 2 - 5 pm. FREE event. Call Cody at 662-889-5690 for locations.

Sunday, April 23 Afternoon Tour 2 - 5. Oakview. Temple Heights. Stone Hotel



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Angela Criddle

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Ole Miss won the

opener in Starkville 3-2

Friday night with stellar

performances from ju-

nior starter Jack Dough-

erty and senior reliev-

er Mitch Murrell, who

combined to give up just

three hits. The Rebels

were walked off Saturday

by Jordan, and on Sunday

Hines broke a 3-3 tie in

the seventh with a go-

ahead two-run home run.

SEC) faces Arkansas

State (12-20, 3-10 Sun

Belt) in Jonesboro, Ar-

kansas Tuesday at 6 p.m.

before starting a three-

game series at Swayze

Ole Miss (20-16, 3-12

OLE MISS BASEBALL Ole Miss still looking for answers following series loss to Mississippi State

Rebels are now an SEC-worst 3-12

BY MICHAEL KATZ Northeast Mississippi Daily Iournal

OXFORD - On Saturday night, Mississippi State had Dakota Jordan. On Sunday afternoon, Mississippi State had Hunter Hines.

While Ole Miss had players step up at various points in a series loss to the archrival Bulldogs this weekend, their heroic moments didn't happen at the games' most decisive junctures. Mississippi State's did.

And, because of that, the Rebels are still searching for their first SEC series win in 2023 as they start the second Field with No. 1 LSU Fri-

day. Tuesday's game will be broadcast on ESPN+. The Rebels defeated the Red Wolves 11-3 in their February meeting in Oxford.

"We competed so hard this weekend, but that doesn't win you the game, (it) just puts you sometimes in positions to win the game. We just didn't make the plays, make the pitches to win the game. At some point, somebody's got to be the star," Ole Miss coach Mike Bianco said. " ... In these close games in the Southeastern Conference or a rivalry game, somebody's got to make the big play or get the big hit. And, in the last two days, they got more of those than we did."

In Saturday's game, the Rebels trailed in the ninth but scored two runs to take a 7-6 lead on a double from junior shortstop Jacob Gonzalez and a single from senior first baseman Anthony Calarco. Things spiraled in the bottom of the inning on the mound, however, as Rebels pitching loaded the bases via three walks. Jordan took advantage with a game-winning, two-run single.

The Rebels trailed 3-0 Sunday afternoon but tied the game in the top of the seventh. Hines then played the part of hero for the Bulldogs, and Ole Miss wasn't able to make any magic of its own in the eighth or See OLE MISS, 2B



Kiana Dale/Ole Miss athletic

Ole Miss baseball is in a tough spot after losing two of three to Mississippi State over the weekend in Starkville. The Rebels are now 20-16 overall, but more importantly, 3-12 in Southeastern Conference play.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BASEBALL The 'Father of SEC baseball' is emblazoned in bronze

Statue unveiled of longtime **Bulldog head coach Polk**

BY ALEX MURPHY amurbhv@cdisbatch.com

STARKVILLE – It was a process that took nearly a year to finish, and an honor that seemed like it was years in the making, all for a reveal that took seconds. On Friday afternoon, former teammates, coaches, current administration and hundreds of Mississippi State fans gathered outside Adkerson Plaza at Dudy Noble Field for the unveiling of a statue honoring former Bulldog head coach Ron Polk. Known as the "Father of Southeastern Conference Baseball," Polk won more than 1,100 games with the Bulldogs, taking them to six College World Series in Omaha, and Friday ended the wait as he became the third person to have a statue erected outside of The Dude. "When John Cohen told me about a year ago that people recommend that we do that, I said, 'Alright, if you feel like you want to do it, I'll be happy to accept,'" Polk said. "It's been a year in the making, taking measurements with Rusty Reid. It's been a long time. We had 111 of my former players, and probably 150 that called, texted or wrote. We had guys from West Virginia, California, Arizona, Colorado, New Jersey. That means more to me than the statue.'

Young Bulldogs pick up momentum with dramatic Ole Miss series win

MISSISSIPPI STATE BASEBALL



Bulldog legends were in attendance, including Will Clark and Rafael Palmeiro, "Thunder and Lightning" the recipients of the two statues that sit at the entrance to The Dude.

During his speech, Polk pulled out one-liners that induced more than a few laughs from the crowd, including a fake congratulations letter from the NCAA.

With such a busy day on Friday, Polk put fans and players first, setting aside time

See POLK, 2B

each announced over so-

cial media they would be

Georgia, was a former

three-star in MSU's 2022

class. Taylor, another

former three-star from

Mobile, Alabama, was

the Bulldogs' top-rated

Cannon, from Forsyth,

leaving the program.

Mississippi State outfielder Dakota Jordan (42) celebrates with fans atop the right field wall at Dudy Noble Field after his walk-off single on Saturday, capping off an 8-7 win in front of a record crowd.

BY COLIN DAMMS

cdamms@cdisbatch.com

STARKVILLE - Super Bulldog Weekend is one of the biggest parties of the year in Starkville, and Saturday night was its pinnacle.

Mississippi State freshman Dakota Jordan hit a walk-off two-RBI single to beat Ole Miss 8-7 in front of an NCAA record crowd of 16,423 at Dudy Noble Field.

The win was followed by a Brett Elderedge concert and fireworks show, but even with the city-wide party there wasn't much of a Saturday hangover as MSU clinched its second straight Southeastern Conference series in a 5-3 win.

bring them down," Bulldog head coach Chris Lemonis said of the excitement and the occasion. "We made sure they knew the level of importance of the game. I was telling them 'I'm never going to tell you this is just like any other game.' We talk about the importance of it, but really trying to get them calm and able to play relaxed and aggressive. That's been the mindset all week."

"You're almost trying to

The Bulldogs (22-15, 5-10 SEC) were once again led by their young core. Freshman starter Jurrangelo Cijntje pitched 5.2 innings, allowing just one run and three hits while striking out seven Ole Miss batters in the process.

Cjintje's pitching was paired nicely with the offensive production of Hunter Hines and Iordan. Hines hit a home run in each game of the series, and now has 17 on the year, while Jordan totaled six RBIs. The pair were responsible for each of the team's home run scores on Sunday, with Hines' seventh inning bomb being the difference on the day.

The big weekend from the young players isn't a flash in the pan either. Five of the team's top 10 RBI hitters are underclassmen, and Jordan and Hines lead the regular order in batting average with .348 and .336,

respectively.

The youngsters have stepped up, and Lemonis' trust in them is paying dividends.

Will Porada/Mississippi State athletics

"We're probably one of the younger teams in the league, but those kids are not young anymore," Lemonis said of the young core. "After this weekend, what else could Dakota play in but a Super Regional? Those kids are learning and getting better every day."

In terms of the season, Lemonis knew winning the series was the most important thing, but the momentum of beating their rivals was galvanizing as well. The See BULLDOGS, 2B

MISSISSIPPI STATE FOOTBALL MSU's Cannon, Taylor hit transfer portal

17 Bulldogs have entered portal since December

BY JUSTIN FROMMER jfrommer@cdispatch.com

Mississippi State football's growing transfer portal list added two new names Monday afternoon when redshirt freshmen offensive linemen Jackson Cannon and Lucas Taylor lineman in the 2022 class (No. 464 nationally) by 247sports.

played last Neither season and will have four years of eligibility going forward.

Cannon and Taylor became the 16th and 17th addition to the portal from MSU's program since the beginning of December, joining: OL Reed Buys (South Alabama), WR Rara Thomas (Georgia), RB Ke'Travion Hargrove (Memphis), RB Dillon Johnson (Washington), WR Christian Ford (Appalachian State), QB Daniel Greek (Tarleton State), OL Carson Williams (uncommitted), P Archer Trafford (uncommitted), OL Gabe Cavazos (Southern Miss), S Dylan Lawrence (Southern Miss), QB Braedyn Locke

(Wisconsin), QB Sawyer Robinson (Baylor), DL Jevon Banks (Kansas State), WR Marquez Dortch (uncommitted) and CB William Hardrick (uncommitted).

The Bulldogs have also added seven players from the portal during that span, including: DB Khamauri Rogers (Miami FL), P Andrew Osteen (UCF), DB Ray'Darious Jones (LSU), DB Christopher Keys (Indiana), DB Kobi Albert (Kentucky), QB Mike Wright (Vanderbilt) and WR Freddie Roberson (Eastern Washington).

The Bulldogs open the 2023 season, the first under head coach Zach Arnett, on Sept. 2 against Southeastern Louisiana at Davis Wade Stadium.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BASEBALL Weekend hero named SEC Freshman of the Week

Jordan brings 12-game hitting streak into Auburn series

BY JUSTIN FROMMER jfrommer@cdispatch.com

Dakota Jordan's baseball heroics have garnered him conference recognition.

Mississip-Jordan, pi State baseball's left fielder, was named SEC

Freshman of the Week Monday afternoon after his monster series at the plate against Ole Miss during Super Bulldog Weekend, assisting the Bulldogs to their seventh consecutive series win over the Rebels.

Jordan, from Canton, recorded five hits against Ole Miss, including a bases-loaded, two-RBI walk-off single in Saturday's 8-7 comeback victory for MSU. In Sunday's 5-3 series clincher, he added a three-run home run, which was his sixth of the season.

Jordan also homered in Ole Miss's 3-2 series-opening win, as well as in MSU's 7-3 win at the University of Alabama-Birmingham earlier in the week.

Jordan, now batting .348 on the year, brings a 12-game hitting streak into this weekend's critical road SEC series at Auburn (April 21-23), which sits tied in the West standings with the Bulldogs at 5-3.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BASEBALL Southern cancels mid-week game against MSU

Bulldogs next play Auburn on Friday

BY JUSTIN FROMMER jfrommer@cdispatch.com

Mississippi State baseball will not have a non-conference game this week after Southern University has canceled Tuesday night's game at Dudy Noble Field, according to a press re-

lease Monday morning. The Jaguars (11-19), of the Southwest Athletic Conference, will instead play a double-header against conference foe Texas Southern, after having two games canceled over the weekend. MSU (22-15) has already played one SWAC team this season, beating Grambling, 21-2, in seven innings, on April 4. The Bulldogs, winners of their last two SEC series against Alabama and Ole Miss during Super Bulldog Weekend, will return to action Friday, beginning a pivotal three-game series at Auburn.

The Tigers (20-15-1) are tied with MSU at 5-10 in the SEC West standings after dropping two of three at Alabama last weekend, and will play Samford during their Tuesday non-conference matchup.

Ole Miss

Continued from Page 1B

ninth. The Rebels had no baserunners in the final two innings.

Ole Miss relievers surrendered six earned runs over 5.1 innings in the final two games of the series. The Rebels' starters – Dougherty, junior Xavier Rivas and freshman J.T. Quinn – each pitched at least 5.1 innings in their respective starts and gave up a combined eight earned runs.

"When you lose close games, it's tough. I think I looked before today, we had 11 losses (in SEC play) and five losses out of the bullpen. ... We have to be better. There's enough blame to go around, believe me," Bianco said. "I thought Murrell pitched his heart out this weekend, 37 pitches to get the win on Friday night and then come back on a day's rest and then pitch like that today (Sunday) and, again, give us a chance, keep it close. But we

have to be better all the way around."

Quotable

"The only way to get those moments and those pitches and those things is to compete like we did today. Unfortunately, we're not getting the results yet. But you have to continue to compete like that." - Mike Bianco

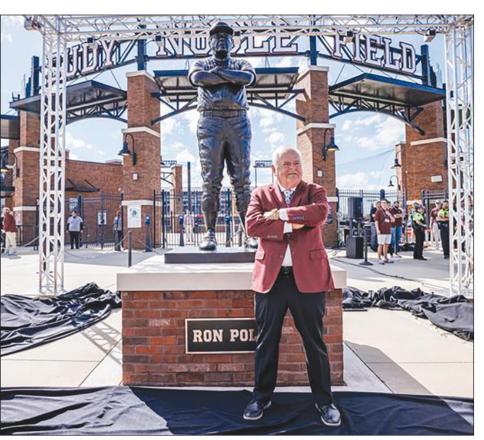
Rebel Ramblings Ole Miss has the worst conference win-loss record (3-12) in either the SEC East or West divisions this season ... The Rebels' next weekend opponent, LSU, lead the nation in scoring at 10.4 runs per game. Star outfielder Dylan Crews leads the nation with a .500 batting average and has nine home runs and 37 RBIs. Third baseman Tommy White is tied for first nationally with 62 RBIs.



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Kevin Snyder/Mississippi State athletics

ongtime Mississippi State head coach Ron Polk (center) poses with his bronze statue that was unveiled prior to the Bulldogs' series opener against Ole Miss on Friday afternoon. Polk won over 1,100 games with Mississippi State, reaching the College World Series six times.

Polk Continued from Page 1B

during the entirety of Super Bulldog Weekend to shake hands of players and take photos with fans in front of the statue.

"Everyone who looked at it said it really looks like me," Polk said. "As (many) measurements as I did with Rusty, he measured every part of my body ... I thought the ceremony went well. All of the people there, Dr. (Mark) Keenum, Zac (Selmon)

and Joey Hamilton representing the players and Jim Ellis and Rusty. We tried to keep it to an hour."

Reid was the sculptor for both Clark's and Palmeiro's statues, so it was only fitting for him to come back to Starkville and sculpt Polk's statue.

Stories were shared about the thousands of Christmas cards he sends to former players, friends

and family, a process that starts in the summer.

Hamilton spoke about his time as a player, the life lessons that Polk taught him. It was the players who were the most important part to Polk.

"This statue reflects on every one of you guys that are here today and those who cannot be here," Polk said.

Mother's Day Giveaway

Deadline to enter: Wednesday, May 10, 3pm Drawing will be held Thursday, May 11 at 1pm

 $\mathcal{P}ackage \mathcal{A}$ One night stay at Hyatt Place, \$25 gift card to Mike's Fine Wine & Liguor, \$25 gift card to Shear Impressions, \$25 gift card to Belk, \$50 gift card to Zachary's and one mini photography session by Deanna Robinson Photography

Package B\$200 gift card to Ashley Homestore, fragrance basket
from and \$25 gift card to Belk, \$50 gift card to The
Burning Piano, \$25 gift card to Downtown Nutrition
and a \$25 gift card to Wines, Etc.Package CFragrance basket from and two \$25 gift cards to Belk,
\$75 gift card to Eat With Us, one mini photography

\$75 gift card to Eat With Us, one mini photography session by Deanna Robinson Photography, two dry teas from Downtown Nutrition and a \$25 gift card to The Hive.

Thank you to these businesses!



Child's Name

Daytime Phone Number

Dispatch employees and their immediate family members are ineligible to win.

Bulldogs

Continued from Page 1B

Bulldogs haven't lost an SEC series to Ole Miss since 2015 and kept the streak alive to help keep their postseason hopes alive.

The series win took MSU out of the SEC cellar

and into the 12-team conference tournament picture, at least for now. The Bulldogs are tied for fifth in the SEC West with Auburn, which they will face on the road this weekend. "We put ourselves in

a hole. We don't have any weeks off anymore," Lemonis said on Sunday. "We have to be ready and go, but we can't think about the past either. They understand that and they're just having fun right now."

7 p.m.: New Hope at Saltillo

PREP SOFTBALL

PREP ARCHERY

PREP GOLF

6:30 p.m.: West Point at Shannon

TBA: Starkville Academy at State

TBA: Oak Hill Academy at Jackson

Prep Invitational, Patrick Farms Golf

10 a.m.: Starkville, New Hope at Tupe-

Championships, Jackson

CALENDAR

Today **COLLEGE BASEBALL**

2 p.m.: Northwest Mississippi Community College at East Mississippi Community College, doubleheader 5 p.m.: The W at Southeastern Baptist

6 p.m.: Southern at Mississippi State 6 p.m.: Ole Miss at Arkansas State **COLLEGE SOFTBALL**

2 p.m.: East Mississippi Community College at Northwest Mississippi

ON THE AIR

Today

BOWLING

6 p.m.: FS1 - PBA: The WSOB Scorpion Championship, Wauwatosa, Wis.

COLLEGE BASEBALL 5 p.m.: ESPNU — Louisville at Alabama 6 p.m.: SECN — Samford at Auburn 7 p.m.: ACCN — Georgia St. at Georgia Tech

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

5 p.m.: ACCN — James Madison at Virginia

5 p.m.: BTN — Michigan St. at

Michigan 5 p.m.: PAC-12N - Portland St. at

Oregon

7:30 p.m.: PAC-12N — Portland St. at Oregon

MLB

6 p.m.: MLBN — Regional Coverage: LA Angels at NY Yankees OR MinnesoCommunity College, doubleheader **COLLEGE TENNIS (MEN'S)** 2 p.m.: Lane College at The W PREP BASEBALL 3 p.m.: Noxubee County at Kemper County 6 p.m.: Heritage Academy at Starkville Academy 6 p.m.: Oak Hill Academy at Columbus Christian Academy

6 p.m.: Starkville at Germantown 6 p.m.: West Lowndes at Louisville

7 p.m.: Columbus at West Point

NBA

First Round: Atlanta at Boston, Game

6:30 p.m.: TNT — Eastern Conference

First Round: New York at Cleveland,

9 p.m.: TNT — Western Conference

First Round: LA Clippers at Phoenix,

6 p.m.: TBS — Eastern Conference

6:30 p.m.: ESPN - Eastern Confer-

ence First Round: Tampa Bay at Toron-

8:30 p.m.: ESPN2 - Western Confer-

ence First Round: Winnipeg at Vegas,

First Round: NY Rangers at New

NHL

ta at Boston

Game 2

Game 2

Jersey, Game 1

to. Game 1

Game 1

Course

9 p.m.: TBS — NY Mets at LA Dodgers 9 p.m.: ESPN — Eastern Conference First Round: Seattle at Colorado, 6 p.m.: NBATV — Eastern Conference Game 1

lo, Tupelo National

SOCCER (MEN'S)

2 p.m.: CBS — UEFA Champions League: Real Madrid at Chelsea, Quarterfinal, Leg 2 6 p.m.: FS2 — Canadian Championship: Vaughan Azzurri at CF Montréal, **Preliminary Round** 9 p.m.: CBSSN — UEFA Champions League: TBA, Quarterfinal, Leg 2 (Taped)

TENNIS

4 a.m.: TENNIS — Barcelona-ATP, Munich-ATP, Banja Luka-ATP, Stuttgart-WTA Early Rounds 5 a.m.: TENNIS - Barcelona-ATP, Munich-ATP, Banja Luka-ATP, Stuttgart-WTA Early Rounds

Three-star tight end from Alabama commits to **Mississippi State football**

BY ALEX MURPHY amurphy@cdispatch.com

Mississippi State football added another 2024 prospect to its recruiting class on Sunday with threestar tight end/defensive end Jay Lindsey committing to the Bulldogs.

Lindsey, the 6-5, 235-pound Butler, Alabama, native and current student at Patrician Academy, is the No. 62 tight end in the 2024 class and the No. 61 player in Alabama.

"First and foremost, I want to thank God for blessing me with the opportunity to play football at the next level," Lindsey posted on Twitter on Sunday. "I also want to thank my parents, coaches and friends for supporting me through the years. Without them, none of this would be possible."

Lindsey picked the Bull-



Mississippi State Athletic Jay Lindsey, a tight end/ defensive end from Butler, Alabama, committed to play football at Mississippi State on Sunday.

dogs over Troy, Southern Miss, Vanderbilt and UAB, among other programs.

He is now the fourth 2024 commit for head coach Zach Arnett and Mississippi State, currently ranked No. 48 so far in the 2024 recruiting cycle.

Comics & Puzzles

ZITS



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My "Uncle Fred" is rude and obnoxious whenever we're in his presence. He talks down to not only me, but everyone around him. Holidays are unbearable as he creates constant tension, leaving all guests less than enthused. He also drinks too much at parties, which leads to obscen-

his presence if not for my darling "Auntie June," who is kind to us all and always insists on hosting her family for holidays. Even after numerous attempts by family members who have all voiced their displeasure with Uncle Fred, Auntie June seems to be helpless

without hurting our dear sweet - ENOUGH ALREADY IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ENOUGH: You have suffered enough. A way to deal with it would be to put it "a tad"

Horoscopes

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 18). Bravado is your birthright, and you'll apply your courage to implementing changes in your You'l in SUIC

less bluntly. Say, "Auntie, we love you, which is why we have tolerated Uncle Fred's drinking and rude behavior as long as we have. But we have reached our limit. From now on, other family mem-bers will alternate hosting these gatherings, and if Uncle Fred acts up during anv of them. he will have to leave." It would be better than walking out of Auntie's home

and leaving her with food she has prepared and no one to eat it. DEAR ABBY: I'm in my

early 30s, married and juggling a full-time job and caring for my children, ages 3 and 6. I live in an affluent area where people have more free time than most. When I'm able to squeeze time in for a playdate with local mom friends, I find it annoying when they bring

their husbands. I'm all for double dates, but I feel like a third wheel when they bring their spouses along for playdates. A handful of women do this at every single get-together with the kids. Their husbands don't need to work as much as

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Give yourself credit for being a decisive person. Making decisions requires a certain boldness. Each ick The

mine does. I crave being able to talk freely with other mothers. Even if my husband were available, he wouldn't want to join, and I wouldn't want him to, either. When I invite a woman and

her kids to my home, I end up having her husband show up at my door, too. I feel like I'm enter taining their whole family instead of just a simple playdate. Would it be appropriate to tell these moms to leave their husbands at home during our playdates? If so, how do I go about this politely? CROWDED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CROWDED: There is a difference between a family playdate and a mom's playdate. In the latter, the women usually let their hair down and discuss subjects they might not mention in mixed company. I do not think it would be rude to tell these moms that you prefer they leave their husbands at home.

DEAR ABBY: I am 68 years old. I have a Gator gas scooter, which I love to ride. My sons think I am too old to be riding it. They think I should sell it. Am I too old to ride a scooter? — UNSURE IN TENNESSEE

DEAR UNSURE: Let me put it this way: Accidents happen and many have nothing to do with age Google George Clooney, Simon Cowell and Jay Leno, and then make up your mind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Hope doesn't always motivate. If hope comes in a vague form, it can have the opposite effect, caus-The

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

No matter where a problem came

from, once you pick it up, it's

yours to live with, solve or dele-

gate. This is why you may stare at

a problem for a long time, deliber-ating whether or not to pick it up.

the end, you don't have to active

ly impress anyone because who

you are in your heart and how you

reflect that in behavior is already

impressive enough. Accept your impulses while not necessarily acting on them. When you take ex-

cellent care of yourself, you'll have

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In

ities and poor decision-making. It would be

Dear Abby very easy to just stop being in

in dealing with his unruly behavior. How do we move forward auntie by telling her we no longer wish to spend holidays together?

FAMILY CIRCUS THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek JUMBLE le these Jumbles to each square ir ordinary words square v words SHYUK GDEAA DRTENO CAROUSEL HAD STOPPED AFTER A RMOIFN W KIDS BEGAN TO Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. BIL and JEFF 4-18 Rights Reserved KEANE "But how do you KNOW the light (Answers tomorrow) goes out in there whenever you shut the door?"

that makes judging others unnec-essary; you're too busy making your own experience stellar. New agreements bring harmony and money to your realm. More highlights: You'll compete and take home a prize; physical vitality increases; you'll be lavished in attention from the people you most want to receive it from. Virgo and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 22, 19, 7 and 10.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). For a good part of the day, it feels as though you are swimming in a pool of intense, focused energy. One might think such an exercise would be tiring, but somehow in the end you'll have more energy than you started with.

Daily Bridge Club Unskilled play By FRANK STEWART

Tribune Content Agency

Tribune Content Agency "My partner says he's a self-made player," a club member told me. "He says he has never read a bridge book. He relies on intuition." My friend said his partner's seat-of-the-pants style didn't work when he was today's declarer. At 3NT, he took the queen of spades and led a club to finesse with dummy's queen. "East took the king and returned a spade," I was told. "My partner won, took the ace of clubs and led a third club. East got the jack and nine, and when hearts broke badly, partner took of my 'self-made' partner?" "I would have to say he's a product of unskilled labor," I shrugged. BEST CHANCE

BEST CHANCE

Correctly handling single suit combinations is a learned skill for most players. South's best chance for a second club trick is to take the ace and lead low toward his ten. As the cards lie, he wins two club tricks easily. If West had the jack, South would lead toward dummy's queen later, winning if West had the king or clubs broke 3-3.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: \clubsuit 8 4 2 \heartsuit K 6 4 \diamondsuit 6 4 3 \clubsuit A Q 5 2. The dealer, at your left, opens one spade. Your partner doubles, you respond

©2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC by Bill Biggar and Tom Gauer Find the word held in common by the three words in each puzzle. The three solution words will form a fourth puzzle. The numbers indicate each answer's length, and the + tells you its position. Example: The solution to +FLOWER, WAILING+ and BERLIN+ is WALL +mode +helicopter 6 +dog carpet+ slow+ 4 cigarette+ puppet+ Dist purse+ 7 2023 guitar+ FINAL ANSWER 5

тядан ,ериви, етвінсе, неавт

to a regret-free experience is to is hope plus a step-by-step plan. Your optimism grows as you lay accept the inherent risk in every out a few measurable goals. choice

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). New relationships are on the horizon. The more mindful you are of learning the other person, the less worried you'll be about presenting yourself in any partic-ular way. With a little curiosity and good pacing, you'll learn just how compatible you are. CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You don't have to trek through a forest or sit by the sea to feel the electric life force of nature. Any nature will do. Sit for a moment under a tree in the park or the grass of your own yard and nature will impart its wordless wisdom.

("advance") two clubs, and he cue-bids two spades. What do you say? **ANSWER:** Your partner's cue bid suggests a huge hand, probably with club support and a "control" in spades. Your hand couldn't be any stronger, else you would have bid more than two clubs. Slam is likely. Bid four clubs. A typical hand for partner might be A, A Q 3 2, A K 7, K 10 9 6 3. South dealer

NORTH ▲ 8 4 2 ♡ K 6 4 ◇ 6 4 3 ♣ A Q 5 2

SOUTH A K Q A 7 5 2 A K 7 10 7 3

OB OT GOT) SABWENA

North 3 NT

West Pass

▲ 6 3 ♡QJ 10 9 3 ◇J 10 ♣ KJ 9 6

East All Pass

South dealer N-S vulnerable

▲ J 10 9 7 5 ♡ 8

Opening lead

South 2 NT

more to give. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may think you can sense where a relationship is going, but you'd be limiting yourself if you made assumptions. Love can be taught. Love can be learned. The most effective educational model: example.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll get the chance to try before you buy. It's not only the ideal arrangement for purchases you're not sure about, it's also a valid way to approach relationships. Structure them in steps to mitigate risk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Others do not automatically understand you. The way you communicate and the rules by which you live life are unique to you. Essentially, you're a country with its own culture, and you can choose who to let into your borders.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll show your respect even when you don't agree. You'll share a soft part of yourself. The date is wonderful because you care to make it so with the energy you bring to it, not because of anything you do or buy. Though clashing isn't ideal, it's how you learn about one another. Don't be afraid to disagree.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're a light in the world. Like all lights, you're hard to see on a fair-weather day when brightness is the norm of the environment. It's when things get shadowy that your true brilliance shines through.



Education







Courtesy photos/Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District

Students in Henderson Ward Stewart Elementary's Program for the Enrichment of Academic Knowledge classes recently had a visit from the Mississippi State University Horticulture Club. Club members brought plants and helped students plant them in the school garden. PEAK students learned about various jobs they can pursue with a college degree in horticulture.







Courtesy photo

Amelia Hurt, right, poses for a picture with Beth Holloman, left. Hurt was named Caledonia High School's 2022-2023 STAR student by the Mississippi Economic Council M.B. Swayze Foundation. STAR students are seniors with the highest ACT score and excellent scholastic averages in their high schools. Each STAR student is asked to select a STAR teacher: the one who has had the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement. Hurt chose Holloman, who teaches dual credit English composition courses.

New Hope Middle teacher awarded scholarship for doctorate

ident

MISSISSIPPI PROFESSIONAL **EDUCATORS**

Monica Grady, a mathematics teacher at New Hope Middle School, recently received a \$1,000 graduate scholarship Mississippi from the Professional Educators. of which she has been a member since 2013.

Grady, a national board certified teacher and res-



University Grady for Women,

her Master of Science degree from Mississippi State University and her specialist degree in educational leadership from Arkansas State University. She is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in education, curriculum and instruction at Delta State University.

MPE awards up to twenty scholarships every year in the amount of \$1,000 each to MPE members who wish to pursue graduate level studies at a college or university in Mississippi.

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LEGALS

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PUBLISH: 4/11, 4/18 & 4/25/2023

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSIS-SIPPI

IN RE: ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN WILKINS, DECEASED

DEBRA ANN WILKINS JONES, EXECUTRIX

NO. 2023-0075

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the Estate of ELIZABETH ANN WILKINS, Deceased, are re-quired to have the same probated and registered by the

Clerk of the Chancery Court of Lowndes County, Mississippi; that Letters Testamentary were granted to the undersigned DEBRA ANN WILKINS JONES, by the Chancery Court of Lowndes County, Mississippi in Cause No. 2023-0075, on the 6th day of April, 2023; that a failure to probate and register such claims with the Clerk of the Chancery Court of Lowndes County, Mississippi for ninety

(90) days, from the first public ation hereof, will bar such claims. Witness my signature on this

the 30th day of March, 2023. /s/Debra Ann Wilkins Jone

DÉBRA ANN WILKINS JONES. Executrix of the Estate of ELIZABETH ANN WILKINS

PUBLISH: 4/11, 4/18 & 4/25/2023

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSIS-SIPPI

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BETTY RUTH RICHARDSON MONT-GOMERY, DECEASED

DEE ANNE HARMOND, EXEC-UTRIX

CAUSE NO.: 2023-0060-PDE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

LOWNDES COUNTY

failure to so Probate and Re-gister a claim will forever bar Letters Testamentary have been granted and issued to the undersigned upon the estate of that claim. BETTY RUTH RICHARDSON This the 31st day of March MONTGOMERY, deceased, by 2023. the Chancery Court of Lowndes County, Mississippi, on the 14th day of April A.D., 2023. /s/ Thomas H. Perry, Jr. THOMAS H. PERRY, JR., Ex-This is to give notice to all persons having claims against said estate to Probate and Re ecutor gister same with the Chancerv Clerk of Lowndes County, Mis-4/18/2023

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2023.

SIPPI

5/2/2023

DECEASED

COUNTY OF LOWNDES

sippi, on the 21st day of

March, 2023. This is to give notice to all persons having

claims against said estate to

Lowndes County, Mississippi, within (90) days from the pub

lication date of this Notice to

Creditors. A failure to so Pro-

bate and register said claim

This the 27th day of March,

will forever bar the same.

PUBLISH: 4/11, 4/18 &

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSIS-

IN THE MATTER OF THE ES-

CAUSE NO. 2023-0074-RPF

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF LOWNDES

Letters Testamentary have

been granted and issued to the undersigned upon the Estate of Patricia W. Perry, deceased, by

the Chancery Court of Lowndes County, Mississippi, on the 29th day of March 2023. This

is to give notice to all persons having a claim against said es-

tate to Probate and Register

same with the Chancery Clerk of Lowndes County, Missis-

sippi, within ninety (90) days from the first publication date

of this Notice to Creditors. A

TATE OF PATRICIA W. PERRY, DECEASED

2023.

Estate of

4/25/2023

SIPPI

TIONER

/s/ Jason Cook

Probate and Register same with the Chancery Clerk of

sissippi, within ninety (90) days IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF from this date. A failure to so Probate and Register said LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSIS SIPPI claim will forever bar the same.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ES This the 14th day of April, TATE OF FANNIE L. HARRIS, DE-CEASED

/S/Dee Anne Harmond JENNIFER HARRIS-BROWN, AD-DEE ANNE HARMOND MINISTRATOR PUBLISH: 4/18, 4/25 & NO. 2023-0069-JNS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF Letters of Administration have LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISbeen granted and issued to Jennifer Harris-Brown, Adminis-IN THE MATTER OF THE ES-TATE OF MARY ETTA COOK, trator of the Estate of Fannie L. Harris, deceased, by the Chan-cery Court of Lowndes County, Mississippi, on the 4th day of April, 2023. This is to give no CAUSE NO .: 2022-0223-PDE tice to all persons having claims against said estate to NOTICE TO CREDITORS Probate and Register same STATE OF MISSISSIPPI with the Chancery Clerk of

Lowndes County, Mississippi within ninety (90) days from this date. A failure to so Pro-bate and Register said claim Letters Testamentary have been granted and issued to the undersigned upon of the Es-tate of MARY ETTA COOK, dewill forever bar the same. ceased, by the Chancery Clerk of Lowndes County, Missis-THIS the 5th day of April, 2023.

> /s/ Jennifer Harris-Brown, Administrator

OF COUNSEL: John W. Crowell, MBN 7906 CROWELL GILLIS & amp; COOPER. PLLC Post Office Box 1827 Columbus, MS 39703 (662) 243-7308 jcrowell@cgclawpllc.com

PUBLISH: 4/11, 4/18 & 4/25/2023

SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE'S NO-JASON COOK, Executor of the TICE OF SALE MARY ETTA COOK, Deceased

WHEREAS, 413 Properties, LLC executed a certain Deed of Trust to Timothy L. Gowan, as Trustee, for the use and benefit of Bankfirst Financial Services, dated April 29, 2016 for the principal amount of \$86,274.92, filed for record in the Land Records located in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Lowndes County, Mississippi on May 19, 2016, and

recorded in said office in Book 2016 at Page 10610; and THOMAS H. PERRY, JR., PETI-WHEREAS. default under the referenced Deed of Trust is continuing, the undersigned, Bankfirst Financial Services, as current and present owner of

said Deed of Trust, has elected to declare the entire indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust due and payable as provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, said Deed of Trust authorized the appointment and substitution of another Trustee in the place of the Trustee named in said Deed of Trust, and Bankfirst Financial Services, pursuant to said Deed of Trust. substituted James P. Wilson, Jr. as Trust-ee in the place of the original Trustee, by written instrument dated March 22, 2023, and filed for record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Lowndes County, Mississippi, on March 27. 2023, and recorded said office in Book 2023 at Page 6021; and

WHEREAS, default having been made in the performance of the conditions and stipulations as set out in the above described

been requested and directed by Bankfirst Financial Services to execute the trust; and in strict accordance with the Deed of Trust aforesaid and the Laws of Sale of the State of Mississippi, the dates for pub-lication of this Substitute Trustee's Notice of Sale in The Commercial Dispatch, a newspaper published in the City of Columbus. Lowndes County. Mississippi, having been set at the following, to wit: April 11, 2023; April 18, 2023; April 25, 2023; and May 2, 2023. Notice is hereby given that I will, on May 3, 2023, during the leg-al hours, which are between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the main front door of the Lowndes County Courthouse in the City of Columbus, Mississippi, offer for sale, at public auction and sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described real property lying and being in Lowndes County, State of Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

That part of Lot No. 5 of Block or Square No. 1 in Park Place Addition (1907) in and accord ing to the plan of the City of Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi, as per map or plat thereof now on file in Subdivision Plat Book 1, page 31, in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Lowndes County, Mississippi:

100 feet off the entire North end of said Lot 5 and further described as beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot No. 5: thence run South along the West boundary of Lot No. 5 100 feet; thence run East 50 feet to East boundary of Lot No. 5; thence run North along East boundary of Lot 5 100 feet to the Northeast corner of Lot 5; thence West along North boundary of Lot 5 for a distance of 50 feet to the point of beginning.

Index: part of Lot No. 5 of Block or Square No. 1 in Park Place Addition (1907) Title to the above-described property is believed to be good but I will convey only such title as vested in me as Substitute Trustee, without warranty of any kind whatsoever.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE this the 5th day of April, 2023.

/s/ James P. Wilson, Jr. IAMES P. WILSON, IR SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE

Prepared By: James P. Wilson, Jr. Mitchell, McNutt & Sams, P.A. P. O. Box 1366 Columbus, MS 39703 (662) 328-2316

PUBLISH: 4/11, 4/18, 4/25 & 5/2/2023



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Services-General

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IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSIS-SIPPI

RE: THE MATTER OF: O.A.R.A., UNMARRIED MINOR

SELVIN AVILA TORRES PETI-TIONER

ORLIN JOEL RAMOS AXUME RE-SPONDENTS SANTOS ELIDA AVILA TORRES

CAUSE NO. 22-147

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUB-LICATION

SELVIN AVILA TORRES TO: SANTOS ELIDA AVILA TORRES Whereabouts unknown

You have been made a Respondent in the suit filed in this Court by SELVIN AVILA TORRES, Petitioner, seeking guardianship of your child, O.A.R.A., a fourteen (14) year old male.

YOU ARE SUMMONED to appear and defend against said Complaint at 9:30 AM on the 23th day of May 2023, in the courtroom of the Chancery Court of Lowndes County, at the Courthouse located at 515 2nd Ave N, Columbus, MS 39701 and in case of your failing to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the money or things demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleadings, but you may do so if you so desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, on this the 31 day of March, 2023.

(SEAL)

LOWNDES COUNTY CHAN-CERY CLERK, COLUMBUS, MS

BY: Tina Fisher D.C.

PUBLISH: 4/18, 4/25 & 5/2/2023

SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE'S NO-TICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, 413 Properties, LLC executed a certain Deed of Trust to Timothy L. Gowan, as Trustee, for the use and benefit of Bankfirst Financial Services, dated April 29, 2016 for the principal amount of \$86,274.92, filed for record in the Land Records located in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Lowndes County, Mis-sissippi on May 19, 2016, and recorded in said office in Book 2016 at Page 10597; and

WHEREAS, default under the referenced Deed of Trust is continuing, the undersigned, Bankfirst Financial Services, as current and present owner of said Deed of Trust, has elected to declare the entire indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust due and payable as provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, said Deed of Trust authorized the appointment and substitution of another Trustee in the place of the Trustee named in said Deed of Trust, and Bankfirst Financial Services, pursuant to said

legal hours, which are between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the main front door of the Lowndes County Courthouse in the City of Columbus, Mississippi, offer for sale, at public auction and sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described real property lying and being in Lowndes County, State of Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

on April 26, 2023, during the

That part of Square 76 North of Main Street in the City of Columbus, Mississippi, described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot Number 6 in said square and running thence

West parallel with the North side of said Square 132 feet running North parallel with the East side of said square 35 feet, running thence East paral-lel with the North side of said Square 66 feet, running thence North parallel with the East side of said Square 25 feet. running thence East parallel with the North side of said square 66 feet to the East side of said square, and thence running South along the East side of said square 60 feet to the point of beginning, all being in Square 76. North of Main Street in the City of Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi.

Said being leasehold property leased from the Mayor and City Council of said city, as suc-cessors in office to the Trustees of Franklin Academy for a period of 99 years from August 1, 1920, renewable

Index: Square 76 North of Main Street Title to the above-de scribed property is believed to be good but I will convey only such title as vested in me as Substitute Trustee, without warranty of any kind whatsoever.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE this the 30th day of March, 2023. /s/ James P. Wilson, Jr. JAMES P. WILSON, JR.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE Prepared By: James P. Wilson, Jr. Mitchell, McNutt & Sams, P.A. P. 0. Box 1366 Columbus, MS 39703 (662) 328-2316

PUBLISH: 4/4, 4/11, 4/18 & 4/25/2023

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LOTS FOR SALE:

PUBLISH: 4/4, 4/11 8

Deed of Trust and the said Substituted Trustee having



Deed of Trust. substituted James P. Wilson, Jr. as Trust-ee in the place of the original Trustee, by written instrument dated March 22, 2023, and filed for record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Lowndes County, Mississippi, on March 27, 2023, and recorded in said office in Book 2023 at Page 6023; and

WHEREAS, default having been made in the performance of the conditions and stipulations as set out in the above described Deed of Trust and the said Substituted Trustee having been requested and directed by Bankfirst Financial Services to execute the trust; and in strict accordance with the Deed of Trust aforesaid and the Laws of Sale of the State of Mississippi, the dates for pub-lication of this Substitute Trustee's Notice of Sale in The Commercial Dispatch, a news paper published in the City of Columbus, Lowndes County Mississippi, having been set at the following, to wit: April 4. 2023; April 11, 2023; April 18, 2023; and April 25, 2023. Notice is hereby given that I will,

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Services-General

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Week of April 16, 2023

6B TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023

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		3G
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	4-18		
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8 Feels empathy 9 Like some rural bridaes 10 Like skiers' clothing 14 Arbor climber 19 Earth tones 22 Ill-mannered 23 Online journal writer 24 Game official 25 Distraught 26 Platypi and pandas 28 Minn. neighbor 30 Sea motions 31 Faithful 32 Stood 33 Trait carriers 38 Tiny complaint 39 "The Matrix" hero

