



# Fired-up journalist

Dispatch lifestyles editor gets firsthand glimpse of fire and rescue, **Page 5B**

# THE STARKVILLE DISPATCH

CDISPATCH.COM

\$1.25 NEWSSTAND

SATURDAY & SUNDAY | AUGUST 26-27, 2023

## 'Controversial' posts from sheriff spark rift with DA

### Colom claims including suspects' priors in press releases violates criminal procedure; Hawkins says, 'I don't see how I'm in the wrong here'

BY ZACK PLAIR  
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LOWNDES COUNTY — If you're a frequent guest of Lowndes County Adult Detention Center, Sheriff Eddie Hawkins plans to put your business on the

streets, even as his deputies take you off of them.

Since Hawkins first took office in 2020, it's become common practice for the sheriff's office to arrest someone for a felony, then include the suspect's previous rap sheet in press

releases and social media posts.

In late July, Hawkins' deputies nabbed a burglary suspect who had been arrested 10 previous times in Lowndes County on 29 charges, 14 of which were felonies. A month

earlier, a drug bust collected a suspect with 14 previous arrests — seven of them felonies, ranging from aggravated assault to weapons charges.

In May, a man arrested for stealing a car had previously been charged with



Hawkins



Colom

allegedly stealing two other vehicles.

These typically don't include offenses in other counties, just bookings in Lowndes, Hawkins said.

District Attorney Scott Colom has sent Hawkins several emails in recent months asking him to stop disseminating that information after arrests, citing *See HAWKINS, 3A*

## Republican runoffs for Dist. 1 supervisor, constable coming Tuesday

### Lowndes tax collector race will be decided

BY ZACK PLAIR  
zplair@cdispatch.com

Four area Republican primaries will be decided by runoffs on Tuesday, with three of those setting up general election tilts in November.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday. In-person absentee voting ends at noon Saturday.

In Oktibbeha County, Ben Carver and Ed Whitehurst are squaring off in the runoff for District 1 supervisor, and

Kenny Watkins and Joe Morse are battling in a runoff for District 1 constable. Carver placed first in the four-candidate Aug. 8 primary by a healthy margin, picking up 47% of the vote compared to 32% from second-place Whitehurst. The runoff winner will face Democrat Erik Thomas in the Nov. 7 general election.

*See RUNOFFS, 8A*



Carver



Whitehurst

## Stan Murray gets it right

### Legendary SEC official enters eighth year in review booth



Stan Murray speaks to a meeting of the Exchange Club at Lion Hills Center in Columbus in this 2018 Dispatch file photo. Murray, who spent 29 years as an SEC back judge, is entering his eighth season as a replay official.

BY PHILIP POE  
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There are two minutes, 45 seconds remaining in the first half of the 2018 SEC Championship game, and the Alabama Crimson Tide are getting rolled.

Down 21-7 to the Georgia Bulldogs at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Alabama is looking for a spark. Georgia's defense has dominated the first half, leaving quarterback Tua Tagaviloa bruised and battered. But now, finally, the Tide are driving. A series of runs

by tailback Josh Jacobs has Alabama deep in Georgia territory, with the ball inside the 2-yard line. The Tide call a run to the right side of the formation, Jacobs takes the handoff, lunges forward and ... chaos ensues.

Jacobs appears to fumble the ball across the goal line, scramble forward for the ball and ultimately lose possession to Georgia defensive back J.R. Reed. Touchback, Bulldogs. Alabama's chance to climb back in the game appears to be gone.

"The ruling on the field is a fumble,

recovered by Georgia for a touchback," announces referee Matt Loeffler.

Next come those words that send hearts dropping and stomachs churning for college football fans everywhere: "The previous play is under review."

A minute later, CBS' play-by-play announcer Brad Nessler subtly signals to any knowledgeable SEC fans who are listening that, regardless of the outcome of the review, it will be the right call. What he actually says, though, is *See MURRAY, 8A*

## 20 years of Airbus 'worthy to be remembered'

### Airbus celebrates two decades of operation in Lowndes County

BY GRANT MCLAUGHLIN  
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LOWNDES COUNTY — When Airbus Helicopters CEO Romain Trapp and his team opened the company's assembly plant in 2003 next to the Golden Triangle Regional Airport, he had high hopes

for the future.

In just 20 years, Airbus has expanded the plant to hire more than 300 employees, and went from producing around five helicopters per year to more than 100 for customers around the United States.

"It was still a dream (in

2003)," Trapp said Friday during a 20th anniversary celebration at the plant. "We are very happy with what we have achieved. We believe the success we have comes also from having found Mississippi as a great place to do business."

Trapp, joined by other company and government representatives, spoke

*See AIRBUS, 3A*



Grant McLaughlin/Dispatch Staff

Left to right, Airbus Helicopters Vice President of Industry and Civil Programs Johannes Dienemann, U.S. Senators Cindy Hyde-Smith and Roger Wicker and other Airbus representatives cut a ribbon Friday to celebrate the company's 20th anniversary in Lowndes County. Airbus first located its helicopter production facility in Lowndes County in 2003 with just 85,000 square feet. Since then, the company has expanded to 331,000 square feet and services customers such as the U.S. Army, Customs and Border Protection and a medical helicopter company, Metro Aviation, to name a few.

### INSIDE

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### FIVE QUESTIONS

- 1 What Middle Eastern country's national anthem is Smetana's "The Moldau"?
- 2 What Russian city endured Bloody Sunday on January 5, 1905?
- 3 What fruit did 16th-century gourmets call a "Peruvian apple"?
- 4 Should a bowler facing a 5-10 split hit the 5-pin on the left or the right side?
- 5 Who's older — Jan or Dean?

Answers, **1C**

### CALENDAR

#### Saturday

- **Reading Railroad:** Junior Auxiliary of Starkville, Reading-2Succeed and Friends of J.L. King are hosting the Reading Railroad at the J.L. King Center from 9-11 a.m. There will be crafts, snacks, books and a story walk.
- **Afterword:** Friendly City Books is hosting authors Christie Collins, Tyriek White and Ellen Ann Fentress to read and sign their work at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., respectively.
- **Singer Songwriter Competition:** The Starkville Area Arts Council is hosting a Singer Songwriter Competition Showcase at Dave's Dark Horse

Tavern from 7:30-9:30 p.m., where singers and songwriters go head-to-head for a chance to perform live at the Cotton District Arts Festival.

■ **Denim and Diamonds:** The Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum is hosting its annual fundraiser at the museum from 6-9 p.m.

#### Sunday

■ **"Every Brilliant Thing":** The Starkville Community Theatre will be staging a performance of the interactive show "Every Brilliant Thing" at its Main Street location at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale through the box office, by calling 662-323-6855 or online.

■ **Backpack Meals Benefit Concert:** Jason Baker, Tiffany Ferguson, Julia Huffman, Haley Luther and Garrison Walker will be performing in a benefit concert at the Starkville First United Methodist Church Connection Building at 101 West Lampkin St. at 4 p.m. Admission is free and donations will go towards providing food to Starkville school children in need.

#### Monday, Aug. 28

■ **Book Tour:** Former Disney art director and children's book author Andy Harkness will be visiting the Starkville Public Library at 6 p.m. for a Book Talk and a Meet and Greet event.

### LOCAL FOLKS



KJ Fields, 10 of Columbus likes playing football.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Aug. 28:** Starkville Municipal Airport Board, 5:30 p.m., Bryan Field terminal
- Aug. 28:** Starkville-Oktibbeha Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Rare Room
- Aug. 29:** Historical Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., 2nd floor City Hall
- Sept. 4:** Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors, 9 a.m., 2nd floor county courthouse



ESTABLISHED 1879  
6 92763 00100 6  
144TH YEAR, No. 119

ASK RUFUS

# The Arrival of the Automobile

I have seen several different accounts of who owned the first automobile in Columbus. I decided to delve into old Columbus newspapers and take a look for surely it would have been big news at the time. I was not disappointed, for in The Columbus Weekly Dispatch of Oct. 6, 1904, was the following article:



Rufus Ward

and exciting comments" from those along the road who had never seen an automobile before.

In her research Carolyn Kaye came across an account by Paul B. Jacob in "I Remember When" by Pauline Brandon. "Many people are remembering about the old street cars that once played an important role in the life of Columbus. We read that the coming of the automobile meant the death of the street cars. The event that made the most profound impression on my mind as a boy was this "coming of the automobile. ... We had a pony — not a Shetland — that we used to ride. One morning I was riding down the street when around a corner came the most amazing sight my eyes had ever beheld. It was a real automobile driven by Mr. Joe Bell. I immediately turned my pony around and went in pursuit. Mr. Bell seemed to have no particular destination in mind as he drove around and around the town. My only thought was to keep this marvelous contraption from losing me. This was not very difficult as my pony could easily have outrun the automobile."

Charles Beverley Hopkins also wrote of early automobiles in Columbus. "I remember one, especially, among the first automobiles in Columbus. It was a two cylinder Oldsmobile, hand-cranked from the side with a long handled Z-shaped crank, through and opening between the seats. It stood much higher than the present models and had a folding type top much like old-fashioned buggies and carriages. Needless to say, it was rather noisy in operation and when running created some commotion among horses and mules. "

And did they ever cause a stir among hors-



T.C. Billups and friends are out for an automobile ride in Columbus about 1910.

Courtesy photo

es and mules. On Sept. 17, 1907, the Columbus Commercial carried the headline, "Exciting runaway on Main Street." Accounts of the incident told how a team of mules on Main Street became frightened by an automobile and "madly tore through the crowded streets colliding with a carriage occupied by Mesdames S.E. Whitfield and Beverly Matthews." Mrs. Whitfield and Mrs. Matthews were slightly injured, but the mule driver was seriously hurt.

On Feb. 27, 1909, there was a runaway team of horses on Main Street that had been frightened by an automobile. They ran down Market Street knocking over a wagon owned by J.E. Slaughter. The Lowndes County Board of Supervisors took action at their August 1909 meeting. They passed a county Automobile Ordinance. Its provisions included a county wide 10 mph speed limit and a requirement that an automobile must sound a signal before approaching people, horses or other animals or another automobile. If the driver of an

automobile observed his vehicle was frightening horses or mules he was to stop and cut off his engine until the animals calmed down.

These accounts reminded me of a college excursion of my grandfather in 1910. It's one of my favorite family stories and is about a college road trip party by my grandfather T.C. Billups. It all began with a 60th anniversary party for the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity chapter at Ole Miss in April of 1910. There was a grand "German Banquet in Oxford" with at least one side trip adventure.

The story of that side trip is found on two different pages of what was an April 1910, Senatobia newspaper. One account

appeared on the society page. It stated that, "Winston Smith, Roger Montgomery, Cham Conner and T.C. Billups, students at Oxford" had been visiting in Senatobia. The article went on to say that "the young gentlemen came in automobiles and during their stay had many enjoyable rides with young ladies and friends."

It sounded like a most pleasant and relaxing visit, until you see the headlines in the local news: "Citizens Call Upon Mayor to Take Action Upon Automobiles." The article told how "Senatobia does not boast of any automobile of its own but during the past few days there have been quite a number of visiting ones which have caused

considerable commotion among the horses and incidentally among those who drive them."

The report continued to say how some of the "leading citizens in town called upon the Mayor Monday afternoon requesting that the board of mayor and aldermen take some action looking to the protection of the citizens of the town from accidents caused by the unrestrictive use of automobiles in the town. It was desired that a law be passed prohibiting the use of automobiles on the streets of the town." The changes automobiles brought caused quite a stir. Thanks to Carolyn Kaye for helping with research.

Rufus Ward is a local historian.

**STOP THE BLEED**

SAVE A LIFE

**Basic bleeding control principles**

Tuesday, Aug. 29  
6-7 p.m.

BMH-GT  
Conference Center  
255 Baptist Blvd.  
Columbus, MS

The event is free but registration is required by Aug. 23.

Seating is limited.  
Please call 662-244-1132 to reserve your space.

Dr. Brad Beckham, general surgeon at Baptist Golden Triangle, will present 'Stop The Bleed,' an interactive program that teaches basic bleeding control principles so civilians are able to provide frontline aid for uncontrolled bleeding until first responders arrive. Motivated by the 2012 tragedy at Sandy Hook, these skills and basic tools to stop uncontrolled bleeding in an emergency situation can save lives.

**BAPTIST**

goldentriangle.baptistonline.org

Get Better.

**VOTE**

**KALEE TALLEY**

Lowndes County  
Tax Collector

**AUGUST 29TH,  
2023**

The Lowndes County Tax Office is a very important office that collects millions of your tax dollars. I have been employed at the Tax office since April 2019 and I was appointed to lead Deputy Clerk a year and a half ago.

In the August 8th Primary Election, I lead the field of the three candidates.

I encourage all of YOU to go **BACK** on August 29th and vote for **ON THE JOB EXPERIENCE.**

**HONESTY. INTEGRITY. DEDICATION.**

# Airbus

Continued from Page 1A

to more than 350 people Friday about the company's success in Lowndes County.

"Here in Mississippi, we bring (Airbus's) purpose to life by building and supporting helicopters that enable our customers to perform essential missions, such as serving and protecting people and communities," Trapp told those in attendance.

The company, previously known as American Eurocopter, located its

AS-350 helicopter assembly plant on 85,000 square feet next to GTRA. At the time, the plant featured one hanger and a partially complete production facility.

Within a year, the company had finished its production house and by 2006, secured a contract with the U.S. Army to produce its famous Lakota UH-72A light utility helicopters. As a result, the company built a new hanger and expanded its pro-

duction line, Trapp said.

The plant expanded again in 2014 and 2019 when Airbus secured contracts with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and a medical helicopter company, Metro Aviation, bringing the total square footage to 331,000.

Scott Tumpak, vice president of military programs, said the company has also placed a Mississippi state flag-themed helicopter at the front gate

to commemorate Airbus's commitment to Mississippi.

"We are really proud to commemorate our past, present and future here and to have that aircraft currently displayed outside," he said.

Vice President of Industry and Civil Programs Johannes Dienemann said the plant will continue its growth by producing even more products, such as the newly approved H-160 helicopter. That craft will

be used for private industries such as emergency services, oil and gas and law enforcement, he said.

"I think (the H-160) is going to be significantly important for the future here because it requires a lot of customization work, and it suits our private aviation customers' needs. ... We're going to build more commercial aircraft here," Dienemann said. "So, the growth will happen in a lot of different directions."

U.S. Senator Roger

Wicker (R-Mississippi) told those in attendance that Airbus has been an instrumental partner to the U.S. Army and to several other American companies. He hopes to continue supporting that partnership.

"Our friends from Airbus, and their leadership of so many people in this room and those who are not able to be with us now, have performed something worthy to be remembered," Wicker said

# Hawkins

Continued from Page 1A

a rule for criminal procedure he believes prohibits its release until a case is adjudicated.

"I didn't respond to his emails at all," Hawkins told The Dispatch, flatly. "I'm the custodian of the records, and these are public records. ... I'm trying to be as transparent as I can to the public. When we've got a bad guy who is out here committing offenses over and over again, I believe the public has a right to know how bad this guy is and how big of a problem this guy is to our community."

"If I'm being too transparent," he added, "well, I've never heard of that. ... I don't see how I'm in the wrong here."

## What is Rule 18.9?

Colom has noticed prior arrest information becoming more frequent in Lowndes sheriff's office press releases, and he said he jumped into the fray after Public Defender Donna Smith asked him to intervene.

For Smith, the sheriff's lack of response is duly noted.

"Hasn't made a bit of difference," she told The Dispatch.

Both Colom and Smith are worried about tainting the jury pool against a defendant by speaking publicly about that person's criminal history before the current charge can be resolved — either through dismissal, guilty plea or jury trial.

They point to Rule 18.9 of the Mississippi Rules of Criminal Procedure, set by the Supreme Court, which lists six "prohibited disclosures" for attorneys, law enforcement and court officers "prior to the conclusion of a trial." The first of these prohibitions on

public dissemination covers statements about the defendant's prior criminal record, reputation or character.

"There are regular posts that mention the prior criminal history once they're arrested, and there's a rule that says they can't do it — that I can't do it, judges can't do it and that law enforcement can't do it," Colom said. "... If somebody goes to trial, you've got to make sure there's a jury pool that doesn't have a preconceived notion of the person's guilt."

Circuit Judge Jim Kitchens, the senior judge for the 16th Circuit who has served on the bench 21 years, said Colom and Smith are misinterpreting the scope and intent of the rule. He believes such restrictions only apply to the courtroom during the period between jury selection and the end of the verdict phase of a trial. Rule 18, as a whole, deals specifically with issues related to the selection of and instructions for jurors, as well as the prohibited disclosures.

Even if the rule is meant to be broader, Kitchens said, the judicial system, as a separate co-equal branch of government, doesn't have the right to tell the executive or legislative branches what to do.

"I don't think I have the authority to order them, at the time of arrest, not to (say) how many times this person's been arrested and what they've been arrested for," Kitchens said. "That's a prior restraint of free speech. ... The constitution protects truthful free speech."

During jury selection for any criminal trial, attorneys and judges ask prospective jurors what they know or have seen about

the case, and whether that information will prejudice their view of the defendant. Kitchens noted trials come months, even years, after an arrest, so it's uncommon for jurors to remember specific details of what they read or saw.

It's more of a problem in high-profile cases that media outlets preview a day or two before jury selection because the details are fresher on jurors' minds. Even then, Kitchens told The Dispatch, "I would fight for your ability to do that with my dying breath."

## Change of venue

When publicity about a case does taint a jury pool, a change of venue — trying the case in front of a jury from another circuit court district — is the remedy, Kitchens said.

Hawkins said, as far as Colom's and Smith's complaint is concerned, that's where the rubber meets the road.

"Cite me (an instance) where my posts have jeopardized a case going to trial and we've had a change of venue because of my posts," Hawkins said. "Show me that."

The Lowndes County Circuit Clerk's Office confirmed to The Dispatch only two cases in the county have been granted change of venue over the last four years. In one, the defendant pleaded guilty before a trial was necessary. The other was a death penalty case Kitchens said he moved "out of an abundance of caution" because of its nature.

Changing venues, Colom said, is costly to the county, and if everyone doesn't start following the rule appropriately, those motions may become more common.

"(Defense attorneys)

don't want to because they know it's costly," Colom said "... They haven't had to file any yet, but what they are telling me is, 'If this case goes to trial, and we can't negotiate it or plea it out, then I have in my back pocket that I can file for a change of venue. I don't know if it will be granted, ... but I have an argument because we have this rule.'"

Colom believes fingers will point to him if cases start having to leave the area for fair trials.

"They're going to hold me accountable to it, because they're going to say, 'You're the DA. You need to make sure these rules aren't violated,'" he said.

Beyond that, Smith said publicizing prior arrests without the full context is inherently prejudicial no matter when you do it. An arrest can end in dismissal or acquittal.

"Forty-seven arrests do not equate to 47 convictions," she said. "Innocent people are arrested every day. ... For me, it goes to the presumption of innocence."

## Political motivations?

Hawkins said he's been releasing this information since shortly after taking office. Why Colom is bringing this up now, he believes, is no accident.

Kitchens agrees.

"What's happening in November?" Kitchens asked rhetorically.

Colom, a Democrat seeking his third term as DA, has a Republican challenger in Jase Dalrymple who has cited some of Hawkins' posts about rearrested felons on the campaign trail.

For his part, Colom has noted that while some of those previous arrests being cited happened during his tenure, many predate it. Colom declined to comment for this report when asked about the politics of the issue.

Hawkins, a Republican, also has a November opponent in Democrat Willie Jones.

"What's bringing it up is apparently talking about

this at some of these (campaign) events, and it's causing people to get aggravated," Kitchens said. "... The court always ought to be mindful when it's being asked to step into something that is a political issue."

Despite the "political" nature of the "controversy" surrounding the criminal procedure rule, Hawkins said he has never made negative statements about Colom or his office in his posts or press releases.

"I'm just trying to let the public know we've arrested this guy for this charge," he said. "And oh, by the way, he has also had this many previous arrests and this many felonies and this many misdemeanor arrests, and he's still out here committing crimes."

**LOWNDES COUNTY**  
Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Director  
**JOB OPENING**

Lowndes County has an opening for a Director of Recreation. Complete job description will be on file at the Lowndes County Administration Office or online at [lowndescountymms.com](http://lowndescountymms.com)

You can pick up a hardcopy job application and a complete job description at the Lowndes County Administration Office located at 1121 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Columbus, MS 39701.

You may also email your resume to [info@lowndescountymms.com](mailto:info@lowndescountymms.com)

Please have application submitted no later than **Friday, September 29, 2023.**

The advertised salary for this position will be \$65,000 based on education and experience.

## TOWN OF ARTESIA - NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF OPEN CONTAINER OF BEER, WINE, AND ALCOHOLIC OR OTHER INTOXICATING BEVERAGES ORDINANCE.

Notice is hereby given that on May 2, 2023, the Town of Artesia adopted an ordinance prohibiting any person from drinking, consuming or possessing an open container of any beer, wine, or alcoholic or other intoxicating beverage of any kind while in a public place within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Artesia, Mississippi. The penalty for violation is a fine not to exceed \$500.0 and up to 90 days in jail, or both. This Ordinance is effective immediately for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and welfare and for other good causes described in the ordinance and pursuant to Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as Annotated.

Whereupon, the motion having a majority of affirmative votes, the Mayor declared that the Ordinance passed and adopted on the 5th day of July, 2023. A full copy of the Ordinance as adopted is available from the Clerk of the Town of Artesia during regular business hours.

MAYOR JIMMIE SANDERS TOWN OF ARTESIA

## NEEDMORE GROUNDBREAKING



Zack Plair/Dispatch Staff

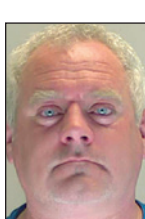
Mayor Lynn Spruill, center, joins city officials and Needmore community members Friday at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Needmore Community Center on East Gillespie Street. The new 3,000-square-foot facility, slated for completion next year, will replace a community center recently demolished due to its condition.

## Fraser murder trial set for Monday

BY BRIAN JONES

[bjones@cdispatch.com](mailto:bjones@cdispatch.com)

Court before Judge Jim Kitchens, according to District Attorney Scott Colom.



Fraser

At the time Lowndes County Sheriff Eddie Hawkins told The Dispatch deputies went to the apartment for a welfare check and found Natalie dead. Wayne was apprehended at the scene, and deputies al-

legedly recovered a 9-millimeter handgun.

Fraser was indicted for murder in May 2022.

Fraser is from Scotland. He worked in Caledonia and lived at the apartment, according to investigators. The victim lived in San Angelo, Texas, and worked as a senior English instructor at Angelo State University.

She was visiting her husband at the time of her death, investigators said.

**SUMMARY:** Hot temperatures remaining for the weekend, with relief on the way next week. Chance for rain increases out of the weekend too.

**ALMANAC DATA**

Thursday in Columbus

Temperature	High	Low
Thursday	100	75
Normal	93	71
Record	100	61

Precipitation (inches)

Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	3.64"
Normal month to date	3.17"
Year to date	38.43"
Normal year to date	37.15"

**FORECAST FOR SELECTED CITIES**

City	Sat Hi/Lo	Sun Hi/Lo
Atlanta	98/74	96/72
Boston	79/64	74/59
Chicago	73/63	71/62
Dallas	108/84	105/79
Los Angeles	85/64	89/67
Nashville	98/73	88/69
New York	83/69	78/67
Orlando	95/75	94/77
Phoenix	109/89	110/89
Seattle	86/63	86/62

**TOMBIGBEE RIVER STAGES**

In feet as of 6 a.m. Fri

Station	Flood Stage	24-hr. Chng.
Fulton	20	7.71 +0.02
Bigbee	14	3.88 +0.00
Amory	20	11.23 +0.08
Columbus	161	136.52 -0.06
Bevill	122	109.41 +0.08

**LAKE LEVELS**

In feet as of 6 a.m. Fri

Location	Level	24-hr. Chng.
Aberdeen	190.30	+0.00
Columbus	163.40	-0.09
Bevill	136.48	-0.07

**MOON PHASES**

New First Full Last

Sept. 14th Sept. 22nd Aug. 30th Sept. 6th

**SUN AND MOON**

	Fri	Sat
Sunrise	6:23 AM	7:25 AM
Sunset	7:26 PM	8:27 PM
Moonrise	4:19 PM	5:19 PM
Moonset	12:55 AM	1:57 AM

**SOLUNAR TABLE**

The solunar period indicates peak feeding times for fish and game.

Major	Sat	Sun
Major	7:45a	8:48a
Minor	12:36a	1:38a
Major	8:16p	9:20p
Minor	3:53p	4:53p

Courtesy of Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

**THE DISPATCH**

The Commercial Dispatch (USPS 142-320)  
Published Tuesday through Saturday.  
Entered at the post office at Columbus, Mississippi.  
Periodicals postage paid at Columbus, MS  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
The Commercial Dispatch, P.O. Box 511, Columbus, MS 39703  
Published by Commercial Dispatch Publishing Company Inc.,  
516 Main St., Columbus, MS 39703

**Answers to common questions:**  
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Daily delivery (incl. online): \$14.45  
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Online only: \$9.95

# Opinion

THE  
DISPATCH

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ZACK PLAIR, Managing Editor  
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MARY ANN HARDY Controller

## OUR VIEW

### Roses and thorns

A rose to Columbus Police Chief Joseph Daughtry for his proposal that will streamline the promotions within the department. Daughtry will ask the Civil Service Commission on Sept. 11 to approve changes in the way promotions for corporal and sergeant work, something he believes will help the city recruit and retain officers. The biggest proposal would be an automatic promotion to corporal for officers with clean records and continuous service for six years, thus eliminating the test that had previously been a requirement for the promotion. Promotions to the rank of sergeant will also be changed under Daughtry's proposal. Currently, if sergeant candidates take the test and

don't get the promotion, they have to take it again the next time it's offered. The new proposal would not require those candidates to take the test again if they have tested within the past two years. We approve of Daughtry's proposal because we believe anything that makes it easier to hire and retain good officers is a step in the right direction.

A rose to voters in Lowndes and Oktibbeha counties who go to the polls to "finish what they started" by voting on primary run-off elections, which will be held Tuesday. All of the run-offs are in the Republican primary. In Oktibbeha County, District 1 supervisor and District 1 constable will be on the ballot. The winner faces a Democratic

Party opponent in the Nov. 7 General Election. In Lowndes County, District 1 supervisor and tax collector will also be decided. The winner of Tuesday's supervisor's race faces a Democrat in the general election. In the tax collector race, there is no Democratic opponent so the winner Tuesday gets the job. The saying, "every vote counts" is especially true in these primary run-offs, where turnout is historically low. We urge those who voted in the Republican primary election or those who did not vote at all, to turn out and make your choice. These are important positions and your vote matters.

A rose to Starkville Strong and Neighbors Helping Neighbors for holding a food and

hygiene product distribution event Sunday at 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Starkville Daily News (304 E. Lampkin Street). A wide range of food items, including non-perishable staples and fresh produce will be given away. Additionally, hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, and personal care products will be provided. Starkville Strong encourages all community members who may benefit from this initiative to attend this event. Anyone wishing to donate food or hygiene items or want to make a monetary donation or volunteer for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, should contact Emily Cambre at starkvillestrong.intern@gmail.com. We applaud these groups for continuing to make a real impact in the community.

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

### Letter to the editor

#### Response to Birney Imes' letter to the editor

I don't normally write letters to the editor, but I am compelled to answer Mr. Birney Imes' letter to the editor which was printed by the Dispatch in its Tuesday edition. I am not writing this response in my professional capacity; I am writing this response as a concerned citizen. His criticism of the Propst Park improvement plan was similar to writing a critique of a book without having first read it or writing a movie review without watching the film. The gist of Mr. Imes' letter appears to be that the Mayor and council are throwing \$4 million into refurbishing baseball fields while doing nothing else for a "broad constituency." He then suggests we should erect a state of the art skateboard park, pickleball courts and "something that will provide year round benefits."

I wonder where Mr. Imes has been. On August 2 The Dispatch ran an article written by Grant McLaughlin discussing the planned improvements to the city's parks including Propst Park. Mr. McLaughlin wrote that the plan will include improvements to the playgrounds, the splash pad, installing pickleball and tennis courts, upgrading the lighting at the Field of Dreams and upgrading existing pavilions as well as upgrading seven community centers within the city. These upgrades and improvements were planned for the broader constituency.

Mr. Imes then argues against improving baseball fields in Propst Park because the county is spending \$12 million for baseball fields west of the river. As a consequence, Mr. Imes' opinion is that "city kids can play baseball there." If a "city kid" doesn't have a car, how does Mr. Imes think they will get west of the river? Will the city kids call an Uber driver, walk or bicycle over the Tenn Tom bridge, take the first exit, get on the frontage road and play baseball there? They will not. So, why should the city be criticized for spending less than \$2 million on baseball fields for city kids when in reality, many city kids won't be able to regularly play out at the new county complex?

In summary, I am respectfully asking that anyone writing a letter to the editor get informed before lobbing criticism. And this is especially important for journalists writing letters to their own newspaper.

Respectfully,

**Greg Lewis**

*The writer is director of Columbus Parks Department*

*A letter to the editor is an excellent way to participate in your community. We request the tone of your letters be constructive and respectful and the length be limited to 450 words. Political endorsements are limited to one per letter-writer. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity, grammar and length. Letters may be emailed to [voice@cdispach.com](mailto:voice@cdispach.com) or mailed to The Dispatch, Attn: Letters to the Editor, PO Box 511, Columbus, MS 39703-0511.*

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Aug. 26, the 238th day of 2023. There are 127 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

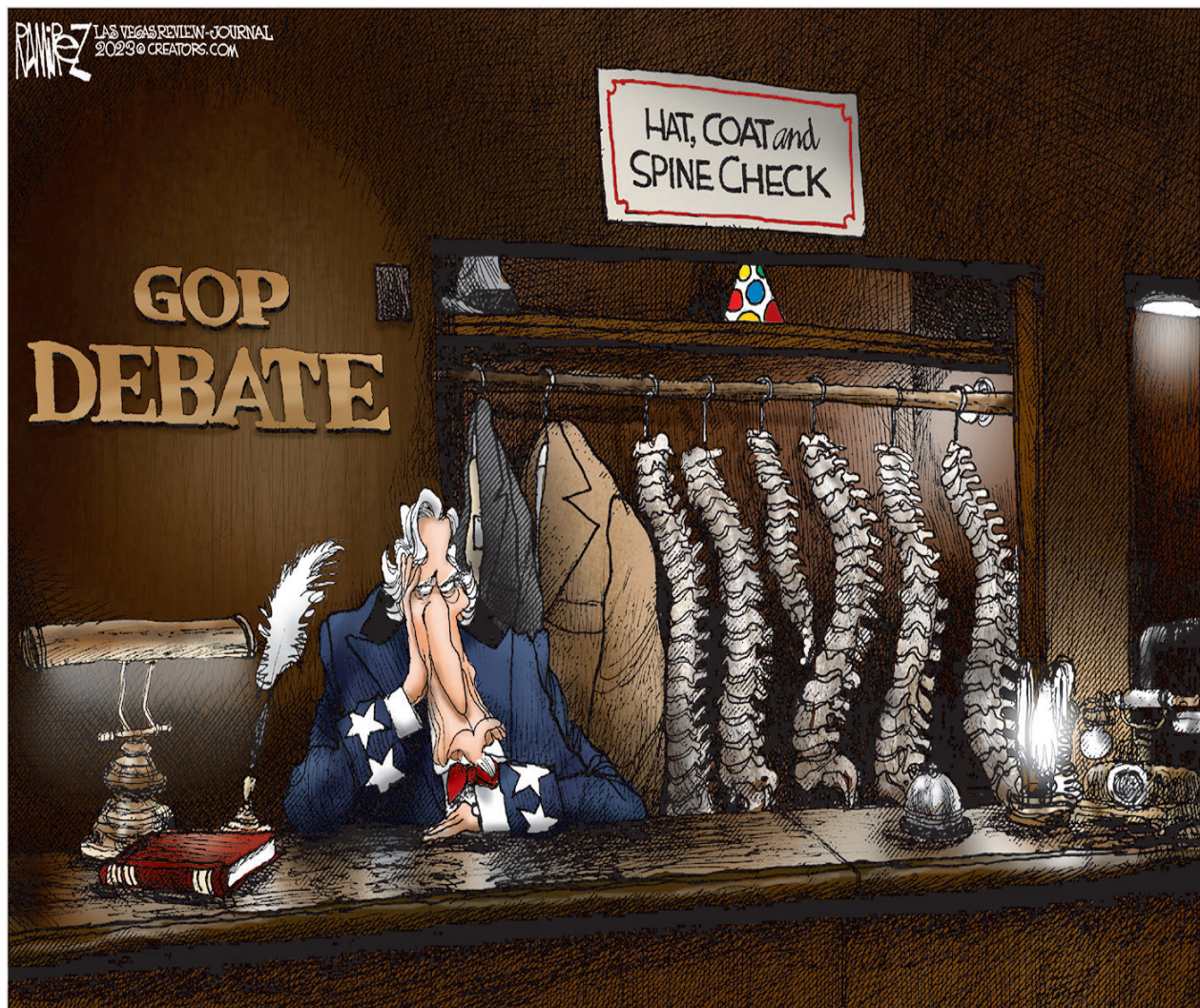
On Aug. 26, 1968, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago; the four-day event that resulted in the nomination of Hubert H. Humphrey for president was marked by a bloody police crackdown on antiwar protesters in the streets.

### On this date:

In 1910, Thomas Edison demonstrated for reporters an improved version of his Kinetophone, a device for showing a movie with synchronized sound.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women's right to vote, was certified in effect by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

In 1939, the first televised major league baseball games were shown on experimental station W2XBS: a double-header between the Cincinnati Reds and the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field. The Reds won the first game, 5-2, the Dodgers the second, 6-1.



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## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

### Change the format of debates

The Milwaukee debate was a travesty. Not that the moderators asked the wrong questions (though, seriously, UFOs?) or that the candidates gave the wrong answers — rather, the entire format is guaranteed to elicit the kind of behavior that least conduces to good leadership.

There should be no live audiences at debates. Live audiences are going to scream the loudest for the most pugilistic and simple-minded pitches from candidates. They are going to encourage cat fights. In last night's debate, the moderators had to lecture the audience to hold it down, urging that the more time they spent cheering or booing, the less time would be available for the candidates to address the "issues you care about." But that assumes more than is in evidence. Many of those who traveled to Milwaukee's Fiserv Forum are the kind of people who cheer for violence at hockey games. Candidates invited viewers to tune in with images of popcorn.

Because the rules permit candidates whose names are mentioned to get a 30-second right of reply, and because each person can only expect about 12 minutes of airtime in a two-hour "debate," the game is structured to encourage sniping. Thus we get these dominance displays, put-downs and cross talk that do little to enlighten viewers, and that, by the way, advantage men over women because their voices tend to be louder — though Nikki Haley did well in schooling Vivek



Mona Charen

Ramaswamy.

The cattle-call nature of these shows, with eight or 10 or more candidates arrayed according to polling, guarantees that candidates will seek a "breakout moment" that can be replayed on social media in the hours and days following the event. The moderators

have no time for follow-ups or to pushback on misrepresentations.

Just as party primaries are structured to choose the most extreme candidates, these debates are structured to reward the most skilled demagogues. Sure enough, in a post-debate focus group on CNN, a majority identified Ramaswamy as the winner.

Ramaswamy, like Trump, is exactly the sort of politician the Founders knew would crop up in a democratic system. In Federalist 68, Alexander Hamilton noted that figures with "talents for low intrigue, and the little arts of popularity" would appear. He hoped the Electoral College would thwart their rise to the presidency. We've since eliminated that function of the Electoral College, but though we rely on the wisdom of the voters to choose well without the help of eminent citizens of judgment and discernment (as the Electoral College was originally conceived), we need not introduce candidates to voters in a fashion that penalizes the most sober, responsible ones and boosts the slick provocateurs.

If that CNN focus group was representative, expect to see a polling bump for Ramaswamy, a man who 1) dabbles in 9/11

trutherism and Jan. 6 denialism, 2) proposes ending support for Ukraine and lifting sanctions on Russia, 3) would reduce funding of the federal government by 75%, 4) would shut down the Department of Education and abolish teachers unions, 5) calls climate change a "hoax," and 6) has never served in the military or been elected county clerk. Like his role model, Trump, he tells audiences that solutions are "simple" and easy and claims to be a truth teller. He speaks fluently and confidently, a living example of the aphorism "frequently wrong but never in doubt."

Short of returning to the original conception of the Electoral College (obviously impossible in our time), what can we do to limit the damage demagogues inflict?

Change the format of these media circuses. Get creative. Perhaps each candidate could sit down with interlocutors for a 10-minute Q&A, permitting time for substance as well as real-time fact checking. In a one-on-one interview, the questioner could ask Ramaswamy, "With exactly what authority would you 'abolish' teachers unions or reduce the federal budget by 75%?"

A different debate format would not solve the appetite for extremism, cruelty and showmanship evident among GOP primary voters. But these big-stage productions with huge audiences encourage all the worst tendencies. If people want gladiatorial contests, why not give it to them straight — cage matches, choice of weapons. Are you not entertained?

Mona Charen is Policy Editor of *The Bulwark* and host of the "Beg to Differ" podcast.

# Republican support for gun restrictions slips a year after Congress passed firearms law

Republican desire for more expansive legislation has dropped to 32% from 49% last summer

BY COLLEEN LONG AND LINLEY SANDERS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican support for gun restrictions is slipping a year after Congress passed the most comprehensive firearms control legislation in decades with bipartisan support, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

That's led to a gap between Democrats and the GOP on the issue of guns that has widened in the last year. Democrats have consistently outpaced Republicans and independents in their belief that gun laws in the U.S. should be strengthened, but GOP support has dropped even further behind, the poll found.

Most Democrats, 92%, want gun laws made stronger, in line with their views in a UChicago Harris/AP-NORC poll conducted in

July 2022. But Republican desire for more expansive legislation has dropped to 32% from 49% last summer and independents' support also declined slightly to 61% from 72%.

"We've tried to legislate things for years without a lot of success, and I don't really think law and regulation are the answer to our problems," said Robert Lloyd, 57, of Booneville, Arkansas, who is a registered Republican but says he has "lost faith in both sides." "I think our problems go way beyond guns."

Yet despite the political divide, both sides believe it's important to reduce mass shootings that plague the nation, the poll found. Majorities of Americans say they would support some additional restrictions on guns, particularly background checks and red flag laws, which allow law enforcement to remove weapons from a person believed to

be a danger to themselves or others.

Even with GOP and independent headwinds on more restrictions, lawmakers could still find support: Enforcing background checks on all potential gun buyers earns bipartisan support, with 93% of Democrats and 68% of Republicans in favor.

The AP-NORC poll highlights the complicated feelings Americans have around guns, particularly as the U.S. is on track to hit a record-high number of mass shootings in one year, gun violence is up in cities around the nation and President Joe Biden is vying for reelection next year and is pushing a platform restricting guns that was all but politically unthinkable for fellow Democrats as recently as Barack Obama's term.

"I have grandkids now, and they both have bullet-proof backpacks to go to school," said Democrat

Gina Suits, 58 of Brookfield, Wisconsin, outside Milwaukee. "I really feel stricter gun laws and the banning of assault weapons needs to happen. It's our children."

"If you really believe in gun laws, vote," she said. "So we can get people in to make laws to save our children."

Biden has said the law passed last year after a deadly mass shooting in a Uvalde, Texas, elementary school didn't go far enough. He's routinely called for banning so-called assault weapons, a political term to describe guns most often used in mass shootings with the capacity to kill a lot of people quickly.

The issue even came up in the GOP presidential debate Wednesday night, when two of the eight candidates onstage were asked how they would manage an increase

in school shootings. Neither talked about gun control. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said he'd send violent criminals to prison. Technology entrepreneur Vivek

Ramaswamy said he'd put more police officers on the streets.

Overall, stricter gun laws are desired by a majority of Americans, regardless of what the current gun laws are in their state.

## Natalie Williams



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved daughter Natalie Evelyn Williams, a vibrant 14-year-old who brought joy to everyone she touched. She departed from this world too soon on August 9, 2023, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on March 20, 2009, Natalie was the first-born child of Father Matthew Lee Williams and Mother Marjorie Johnson Williams. Natalie arrived in this world with a full head of beautiful red hair and gorgeous hazel eyes. She was the light of Matthew and Marjorie's lives. Natalie was a beloved daughter, sister, friend, and athlete. Her infectious laughter, bright smile, and compassionate nature left an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to know her. Natalie had a spirit that was infectious, and a heart that radiated warmth and kindness.

Natalie attended Starkville High School and was in the 9th grade. She enjoyed playing tennis and was a member of the Starkville High School tennis team. Along with her love for tennis she also had a passion for running. She was a member of the Starkville Cross Country Team and a member of the Starkville High School Band. Natalie was a voracious reader, a talented artist, and loved to water ski. She loved spending time with family, especially her cousins and grandparents in Florida and Alabama.

Natalie is survived by her parents; her brother, Jacob Williams; and her extended family.

While her time with us was tragically cut short, the memories she leaves behind will continue to remind us of the preciousness of life, the importance of pursuing our passions, and the significance of the bonds we share with loved ones.

A private memorial service to celebrate Natalie's life will be held for the family on September 1, 2023, in Moulton, Alabama.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Starkville High School Tennis Booster, 31 Lakes Boulevard, Starkville, MS 39759 in Natalie's memory.

Let us remember Natalie with smiles that reflect the vibrant spirit she brought into our lives. May her memory inspire us to cherish each moment and to live life with the same passion and enthusiasm that she did.

Rest in peace, dear Natalie. It was a privilege to have had you in our lives. You will forever remain in our hearts and will never be forgotten.

*Paid Obituary*

## AREA OBITUARIES

### 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 Tuesday 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.

Ott's Funeral Home of Sulligent is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Cork was born Dec. 24, 1924, in Choctaw County, to the late John Cork and Annie Bell Shoemaker Cork. He attended school in Ackerman. He formerly served in the U.S. Air Force, was employed with U.S. Steel in Gary, Indiana and the Molloy Fire Department. He was a member of Temple Star Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by 12 siblings.

He is survived by his wife, Edna Cork of Vernon; son, Ralph Cork, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and step-daughter, Cathy Woods of Gary, Indiana.

Pallbearers will be Eric Smith, Marvin Thompson, Douglas Smith, Bitt Bureson, Lynn White and Clyde Murdock.

### Everett Kimbrough

STARKVILLE — Everett Lamar "Crobar" Kimbrough, died Aug. 24, 2023.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, at Welch Funeral Home. Welch Funeral Home of Starkville is in charge of arrangements.

He was a graduate of Wood Junior College, Mississippi State University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He was formerly employed with North Carolina State University and Mississippi State University.

He is survived by his wife, Katie Kimbrough; children, David Kimbrough and Carrie Kimbrough; and two granddaughters.

Memorials may be made to Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Suite 800, Miami, FL 33131 or to Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011.

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## Cathy Rhodes



Cathy Sullivan Rhodes, age 55, of Ethelsville, AL, went to be with the lord unexpectedly on Saturday, August 19, 2023, while in Caledonia, MS.

She was born January 8, 1968, in Pottsboro, Texas. After years of moving around, with her father serving in the military, they settled in Ethelsville, AL. She attended Mississippi State University where Cathy held a master's degree in education and was nationally board certified, a testament to her commitment to excellence in teaching. The majority of her teaching career was at Caledonia Elementary School, teaching the fourth and fifth grade. She finished her career at New Hope Elementary Alternative School.

Cathy was a devoted mother, honey, daughter, friend, and teacher. Being surrounded by the people she loved was her happy place. She was the biggest Mickey Mouse fanatic, wanted everything she owned to be in Fuchsia pink, and loved ringing her cowbell and yelling "Hail State". Cathy never met a stranger and to be in her presence was to be greeted with love, loyalty, and laughter. Beyond her professional and familial roles, Cathy found solace in her faith and her church community at Fairview Baptist church. She had a lot of impact in so many lives, especially every student she ever taught. She had an extreme passion for teaching and she put her heart and soul into helping kids learn with extra activities that she would work on in her personal time. Cathy was a giver and always put her family first with unconditional love. This world is now more dark without her bright light in it.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Corine (Kitty) and Boyd Sullivan; and her brother, Rusty Sullivan.

Cathy is survived by her three sons, Chase Gilliland and his wife, Holly Gilliland of Tuscaloosa, AL, Jacob Rhodes of Ethelsville, AL, and Dalton Rhodes and his wife, Rachel Rhodes of Columbus, MS; two grandchildren, Sophia Gilliland and Jeffrey Daniel (JD) Gilliland; three sisters, Linda Parker and husband, Terry of Terry, MS, Brenda Wilson and husband, Ray of Richmond, Kentucky, and Lisa Shannon and husband, Lonnie of Raymond, MS.

As we say goodbye, let us celebrate the impact she had on our lives and the legacy she leaves behind. Cathy's celebration of life will be held at Fairview Baptist church on Friday, September 1, 2023, in Columbus, MS, from 4-5:30 PM.

## Federal officials are warning airlines to keep workers away from jet engines that are still running

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Federal safety regulators are citing recent incidents, at least one of them fatal, in warning airlines to make sure that workers keep their distance from jet engines until they are powered off.

The Federal Aviation Administration said Friday it issued a safety alert to prevent workers from being injured while towing planes or guiding them to and from terminal gates.

The FAA said airlines should review their safety

programs to make sure they follow practices including keeping workers clear of planes until they are stopped and chocks are placed under the wheels.

The warning was prompted by "multiple events" in which workers were injured or killed during ground operations at airports.

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# Religion

## A win-win-win situation

It's helpful now and again to take inventory. Spiritual inventory, I mean. When expenses are high and the dollar is low, when people are struggling and the government doesn't seem to care, we need to sit a spell and look up. Three masterpieces from the Bible will help. They're linked by their opening phrase and their matching addresses — chapter 1, verses 3-4. The first one is a real pick-me-upper: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in



Jabe Nicholson

the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." (Eph 1:3-4) What does it tell us? That the believer in the Lord Jesus is the richest person in the world! God hasn't given us some things or most things, but every spiritual blessing! We can live like the royalty we are. We can lavish love on others, spread joy wherever we go, give God's bounty to earth's needy. And in Christ we're selected to live with Him forever in holiness and love. Amazing!

The next one begins the same way: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." (2 Cor 1:3-4) Believers in the Lord Jesus aren't only the richest people in the world; they're also the strongest. Did you know that? We often don't look like it, but it's true. The word "comfort," from the Latin com+fortis, means "to add strength." The Lord has made available to us all the power He used to raise Christ from the dead. These life-saver words tell us that God not only fortifies

us in the troubles we face, but piles it on so we can watch out for others struggling and share some comfort with them. How inspiring when we lock arms with others and smile at the storm! "Let's do this together," we can say with God's help. Here's the third beaut: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you." (1 Pet 1:3-4) The believer in the Lord Jesus is the richest person in the world — as rich as God is, believe it or not — and the

strongest person in the world, able to not only survive but thrive in troubled times. But the believer is also the wisest person in the world. Why would I say that? We may not be wise about a lot of things, but we've learned to be wise in the one thing that counts. We've figured out that this world has an expiry date, and it's just about due. Why invest in a losing proposition? Better to have your wealth waiting on the other side. Why would someone not take Jesus as their Savior? You can see it's a win-win-win. *Jabe Nicholson of Starkville has stumbled on where the Best Stuff is, and loves to share it. Reach him at jabe@uplook.org or www.uplook.tv*

For our complete church directory listing, visit us online at [www.cdispatch.com/religion](http://www.cdispatch.com/religion)

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If you would like your church to be the featured church of the week, submit a photo by emailing it to [community@cdispatch.com](mailto:community@cdispatch.com). Photos should be horizontal and high quality. The Dispatch will publish photos at no charge as space permits.

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# One image, one face, one American moment: The Donald Trump mug shot

**'It will be forever part of the iconography of being alive in this time'**

**Marty Kaplan, a professor at the University of Southern California Annenberg School of Communications**

BY JONATHAN J. COOPER  
The Associated Press

A camera clicks. In a fraction of a second, the shutter opens and then closes, freezing forever the image in front of it.

When the camera shutter blinked inside an Atlanta jail on Thursday, it both created and documented a tiny inflection point in American life. Captured for posterity, there was a former president of the United States, for the first time in history, under arrest and captured in the sort of frame more commonly associated with drug dealers or drunken drivers. The trappings of power gone, for that split second.

Left behind: an enduring image that will appear in history books long after Donald Trump is gone.

"It will be forever part of the iconography of being alive in this time," said Marty Kaplan, a professor at the University of Southern California Annenberg School of Communications.

In the photo, Trump confronts the camera in front of a bland gray backdrop, his eyes meeting the lens in an intense glare. He's wearing a blue suit, white shirt and red tie, his shoulders squared, his head tilted slightly toward the camera. The sheriff's

logo has been digitally added above his right shoulder.

Some of the 18 others charged with him in Georgia smiled in their booking photos like they were posing for a yearbook. Not Trump. His defiance is palpable, as if he's staring down a nemesis through the lens.

"It is not a comfortable feeling — especially when you've done nothing wrong," he later told Fox News Digital about the moment.

## Not like any other photograph

Trump facing charges is by now a familiar sight of 2023 to Americans who watched him stand before a judge in a New York courtroom or saw watercolor sketches from the inside of federal courthouses in Miami and Washington, where cameras aren't allowed.

This is different. As Anderson Cooper put it on CNN: "The former president of the United States has an inmate number."

P01135809, to be exact. But until he surrendered to face charges of trying to steal the 2020 election in Georgia, his fourth indictment this year, he avoided having to pose for the iconic booking photo like millions

accused of crimes before him.

Never mind that Trump, like all Americans, is innocent until proven guilty in court; the mug shot, and all it connotes, packs an extra emotional and cultural punch.

A mug shot is a visceral representation of the criminal justice system, a symbol of lost freedom. It permanently memorializes one of the worst days of a person's life, a moment not meant for a scrapbook. It must be particularly foreign to a man born into privilege, who famously loves to be in control, who is highly attentive to his image and who rose to be the most powerful figure in the world.

"Indictment' is a sort of bloodless word. And words are pale compared to images," said Kaplan, a former speechwriter for Vice President Walter Mondale and Hollywood screenwriter. "A mug shot is a genre. Its frame is, 'This is a deer caught in the headlights. This is the crook being nailed.' It's the walk of shame moment."

## He is already leveraging the moment

Trump is unlikely to treat the mug shot as a moment of shame as he seeks a second term in the White House while fighting criminal charges in four jurisdictions. His campaign has reported a spike in contributions each time he's been indicted.



Fulton County Sheriff's Office via AP  
This booking photo provided by Fulton County Sheriff's Office, shows former President Donald Trump on Thursday after he surrendered and was booked at the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta.

And the imagery itself? Trump hasn't shied away from it. In fact, his campaign concocted one long before it became real.

Months before he was photographed in Georgia

on Thursday evening, his campaign used the prospect of a mug shot as a fundraising opportunity. For \$36, anyone can buy a T-shirt with a fake booking photo of Trump and the words "not guilty." Dozens of similar designs are available to purchase online, including many that appeal to Trump's critics.

Now they have a real one to work with. Within minutes of the mug shot's release, Trump's campaign used it in a fundraising appeal on its website. "BREAKING NEWS: THE MUGSHOT IS HERE," reads the subject line of the campaign's latest fundraising email, which advertises a new

T-shirt with the image. And this quote: "This mugshot will forever go down in history as a symbol of America's defiance of tyranny."

In a show of solidarity, U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene posted to X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, a photo of herself smiling broadly in front of a gray background, the sheriff's logo in the top left corner to mimic the jail's style — essentially her DIY mug. "I stand with President Trump against the commie DA Fani Willis," she said, a swipe at the Fulton County, Georgia, district attorney who persuaded a grand jury to indict Trump.

## Ramaswamy raises \$450,000 in first hours after Republican debate as campaigns try to seize momentum

BY MEG KINNARD  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The first Republican presidential debate provided an opportunity for candidates to make their cases directly to a national audience, and some of that attention is translating into fundraising boosts.

Biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy has taken in \$450,000 since Wednesday night's debate, with an average donation of \$38, campaign spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Ramaswamy, a political newcomer who occupied center stage in the absence of current GOP front-runner Donald Trump, scored several memorable moments during the debate, criticizing some rivals as

"super PAC puppets" who were using "ready-made, prepared slogans" to attack him.

Ramaswamy, has largely been self-funding his campaign and raised more than \$7.7 million in the second quarter, finishing with more than \$9 million on hand.

At least one candidate, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, made a direct fundraising appeal onstage Milwaukee, asking viewers in his closing remarks to go to his campaign website "for more information or to make a contribution."

Former President Donald Trump, who is the early front-runner for the nomination, skipped the debate.

Other campaigns didn't immediately respond to messages Thursday about their post-debate fundrais-

ing, but some donors are talking.

After being briefed in Milwaukee by top campaign staffers for Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, donor Hal Lambert said he was pleased with his chosen candidate's performance.

"Everyone's extremely happy," Lambert said in an interview. "I think he did extremely well. I think he stayed out of the bickering on stage."

Pete Snyder, an investor and DeSantis donor, said the governor was "strong," and "forceful" and able to get his message out "without distraction."

The DeSantis campaign has not provided details about what it has raised, but Snyder said, "It's showing with the contributions that are coming in. We had a huge day."

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# Murray

Continued from Page 1A

this: “Stan Murray is our replay official.”

After a few agonizing minutes of slow-motion replays, it becomes clear that the call on the field was incorrect. Jacobs fumbled, yes, but he also recovered his fumble for a touchdown before being stripped of the ball. Loeffler announces what is now clear to everyone at home and in the stadium, and it's six points for Alabama. The Tide would go on to win the game, 35-28.

“And that's why we have instant replay,” color commentator Gary Danielson adds. “... They got it right, and that's the goal.”

Stan Murray got it right. “There were only two stops in that game and that was one of them,” Murray told The Dispatch. “Most of the time, I don't remember them, but that one I do.”

## 'I'd probably like to try college officiating'

Murray, a Columbus resident, has worked as an SEC replay official since 2016, a position he assumed after leaving the field in 2015.

“The thing that athletes have a hard time figuring out when they're analyzing themselves, is when do I need to retire ... as a football player, basketball player, or as a football official. (Former SEC director of officiating) Steve Shaw called me and said, ‘We've been talking about your transition off the field, and here's what I want to tell you. We need you in the replay booth.’ I said, ‘Well, I'm ready to go.’

“I knew I needed to get off the field. Shaw did a good thing and put me in replay.”

Murray spent 29 years as a back judge, with more than a dozen years on the crew of legendary SEC referee Hubert Owens. Murray, a Jackson native, played running

back at Mississippi State from 1971-74.

“I wasn't a very good student of the game when I was playing. ... I was a running back, (I thought) ‘Give me the ball and tell me where you're blocking. Why watch film, you know? I'm going to try to avoid the guys who are trying to tackle me.’ ... Getting into officiating made me have to be a good student of the game.”

As for his transition into officiating, Murray, who retired a few years ago from Citizens National Bank as a senior vice president after more than 40 years in banking, calls it “pure luck.”

“When I finished playing, I was so sick of football I wouldn't even watch it on TV,” Murray said. “I had had all the football I wanted.”

He began his banking career in New Orleans shortly after graduation, and five years later found a job in Columbus and relocated. One of his new coworkers was a high school referee, and knowing a bit about Murray's background, asked him if he wanted to start officiating. Murray did, and in 1980 began calling high school games around Mississippi, an era he remembers fondly.

“In a lot of (high school fields) you've got a little bit of bleachers there,” Murray said. “You've got those big posts, and then a cable about waist high, and people can just go stand behind that cable. And there's going to be folks that are going to be with us the whole time.”

Murray recalls one instance, where, during a quarter change, the officials were moving the ball from one 15-yard line to the other and he suddenly heard a familiar voice.

“As soon as we put the ball down, this guy who had been yelling at us yelled at us again,” Murray said. “Y'all didn't think I get down here

this quick, did ‘ya?’”

He spent six years in the high school ranks.

“After a few years, I thought, ‘You know, I like this. I'd probably like to try college officiating.’”

Murray applied to the SEC in 1986, and in 1987 was hired to work some spring scrimmages. The rest, as they say, is history.

## A lifetime of achievement

In his near 40-year career as an SEC official, Murray has seen myriad changes in both the way the game is played and the way it's officiated.

“When I started officiating in the SEC there were 10 schools,” Murray said. “It was a running football conference.”

As offenses changed, officiating philosophies changed. With the advent of improved camera technology and the national TV-era of college football, the idea of incorporating that technology to make the game more fair was a sound one.

“It goes back to the original thought behind replay – to correct egregious errors,” Murray said. “In general, it went from just correcting the big stuff to correcting more and more. Now it's at a point where I think they're saying, ‘Let's revisit this. Let's try to limit what we do to player safety and the big stuff.’”

“Let's let the guys on the field work the game and let replay catch the things that are really impactful to the game.”

Murray talks like a professor; precise but deliberate. He taught economics classes at the Mississippi University for Women for 25 years, and he has a calm demeanor and a soothing southern drawl that served him well in the classroom, on the field and now in the replay booth.

He was honored with the Bobby Gaston-Ed Dudley Spirit of Officiating Award in 2016. This

award is given annually by the conference to the “SEC football official who most exemplifies the qualities of integrity, wisdom, insight, humility, judgment, a great attitude, service to God, his family, his community and his fellow officials.”

Debbie, Murray's wife of 26 years, called it the “biggest award that's given.”

“Being an official's wife is a huge honor,” Debbie said. “The fact that my husband is good enough that he has called SEC football for so many years, it's a huge honor for me. I brag on him to people all the time.”

Murray's pretty proud of Debbie, too.

“To be a football official, you've got to have a good football wife,” Murray said. “She's very special.”

## 'The Godfather'

Having officiated more than 400 games in his career, it's impossible for Murray to pick a favorite. But one game stands out – the Rose Bowl. Murray officiated three in his career, 1998, 2009 and 2015, and said the experience is unrivaled.

“The Rose Bowl, it's its own thing – there's nothing like the Rose Bowl,” Murray said.

Debbie remembers Stan's first Rose Bowl, but it's not the game that stands out.

“Carol Burnett was the grand marshal, and I got to meet her,” Debbie said.

There's an old adage that the best officiated games are the ones where fans and viewers never learn the officials' names. For Murray, though he might only make two or three calls per game, that anonymity is impossible. There's



Photo courtesy of Debbie Murray  
An engraved brick presented to Stan Murray in 2016 calls him “The Godfather.” Murray, who worked three Rose Bowls in his career, said the game, played yearly in Pasadena, California, is his fondest memory from his time on the field.

only one replay official, and at some point his or her name is bound to be called. Murray understands that although his calls are infrequent, they're often the most impactful.

“If we stop it, and we think there's something that needs to be looked at ... if there's smoke, let's look at it,” Murray said. “But if we've looked at it for a minute and half and we haven't figured out anything that's wrong, we'd better leave it alone.”

“I think replay is trying not to become too intrusive to the game. The game needs to have a certain flow.”

Officials aren't perfect. They make mistakes just like everyone else. The difference is that their errors are magnified, slowed down, replayed and dissected both during and after the game. Murray's role now is to help the on-field officials get things right. The

schools, players and fans deserve a fairly officiated game, and the right call is the right call, regardless of its impact on the outcome. Stan is OK with that. Stan Murray owns that.

“Make it be there,” Murray said. “If you've got your flag down, make it be there.”

As the 2023 season dawns, Murray will once again be in the replay booth. On Fridays this fall, he'll gas up his Ford F-150 and hit the road to wherever the conference sends him.

On Sunday morning, he'll get back in his truck and head for Columbus, where Debbie and the Murrays' two rescue beagles, Lucy and Zoe, will be waiting.

But, on Saturdays, Murray is right where he needs to be, a place he's been for almost 40 years: inside a college football cathedral, making the right calls.

# Runoffs

Continued from Page 1A



The three-candidate primary was much closer between first and second place, with Watkins edging Morse by a mere 11 votes. The runoff winner will face Democrat William Ford in November.

In Lowndes County, the Republican runoff for tax collector between Kalee Talley and Diane Whaley Stephens will de-

cide the race. Talley took first place with 43% of the vote in the three-candidate Aug. 8 primary. Stephens received 32%.

For District 1 supervisor, Michael Brock just missed claiming outright victory among three Republican candidates Aug. 8, receiving just shy of 50% of the vote. Second-place Matt Furnari received almost 36%. The runoff

winner will face Democrat Tommy Lee Kidd in the general election.

As of Friday morning, 25 have voted absentee in Oktibbeha County, with 17 more ballots mailed out, according to the circuit clerk's office. In Lowndes, 76 in-person or mail absentees had already been received, while 17 that were mailed out had not yet been returned.

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Wildcats pounce in second half to put away Green Wave

BY COLIN DAMMS  
cdamms@cdispatch.com

LOUISVILLE —Friday night in Louisville looked like a battle of contenders, with the Wildcats hosting West Point. It started as a battle of contenders as well.

Both teams scored on their respective opening drives, first the hosts on a 40-yard score through the air from Xavier Hunt to Jykevious Goss, and then the Green Wave answering on a 4th and 16 pass from Kaleb Dyson to Quinterrion Tillman-Evans. Soon after, however, the game became defensive, playing into the Wild-

cats' favor.

A scoop-and-score by Braylon Hodges, his second sack-turned-turnover of the game, gave the Green Wave the lead just before halftime, but their offensive troubles persisted as the Wildcats seized the momentum and took charge of the second half to win 35-13.

"We knew what they were doing and stopped them, they just got the breaks early on," Louisville head coach Tyrone Shorter said of the cagey first half. "I told the kids at halftime we've just got to clean it up and that's what we did. They came out in the second half and

played Wildcat football."

The Wildcats scored 28 unanswered points to wrap things up in the second half, 21 of which came in the third quarter alone. A forced fumble gave them the ball back after the Green Wave received the second half kickoff, and they scored on their next three drives to take firm control of the game.

"It kind of snowballed on us and we didn't do anything to grab the momentum back," West Point head coach Chris Chambliss said in his earnest second half evaluation. "We got worn down there

See **WEST POINT, 2B**



Chris McDill/Special to The Dispatch

Louisville athlete Jykevious Goss runs for a touchdown during Friday night's game against West Point. The Wildcats defeated the Green Wave 35-13 to open the season for both teams.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Starkville blows out Noxubee County in season opener



Austin Frayser/Special to The Dispatch

Starkville wide receiver Braylon Burnside avoids a defender during Friday night's 49-18 win over Noxubee County. Burnside caught two touchdowns from quarterback Trey Petty.

## Yellow Jackets score 49 unanswered points after early 12-0 deficit

BY ALEX MURPHY  
amurphy@cdispatch.com

STARKVILLE — Noxubee County came out on fire in Friday night's season opener against Starkville.

The Tigers forced two turnovers on downs early against what was expected to be a high-powered Yellow Jacket offense, scoring two lengthy touchdowns after each turnover.

With less than four-and-a-half minutes to go in the first quarter, it was all Tigers, up 12-0, but in a matter of seconds, Starkville awoke.

A'Braylen Jenkins returned the ensuing kickoff 80 yards to the house to cut the deficit to 12-7, and it was all Starkville from there, scoring 49 unanswered points in a 49-18 rout of Noxubee County.

"To me, that's the play of the game," Starkville head coach Chris Jones said. "That gave us momentum. That gave us the spark that we needed, not just an explosive play, but an explosive touchdown. It was big just to get momentum."

The remainder of the first half turned into the Trey Petty and Braylon Burnside show for Starkville (1-0) as Petty had three total touchdowns in the final 16 minutes of play in the half, one rushing and two passing, both to Burnside.

"He knows where I want him to be and then, I know where he's gonna be," Petty said. "It makes it easy as a team and it opens up things for other receivers."

Petty let the ball fly on Friday, connecting on some deep passes to Starkville receivers. His arm was on full display, as well as his feet.

Just as he showcased his arm, his legs got him and Starkville out of what was a 3rd and 20 in the first half as the Jackets were backed up to their own 10 yard

See **STARKVILLE, 2B**

## MISSISSIPPI STATE FOOTBALL

# Notebook: Isaac Smith continues to turn heads a week before opening game

BY JUSTIN FROMMER  
jfrommer@cdispatch.com

STARKVILLE — Mississippi State safeties coach Brett Dewhurst has been tasked with one of the team's toughest jobs this fall camp, looking to replace all three starters at the back end of the Bulldogs' defense.

"Nobody cares and the hard thing about the back end is it is hard to cover up mistakes," Dewhurst said Thursday to local media following the team's practice session. "If they happen, usually points occur. There is a lot of competition right now and like Coach Arnett always says throughout the year, 'Whoever practices the best will get a chance to go play and start, and if you don't compete well in the games, there will probably be a new starter next week.' Just trying to figure out the three best right now."

If it worked out the way Dewhurst wanted, the Bulldogs would be throwing out three experienced safeties when the defense takes the field Sept. 2 against Southeastern Louisiana to open the season at Davis Wade Stadium. However, true freshman Isaac Smith continues to stake a claim to playing time with just a week to go before the opening kick.

"You talk to Isaac like he has been here for three years but he is still a true freshman," Dewhurst said.

Smith, from Fulton, had to quickly

See **NOTEBOOK, 4B**



Dewhurst



Smith

## MISSISSIPPI STATE WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Bulldogs dominate in home opener, shutting out Northwestern State

## Mississippi State outshoots the Demons, 19-1, in victory

BY ALEX MURPHY  
amurphy@cdispatch.com

STARKVILLE — "Utter domination" is the most accurate description of Thursday night's home opener for Mississippi State women's soccer.

Coming off a weekend where the Bulldogs defeated Grand Canyon and drew with Arizona State, they looked to start their home slate off right against Northwestern State.

An early goal from sophomore Maggie Wad-

sworth set the tone for the rout that ensued, a 3-0 shutout with MSU controlling every statistical category on the night.

"It was really important to get that early goal," head coach James Armstrong said. "We knew that they were going to fight really hard and they were up for the game, so that goal within the first five minutes was really good for us to settle into the game."

The Bulldogs (2-0-1) didn't allow a shot until late into the second half,

obliterating the Demons (0-2), 19-1, in total shots, as well as 10-0 in shots on goal.

Mississippi State applied immense pressure on Northwestern State through the first 45 minutes of play, taking advantage of a team that was playing a five-in-the-back formation, dropping back early and often instead of trying to play up the field.

While the Demons played more defensively, the Bulldogs kept attacking and attacking, earning seven corners and scoring twice in the half.

"First game back home, it was really ex-

See **SOCCER, 4B**



Mike Mattina/Mississippi State Athletics

Mississippi State Forward Kennedy White (#24) during the match against the Northwestern State Lady Demons at the MSU Soccer Field. White, a transfer from Bowling Green, netted her first goal as a Bulldog.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# How a former quarterback helped Starkville Academy improve to 3-0 this season

BY JUSTIN FROMMER  
jfrommer@cdispatch.com

STARKVILLE — Luke McKenzie has always been behind the scenes for Starkville Academy football.

Mckenzie, a junior, had served as starting quarterback Briggs Bennett's backup the past two years. This offseason, however, Mckenzie moved to wide receiver. Now, he is helping the Volunteers win in

other ways.

Like Friday night, where he and Bennett, once battling for playing time, connected for two touchdowns in Starkville Academy's 30-3 win over Leake Academy to improve to 3-0 on the season.

"We've been playing together since we were in seventh grade," Bennett said of Mckenzie. "Big target and I love throwing to

him because he can just go up and get it."

Mckenzie scored SA's last two touchdowns of the game, the first a 36-yard touchdown with 18 seconds left in the first half to give the Vols a commanding 24-3 lead. Just for good measure, Mckenzie, who also had an interception on defense, added a seven-yard touchdown reception with 7:57 left in the game to give his

team a 30-3 lead following a missed extra point.

"He has embraced the position change well," Bennett said. "He loves just getting on the field and playing. He's on defense making plays, too. A big game out of him."

Bennett added an 11-yard rushing touchdown just three plays into the game to give SA a 7-0 lead, and also hit Creed Pierce for a 21-yard score,

after the ball was tipped by a Leake defender.

"Our offense really stepped up this week," Starkville Academy head coach Chase Nicholson said. "They made plays and did what they were supposed to do."

Friday marked the lowest output allowed by SA's defense this season and second straight game scoring 30-plus points after scoring 39 last week in

a win over Escambia Academy (Atmore, Alabama).

"I am happy for these guys because I see the smiles on their faces, the excitement," Nicholson said of his team's strong start to the season. "But we know come Sunday it is on to next week."

The Vols finish non-district play next week with its first road game of the season at Carroll Academy.

## Starkville

Continued from Page 1B

line. Out of nowhere, he escaped defenders, pulling off a 31-yard scramble for a first down and then some.

However, that kickoff return and a fumble recovery on a botched snap from Noxubee County (0-1) late in the first quarter is what made the difference at the end of the night.

"We came out playing our type of football, offensively and defensively," Noxubee County head coach Teddy Young said. "Then, we had some self-inflicted wounds. With a great program like Starkville, you can not give them opportunities and we gave them opportunities."

Tigers quarterback Kamaro Taylor showcased his off-season work well, bouncing off defenders and making passes in traffic and tight spaces.

Starkville, however, proved to be too much at the end of

the night, making an important statement out of the gates for the rest of Mississippi to see.

"Everybody knew the message from the beginning of the game," Petty said. "Play hard, don't give up, stay playing physical and I think that's what we did."

### Starkville 49, Noxubee County 18

Noxubee County (0-1)	12	0	6	0	-18
Starkville (1-0)	13	29	7	0	-49
<b>First quarter</b>					
NC - Dequadrion Welch 79 pass Kamaro Taylor (kick failed), clock 8:01					
NC - Martavius Wicks 61 run (kick failed), clock 4:28					
S - A'Braylen Jenkins 80 kickoff return (Ja Cori Gallegos kick), clock 4:15					
S - Courtland Cooper 4 run (kick failed), clock 1:16					
<b>Second quarter</b>					
S - Braylon Burnside 11 pass from Trey Petty (Jay Stevenson 2-point conversion), clock 10:47					
S - Burnside 20 pass from Petty (Gallegos kick), clock 4:14					
S - Stevenson 18 run (Gallegos kick), clock 1:23					
S - Petty 8 run (Gallegos kick), clock 0:00					
<b>Third quarter</b>					
S - Cooper 82 run (Gallegos kick), clock 7:23					
NC - Jaylen King 61 pass from Taylor (two-point conversion failed), clock 4:37					

## West Point

Continued from Page 1B

a little bit near the end. There was self-inflicted stuff on both sides of the ball, but I was proud of how we flew around. We just have to do a better job when bad things happen to combat that and not let it roll over."

Part of the problem for the Green Wave was containing the play of Wildcat quarterback Hunt. His opening drive touchdown was his only score of the night, but again and again his patience and ability to extend plays got both chunk plays and key third-down conversions for his team.

Last season, as a sophomore, there were times when Hunt was still getting used to the role, but he's evolved into a confident leader under center and a state champion, all before the start of his junior year.

"He's always had the talent, we just had to settle him

down a little," Shorter said of his quarterback's growth. "He's grown up and he played a heck of a football game. He still made a couple mistakes tonight, but we played against a good football team and he did some great things. He's only going to get better as the season goes, so we're really confident with him."

For the Green Wave it's a disappointing 0-1 start, but it's only the start for a team with a lot of talent. Chambless knows a thing or two about winning, and more than anything that sometimes it takes learning from nights like Friday night to grow and get better with the rest of the season ahead of you. And with a date at home against Starkville next Friday they've got to dust themselves off and get ready for another difficult non-district test.

"That's our goal, get better

every week and take the good from this game," Chambless said. "We have to try to avoid the bad next week. We've got a gauntlet so we have to keep these guys positive, keep the community positive. We knew what we had coming in and how far we have to go, and this group is committed to getting better going into district play. They know they need to be ready to roll."

### Louisville 35, West Point 13

Louisville (1-0)	7	0	21	7	-35
West Point (0-1)	7	6	0	0	-13
<b>First quarter</b>					
L - Jykevious Goss 40 pass from Xavier Hunt (Cedrick Hunt kick), clock 10:22					
WP - Quinterrion Tillman-Evans 20 pass from Kaleb Dison (Drake Stafford kick), clock 1:49					
<b>Second quarter</b>					
WP - Braylon Hodges 24 fumble return (kick no good), clock 0:59					
<b>Third quarter</b>					
L - Kendon Sanders 2 run (Hunt kick), clock 7:43					
L - Xzaron Haynes 12 run (Hunt kick), clock 3:28					
L - TayQuon McKinney 33 fumble return (Hunt kick), clock 0:55					
<b>Fourth quarter</b>					
L - Sanders 3 run (Hunt kick), clock 3:23					

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Stephon Wynn Jr.'s 'dream plan' changed. He's learned to take it all in stride.

BY MICHAEL KATZ

Northwest Mississippi Daily Journal

OXFORD — The plan he set out for out of high school deviated strongly from the final roadmap Ole Miss defensive tackle Stephon Wynn Jr. ended up following.

He will be the first to admit that it took time to come to grips with the changing of his destinations and goals. But now that he's walking his current path, he realizes it was all part of something bigger.

Wynn was a four-star recruit coming out of the famed IMG Academy. He was a top-100 prospect in the 2018 class according to 247Sports; his No.

74 national composite ranking was a few spots behind former Ole Miss star quarterback Matt Corral, who was ranked 63rd in the class. Wynn committed to Alabama out of high school.

The plan, Wynn said, was what all Crimson Tide players envisioned when they signed with the powerhouse — play a few years in college and get that first NFL contract. That isn't how things went for Wynn, however. Over his four seasons in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Wynn made 16 total tackles over 21 games and did not start a contest. He was stuck behind defensive line stars like Christian Barmore, Phidarian

Mathis and Byron Young, each of whom has since gone on to become an NFL Draft pick.

Wynn transferred to Nebraska for the 2022 season and played in all 12 games, finishing the season with 22 tackles; he did not start a game with the Cornhuskers. He entered the transfer portal once again in April and transferred to Ole Miss in May, reuniting with former Alabama and current Ole Miss defensive coordinator Pete Golding.

"Everybody, coming out of high school was like 'I'm going to Alabama, I'm going to be three-and-out and go to the league.' That is your dream

plan. But in reality, you can't control some of the factors that go into it," Wynn said. "So, one of the main things for me was just growing and learning that I can only control what I can control, and not to be down on myself because I'm in college for my sixth year. Maybe this is what God has in plan for me."

Wynn, a senior, figures to play a crucial role up front for Golding and the Rebels in 2023, whose defensive line depth figures to be among the defense's strengths. The Rebels return senior ends Cedric Johnson and Jared Ivey and senior tackle J.J. Pegues and added Wynn, NC State tackle Josh

Harris and Georgia Tech tackle Akelo Stone, among others. When he entered the portal for the second time, Golding reached out, Wynn said, and it "just seemed like the perfect opportunity."

"I don't know what His plan is for me, so all I can do every day is just make the best of every opportunity that He gives me. And that's really how I grew," Wynn said. "Because at first, it was definitely difficult just being like, 'Dang, this is not how I thought college would be.' So, just relying on God and knowing that He has a plan, that made it very much easy."

## MISSISSIPPI STATE TRACK AND FIELD

# Former Bulldog Arop qualifies for 800-meter final at World Championships

BY ALEX MURPHY

amurphy@cdispatch.com

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Former Mississippi State track and field athlete Marco Arop has qualified for his third 800-meter final at the World Athletics Championships in Hungary after advancing through the semifinals on Thursday.

Going into the final, Arop clocked the fourth-fastest time of any runner in the event, and has the opportunity to become the first Canadian male to win gold at Worlds.

"I felt great," Arop said in Thursday's press release. "The first 200m was a little quick, but I didn't really feel it so I just decided to carry it all the way. I feel like I've had this chance so many times and I haven't been able to get it quite right. I think I'm in the best shape of my life right now, so hopefully everything just works out."

Arop earned a bronze medal last year, becoming just the second person in Canadian history to medal in the 800-meter at Worlds.



Arop

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# NIL, collectives are 'more important than anything else nowadays', Lane Kiffin says

BY MICHAEL KATZ

Northwest Mississippi Daily Journal

OXFORD — College sports were forever changed when it became legal for athletes to profit off their name, image and likeness (NIL) starting in 2021.

Ole Miss head coach Lane Kiffin's thoughts on NIL have long been at the forefront of the national conversation — that it was going to essentially become an arm's race to sign marquee players and that it would be in correlation with the amount of NIL funding available.

Ole Miss' donors have received Kiffin's message loud and clear.

Monday was the first day of the Grove Collective's Grove Collection Week, and the collective raised a whopping \$1.7 million on the first day of its drive, according to On3.

The Grove Collective "harness(es) the collective resources of the alumni and supporters of Ole Miss, and its alumni-related businesses" and pays student-athletes in exchange for their name, image and likeness. Grove Collection Week runs through Aug. 25. Per On3, the goal is to raise \$3 million.

Kiffin was asked Tuesday how encouraged he was by the fundraising efforts. The Rebels' fourth-year head coach did not hold back when discussing the importance.

"It's been awesome, what the collective's done, what (Grove Collective executive director) Walker Jones has done and what the donors have done," Kiffin said. "I mentioned it yesterday, I ... feel like Ole Miss is kind of like the

Green Bay Packers of college football, especially the SEC. Not the biggest town, not the most alumni. And to see them come together like they have really kind of makes me think of Green Bay and how it's like shareholders owning the team. And I said it yesterday, without that, we're not going anywhere. I don't care how great of assistant coaches you hire, who your head coach is, any of that. ... That's why I took a lot of heat, but a couple years ago when I said NIL and getting a collective done right and funded properly is way more important than anything else nowadays. And, it is. More important than the size of the weight rooms and size of stadiums and how many Heisman Trophies you have.

"I don't think I'm like a wizard but, if you didn't see that coming — that 17, 18-year-olds were going to make decisions and, once salaries were included, that that was going to be the No. 1 factor? Then you kind of missed the boat on that. So, now we're seeing it, and everyone's seeing it and talking about it but, we've been on this for a couple years. And to see our fans and donors respond like that is awesome because ... we wouldn't go anywhere, and you would not be enjoying going to games if this wasn't in place."

### Quarterback update

Kiffin told reporters all the quarterbacks performed well during Saturday's scrimmage. The headliners of that group — junior Jaxson Dart and senior Oklahoma State transfer Spencer

Sanders — each played well but "made a significant play they would want to take back," Kiffin said.

Dart started 12 games for the Rebels in 2022 after transferring from USC. Sanders has 41 starts under his belt and was first-team All-Big 12 for the Cowboys in 2021.

Kiffin has not yet announced who will start Sept. 2 against Mercer.

"I thought the week before defense in general had a really good Saturday. I thought this Saturday the offense did in the passing and running game. Much more points, much more yards, higher average per carry," Kiffin said. "... I think we're in a great position of multiple guys (at quarterback) that could go in the game and help us win."

### All-SEC Coaches Team announced

Another day, another honor for Ole Miss star sophomore running back Quinshon Judkins.

Judkins was preseason named first-team All-SEC by the league's coaches Tuesday. He was named a preseason first-team all-conference pick by the league's media earlier in the summer and was selected a preseason first-team All-American by the AP on Monday. Judkins ran for a school-record 1,567 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2022.

Senior tight end Caden Prieskorn, junior tight end Michael Trigg, senior offensive lineman Jeremy James, sophomore tackle Micah Pettus and senior defensive end Jared Ivey were all third-team picks by the league's coaches.

OUTDOORS FEATURE

# Clay classic event raises more than \$40,000 for scouting

BY KEVIN TATE  
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal

More than 200 shooters took part in the 29th annual Boy Scout Clay Classic at Camp Yocona last weekend. Organizers found this year's participation up 19 percent over last year.

It raised net proceeds of almost \$40,000. That money goes to fund camp scholarships, making sure every Scout in the area served by the local council who wants to attend summer camp has the opportunity to go.

The event is competed by teams in three different

divisions. Each division recognizes a champion and a runner up. The best individual shooter in each division is recognized as top gun, and the best overall female shooter is recognized as well.

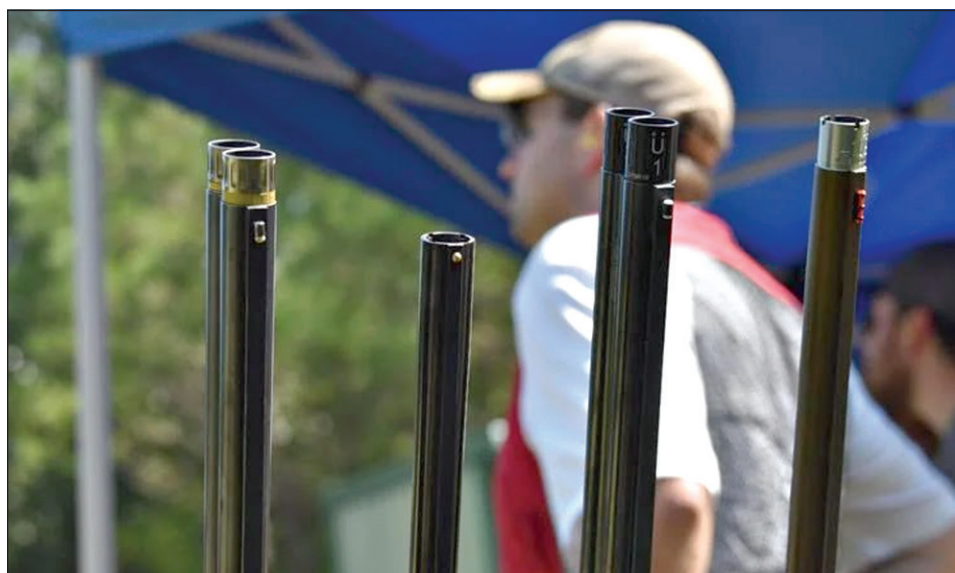
**Corporate Division**  
- 100 rounds per shooter, 400 rounds per team  
Champion: Cash Properties - 365/400  
Runner Up: Funky's - 356/400  
Top Gun: Gary Holcomb (Funky's) 96/100

**Elite Eagle Division**  
- 60 rounds per shooter, 120 rounds per team

Champion: North Mississippi Health Services Team 1 - 112  
Runner Up: Cash Properties - 108  
Top Gun: Jackson Wagges (NMHS#1) - 60/60

**Clay Classic Division**  
Champion: AAA Lawn - 357/400  
Runner Up: Cole's Guns & Ammo - 352/400  
Top Gun: Curtis Hilt (AAA Lawn) - 94/100 (tie for Top Gun with Howell Palmer settled on scorecard)

Top Female Shooter: Kristi Crawford - 85/100



Kevin Tate/Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal  
A competitor looks on during last weekend's Boy Scout Clay Classic in Randolph. The event raised more than \$40,000 for scholarships.

OUTDOORS COLUMN

# Knowing when to move and when to freeze is an art

The Old Man rose from the kitchen table with some difficulty, getting up in stages that unfolded, like a carpenter's ruler, one section at a time.

He straightened his back gradually, downing the last of his coffee and checking three sections of



Kevin Tate

the paper along the way. Though I never heard him complain, I could see he had what he'd have termed, "a hitch in his git-along."

I waited for him to shuffle through the door, then passed him as he barely pattered forward on the way to connect the boat and

trailer to the truck. I backed the truck into position, then went around to the bumper to finish the job. The Old Man had arrived to stand between bumper and bow as well by now, inspecting my work as it went.

When I dropped the tongue and hitch onto the trailer ball, the red wasps that had made the hitch's underside their home since we'd used it last erupted to lodge their protest. As I took two quick steps

backward and was turning to flee, the Old Man hopped from the ground into the truck bed and over the rail on the driver's side in three quick bounds, passing me midway through and leading me by a truck length once we were 40 yards away. I'd been stung four times, twice on each hand, but the Old Man had sustained not a scratch. I held my swelling fingers up for our mutual inspection.

"There's some medicine for

that in the house," he said, and headed that way, shuffling in tiny, foot-dragging steps.

"Where's that speed you just showed off now?" I asked through gritted teeth.

"I have to save that up," he said. "I don't have enough to spare on non-emergencies. I'm not as spry as I once was, but I'm as spry once as I ever was."

Kevin Tate is the outdoors writer for the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

# Analysis: It's been a blast, but Ohtani's elbow injury shows limits of 2-way stardom

BY DAVID BRANDT  
Associated Press Baseball Writer

The two-way baseball superstardom of Shohei Ohtani these past three seasons has been nothing short of absurd. Tape-measure homers on the regular. Fastballs that hovered around 100 mph. Sometimes, just a few minutes apart. In a sports world littered with questionable hyperbole, Ohtani's on-field heroics lived up to every bit of the hype. It's why there was a palpable sense of melancholy around the sport after the Los Angeles Angels announced that the 29-year-old Japanese sensation has a torn ligament in his elbow and won't pitch again this season.

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In a sports world littered with questionable hyperbole, Ohtani's on-field heroics lived up to every bit of the hype. It's why there was a palpable sense of melancholy around the sport after the Los Angeles Angels announced that the 29-year-old Japanese sensation has a torn

ligament in his elbow and won't pitch again this season.

Ohtani planned to seek a second opinion before deciding if he'd have Tommy John surgery for the second time.

"A tough day for him," Angels general manager Perry Minasian said when the news broke. "Tough day for all of us."

In retrospect, the absurdity of Ohtani's performances and ability was only matched by the absurdity to think it could continue forever. There's a reason the list of two-way baseball superstars is basically a two-man list: Babe Ruth and Ohtani.

Even Ruth didn't do the two-way thing for long, and that was more than 100 years ago. The Babe was a legit pitcher and hitter in both 1918 and 1919 before becoming a full-time hitter, swatting 714 homers.

Still, with every highlight from the strapping 6-foot-4, 210-pound Ohtani, every effortless double off the wall, every overpowering strikeout, it felt like the limits of human performance didn't apply. Last month, Ohtani left a game with body cramps and was right back in the lineup the next day, prompting one beat writer to write that "maybe they just updated his software overnight."

But even machines break

down eventually.

Ohtani will still be a coveted free agent this winter — maybe the most coveted in baseball history — but there's little doubt the injury could cost him millions (and millions) of dollars. Some around the sport thought he might be baseball's first \$500 million man before the injury.

Now, something in the neighborhood of Aaron Judge's \$360 million, nine-year deal seems a better baseline, though Ohtani has the added benefit of being a truly international icon. There aren't many people who can match Judge as a hitter, but Ohtani is in that discussion.

And there's also the possibility that Ohtani returns to the mound. He's certainly defied expectations before.

But here's the truth: The list of successful pitchers following multiple Tommy John surgeries is pretty short. Nathan Eovaldi, Jameson Tallion, Jason Isringhausen and Daniel Hudson are a handful who have had success. Current Dodgers star Walker Buehler — who recently had his second TJ surgery — hopes to join that group.

Anything Ohtani brings on the mound over the next several seasons has to be considered

a bonus.

It still feels like there will be several teams willing to fork over an MLB-record deal to sign Ohtani. Even if he's purely a hitter, there's every reason to believe several more 40-homer seasons are on the horizon. It's also fair to wonder if those hitting numbers could keep improving if he doesn't have to pitch once a week. Plus, Ohtani is athletic enough to be a stellar defensive outfielder, if he ever decided to go that direction.

But for at least a few days, it's understandable that baseball fans are mourning what was lost.

Ohtani is batting .304 with a league-high 44 homers, 91 RBIs, 97 runs, seven triples and 17 stolen bases. He has a 10-5 record on the mound with a 3.14 ERA and 167 strikeouts in 132 innings while giving up just 85 hits.

That might be the best five-month performance in baseball history. Hope you savored it — because it may never happen again.

A handful of two-way prospects have been drafted over the past several years, riding the Ohtani wave that a new type of player might be on the horizon. None of them

have come close to matching Ohtani's impact. Now his injury will probably have a chilling effect on other teams trying to copy that success.

The simple reasoning: If Ohtani can't handle the workload, who really can?

Through it all, Ohtani has also been a stellar example of hard work and a team-first attitude. He left the first game of Wednesday's doubleheader with his arm injury — found out he had a torn ligament between games — and then insisted on playing as a hitter in the second game.

The Angels have wholeheartedly supported Ohtani's two-way endeavors since he arrived — it's part of the why he picked Los Angeles in the first place. The results have been extraordinary. But notably, they've led to two significant arm injuries and no postseason appearances.

Now it's time for the next chapter — one that might come with a new team and a new UCL.

If this is the end of Ohtani's two-way dominance, it was quite a show.

But who knows? Betting against Ohtani seems unwise.

After all, doing the unfathomable is kind of his thing.

CALENDAR

**Saturday**  
**COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL**  
5 p.m.: Ole Miss at Florida Gulf Coast  
6 p.m.: Northwestern State at Mississippi State (StarkVegas Classic)  
**PREP VOLLEYBALL**  
TBA: Caledonia at Oxford tournament  
**PREP SOFTBALL**  
TBA: Hebron Christian at Calhoun Academy tournament  
**PREP CROSS COUNTRY**  
9 a.m.: New Hope at Eagle Claw Invitational, Eupora  
**Sunday**  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER**  
6:30 p.m.: FIU at Mississippi State  
**COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL**  
10 a.m.: Ole Miss v. Arizona State (in Ft. Myers, FL)  
1 p.m.: Louisiana-Lafayette at Mississippi State (StarkVegas Classic)  
**MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER**  
2 p.m.: The W alumni game  
**Monday**  
**PREP VOLLEYBALL**  
5 p.m.: New Hope at Fayette, varsity tri-match  
6 p.m.: New Hope at Fayette, varsity tri-match

6 p.m.: Columbus at Louisville  
**PREP GIRLS SOCCER**  
5:30 p.m.: Heritage Academy at Lamar School  
5:30 p.m.: Starkville Homeschool at Starkville Academy  
**PREP SOFTBALL**  
6 p.m.: Hebron Christian at Kemper Academy  
**ON THE AIR**  
**Saturday**  
**AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL**  
4 a.m.: FS2 — AFL: Western at Geelong  
**AUTO RACING**  
4:25 a.m.: ESPN2 — Formula 1: Practice, CM.com Circuit Zandvoort, Zandvoort, Netherlands  
7:55 a.m.: ESPN — Formula 1: Qualifying, CM.com Circuit Zandvoort, Zandvoort, Netherlands  
6:30 p.m.: NBC — NASCAR Cup Series: The Coke Zero Sugar 400, Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Beach, Fla.  
**BIG3 BASKETBALL**  
11 a.m.: CBS — BIG3 Celebrity Game: Team Webull vs. Team Price.com, Atlanta (Taped)  
Noon: CBS — Playoffs: Enemies vs. Triplets, Championship, London

**BOXING**  
9:30 p.m.: ESPN — Top Rank Main Card: Jared Anderson vs. Andriy Rudenko (Heavyweights), Tulsa, Okla.  
**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**  
1:30 p.m.: NBC — Navy vs. Notre Dame, Dublin  
2:30 p.m.: ESPN — North Alabama vs. Mercer, Montgomery, Ala.  
4:30 p.m.: CBSSN — UTEP at Jacksonville St.  
6 p.m.: ESPN — UMass at New Mexico St.  
6 p.m.: FS1 — Ohio at San Diego St.  
6:30 p.m.: ABC — SC State vs. Jackson St., Atlanta  
6:30 p.m.: SECN — Hawaii at Vanderbilt  
7 p.m.: PAC-12N — San Jose St. at Southern Cal  
8 p.m.: CBSSN — FIU at Louisiana Tech  
**COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)**  
2:30 p.m.: BTN — Creighton at Purdue  
4:30 p.m.: BTN — Big 12/Big Ten Challenge: Wisconsin vs. TCU, Minneapolis  
7 p.m.: BTN — Big 12/Big Ten Challenge: Baylor at Minnesota  
**FIBA BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**  
7:30 a.m.: ESPN2 — FIBA World Cup Group Stage: U.S. vs. New Zealand,

Group C, Manila, Philippines  
**FISHING**  
7 a.m.: FS1 — Bassmaster Elite Series: The 2023 Minn Kota Bassmaster Elite at St. Lawrence River, Clayton, N.Y.  
11 a.m.: CBSSN — SFC: The San Juan International Billfish Tournament - Day 3, Club Nautico de San Juan, Puerto Rico  
**GOLF**  
5:30 a.m.: GOLF — DP World Tour: The D+D Real Czech Masters, Third Round, Albatross Golf Resort, Prague, Czech Republic  
Noon: GOLF — PGA Tour: The TOUR Championship, Third Round, East Lake Golf Course, Atlanta  
2 p.m.: CBS — PGA Tour: The TOUR Championship, Third Round, East Lake Golf Course, Atlanta  
2 p.m.: GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Ally Challenge, Second Round, Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club, Grand Blanc Township, Mich.  
4 p.m.: GOLF — USGA: The U.S. Senior Women's Open, Third Round, Waverley CC, Portland, Ore.  
6 p.m.: GOLF — LPGA Tour: The CPK Canadian Women's Open, Third Round, Shaughnessy Golf Course, Vancouver, British Columbia  
10 p.m.: GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Albertsons Boise Open, Third

Round, Hillcrest Country Club Inc., Boise, Idaho (Taped)  
**GYMNASTICS**  
9:30 a.m.: CNBC — USGA: U.S. Championships, Men's Events - Day 1, San Jose, Calif. (Taped)  
3:30 p.m.: CNBC — USGA: U.S. Championships, Women's Events - Day 1, San Jose, Calif. (Taped)  
6 p.m.: CNBC — USGA: U.S. Championships, Men's Events - Day 2, San Jose, Calif.  
**HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**  
11 a.m.: ESPN — St. Frances (Md.) vs. Chaminade-Madonna (Fla.), Fort Lauderdale, Fla.  
3 p.m.: ESPN2 — St. John Bosco (Calif.) vs. St. Thomas Aquinas (Fla.), Fort Lauderdale, Fla.  
6 p.m.: ESPN2 — St. Joseph Prep (Pa.) vs. IMG Academy (Fla.), Ocean City, N.J.  
9 p.m.: ESPN2 — Mater Dei Catholic (Calif.) at Carlsbad (Calif.)  
**HORSE RACING**  
10:30 a.m.: FS2 — Saratoga Live: From Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
12:30 p.m.: FS1 — Saratoga Live: From Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
2 p.m.: FOX — Saratoga Live: The Travers Stakes, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
5:30 p.m.: FS2 — Saratoga Live: From Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

# Notebook

Continued from Page 1B

catch up to many of his teammates after missing offseason OTAs and spring ball with an injury. Throughout fall camp, he has been talked about by coaches, including first-year head coach Zach Arnett, as a guy who could see early playing time, either on special teams or at safety.

"The good thing is he knows football and rarely tries to make the same mistake twice," Dewhurst said. "He is learning and growing."

If Dewhurst doesn't feel comfortable sending Smith out as an opening-game starter, he could instead lean on an older guy in Corey Ellington, who has been with the program the past two years. Along with Ellington, Marcus Banks and Shawn Preston Jr. appear to be two guys who are also trending for starting safety spots, according to Dewhurst.

"Marcus has been around," he said. "A fifth-

year guy that has played a lot of football. He is ready for it to be his time... Shawn has been doing a good job. He came back for a reason to help every which way and be a leader. Those guys are going to have to be the ones to step up and lead by example and bring the other guys along."

## Deonte Anderson trending up for defensive line

Now back for his third stint in Starkville, defensive line coach David Turner feels back at home working again with the Bulldogs. More than just about anyone, Turner, who coached at Georgia Tech last season, knows just how important creating depth at the defensive line will



Anderson

be important for MSU's defense to succeed this year in the SEC.

"In this league you can't play 65-70 snaps a game up front," Turner said Thursday. "You can't do it. Hopefully they understand it is about developing depth and I got to feel good that you know what to do, let alone how to do it. But some of those younger guys are starting to come along."

By now, Turner knows what he is going to get from many of MSU's experienced linemen, like Jaden Crumedy and Nathan Pickering, who are viewed as leaders amongst the group. Turner is also gaining more trust in many of MSU's younger guys, like Deonte Anderson.

"He's definitely been better than he was in the spring," Turner said of Anderson. "That would be an improvement. By no stretch is he where he needs to be, but he is working and trending in

the right direction."

Anderson, a sophomore from Miami, Florida, has been one of fall camp's bigger standouts, and he's looking to make a big jump after limited playing time the past two years. Last year, Anderson played in five games, mostly on special teams, after redshirting in 2021.

Though Anderson still may not be ready to crack MSU's starting three-man front (though Arnett noted there could be times that the Bulldogs go to a four-man front), with Crumedy, Pickering and senior De'Monte Russell holding down spots, he still figures to be an important part of Turner's rotation this fall.

He has had some really good practices and some bad, but that's not different from anyone else," Turner said. "I'm pleased with where he is. I believe he is a little more focused and stronger. That compliments

him and where he is right now. He is starting to come along."

## Will Friend praises Percy Lewis in OL battle

New offensive line coach Will Friend had the luck of walking into a great situation at MSU, with an offensive line returning four starters from the 2022 season.



Friend

With Nick Jones (left guard), Cole Smith (center), Steven Losoya (right guard) and Cameron Jones (right tackle) already presumed to be locked into those positions, Friend has had to oversee the



Lewis

starting left tackle battle this camp between Kwatrivous Johnson and Percy Lewis.

Johnson and Lewis have both been around the block in Starkville with Lewis, a JUCO transfer, playing in 13 games for the Bulldogs last season and Johnson having made 16 starts since the 2018 season. Still, as the first game nears for MSU, Lewis is picking up some steam in an effort to crack the starting line.

"I think Percy has all kinds of talent," Friend said. "He is a really talented player. Has size, can bend and move. He's got to focus on the little things and like we tell him all the time, 'The only thing that can stop Percy, is Percy.' He is an extremely talented player that I think will continue to get better as he is here."

# Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

Wadsworth said. "The forwards are working hard at practice trying to slot shots in, but that goal was really rewarding."

The second half was much the same, though up two goals and controlling the possession battle, Mississippi State settled in after scoring a third goal within the first five minutes of the final period.

Even in cruise con-

trol, Northwestern State found no holes in the Mississippi

State defense as its one total shot was the second-fewest shots allowed in one match in MSU program history.

"We knew we were going to have more of the ball," Armstrong said. "We knew we were going to have to be patient in possession and find the right times. ... I thought the girls did a good job

of controlling the rhythm and tempo of the game at those right times."

A pair of transfers in Kennedy White and Aitana Martinez-Montoya once again found their way on to the scoresheet.

White, the 2022 Mid-American Conference Offensive Player of the Year from Bowling Green and Martinez-Montoya, a two-time Northeast Conference Offensive Player of the Year

from Fairleigh Dickinson, have accounted for three of MSU's five goals this season.

Impact transfers were a priority for Armstrong and the coaching staff in the offseason, and so far, that focus is paying dividends.

"It was super exciting," White said. "I feel like we've worked really hard in preseason and everyone has done so well, so it was nice to see ev-

erything come together. It was nice to finally get that first goal in maroon and white."

The non-conference slate doesn't get much easier for the Bulldogs this weekend, facing a 3-0 FIU team that's scored 17 goals and conceded none through its first three matches of the season.

This could be the toughest test yet for Mississippi State, but riding a hot start to 2023, the

team is ready to cool down a red-hot Panthers side.

"We'll watch the film, we'll break it down," Armstrong said. "The girls will have a much-needed day off today and then we'll come back and attack it and figure out what shape we want to play, what personnel, and have a really good training session on Saturday for a really good FIU team coming in on Sunday."

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**Lowndes County Imagination Library**

## Columbus-Lowndes Public Library celebrates 50 years

Former Library Director Chebie Bateman stands behind the desk of the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library during its dedication ceremony in 1973. This week, the library is celebrating a belated version of its 50 year anniversary by sharing its history.



Courtesy Photo

### Archives offer online timeline to share library history in county

BY ABIGAIL SIPE  
ROCHESTER  
arochester@cdispatch.com

On May 6, 1973, former Director Chebie Bateman stood behind the desk of the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library, looking out to a crowd of county residents who were excited to dedicate and open the new location on Seventh Street.

Though it has been a

few months more than 50 years since this moment, Library Director Erin Busbea said this week library staff are celebrating the anniversary.

"It's amazing to think of the way she — the way this came together," Busbea said. "They were operating in such a small building. And now, look at this, we're at 28,000 square feet. For her to have the ... plans and



Busbea

Vance-Ali

dreams she must have had going forward in this building, (it's) amazing."

Archivist Mona Vance-Ali has been compiling a timeline of the complete history of the library in the county, inspired by the 50-year-mark. She

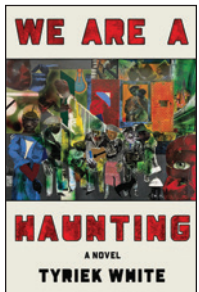
See **LIBRARY**, 7B

### BOOK TALK

## Five questions with Tyriek White

BY EMILY LINER  
Special to the Dispatch

The key to reversing the brain drain in Mississippi might just be recruiting more writers. Author Tyriek White is living proof.



Courtesy Photo

Pictured is the cover of "We Are a Haunting," Tyriek White's first novel.

White, a native New Yorker, moved to Oxford to pursue an advanced degree in creative writing. The thesis he completed for his Master's of Fine Arts became his first novel "We Are a Haunting," which was released in April to critical acclaim, including a feature on the cover of Publishers Weekly magazine.

After appearing at the Mississippi Book Festival in Jackson last weekend, White is headed to Columbus on Saturday for a reading and signing at Friendly City Books at 2:30 p.m.

"We Are a Haunting" tells the story of a Brooklyn family across three generations: Audrey, the matriarch, her daughter Key and Key's son Colly. They share a supernatural gift: seeing and talking to the dead.

While magical realism is found in a great deal of southern fiction, it feels fresh and new in the urban setting of "We Are a Haunting."

See **BOOK TALK**, 6B



Courtesy Photo

Author Tyriek White, pictured, talked with Friendly City Books owner Emily Liner about his book "We Are a Haunting" in anticipation of his visit to the Columbus bookstore on Saturday.

## Walking in the boots of Columbus Fire and Rescue



Photo by Firefighter Rae Von Reese

Capt. Damon Estes, front left, snaps an air line into place on Lifestyles Editor Abigail Rochester's mask, right, checking for seal, while Probationary Firefighter Zach Anderson looks on from behind.

### 'We have one thing in common. Help. We're here to help.'

BY ABIGAIL SIPE  
ROCHESTER  
arochester@cdispatch.com

Every day, firefighters across the country run into burning buildings to save lives. But it's not every day that a writer gets invited to walk in a firefighter's shoes — or boots.

So when Capt. Damon Estes of the Columbus Fire and Rescue invited me to run through some training with B Shift, I took him up on the offer. On Tuesday afternoon, I was in the garage of Fire Station 4, ready to suit up

and enter a room filled with smoke.

"I'm just going to be honest, this stuff can be stressful," Estes said. "You're just going to have to let me know your comfort level. It's hot, it's bulky, and you lose all your senses. ... That's one of the things we have to overcome, is dealing with all of that in a fire."

Estes reassured me I would be completely safe in the pre-prepared scenario. Then, he and Firefighter Rae Von Reese helped me to get suited up.

Reese, the only female firefighter on the shift,

helped me to put on my boots, pants, suspenders, gloves, jacket, a hood, and a mask, tightening the straps to my face. Finally, she put the bright red helmet, an instant promotion to engineer, on my head like the cherry on top.

Then, Estes helped me to put on a backpack-like air tank called a self-contained breathing apparatus. Altogether, firefighter gear weighs between 30 and 50 pounds, Estes said.

Putting it all on should take a normal firefighter less than two minutes. CFR personnel shoot for

a minute and a half. It took me at least 10.

In the drill, I would be following Probationary Firefighter Zach Anderson in a right-hand search pattern. Essentially, we would crawl in a circle around the room, running our right hands on the wall while sweeping our left legs.

"We want to try to get as big as we can, because we want to try to search as much of the room as we can at one time," Anderson said. "That means this hand is going to stay on the wall. ... This leg sweeps, because we're trying to find bodies."

After I reassured them

See **CFR**, 7B

### IN THE GARDEN WITH FELDER

## Agriculture and Forestry Museum showcases durable plants for climate

BY FELDER  
RUSHING

There's a hidden little public garden in Jackson showcasing herbs and flowers that can take any weather thrown their way.

I've been keen my entire career on promoting durable, multi-use garden



Felder Rushing

plants, especially those grown here long before we even had water hoses. You can find a few of them showcased at the Agriculture and Forestry Museum.

The sprawling museum, located just off Interstate 55 on Lakeland Drive/Hwy 25 close to

the fantastic Mississippi Children's Museum and Museum of Natural Science, features a cavernous building housing world class educational displays of artifacts from all phases of Mississippi agriculture, starting with those of Native Americans through early European settlers, bygone days of simple farm life and even a modern-day Ag Cat crop dusting plane.

Every year, tens of

thousands of school children and visitors from all over the world marvel at the simple "make do" ingenuity of those who toiled in fields and forests to make ours such a great agricultural state.

But to me the crème de la crème, sprawling across the site, are the authentic living history farm and "crossroads town" buildings from over a century ago, every hand-hewn log and sawmilled board careful-

ly marked, moved and rebuilt down to the scuff marks on door handles. During construction in the 1980s I moved the chinaberry, fig and cedar trees, and a massive "cape jasmine" gardenia, from the original farm site. They're still kicking in their new settings.

On Sept. 9, the museum will celebrate its 40th anniversary, and I will be very happy to chat with you there as I putter

See **FELDER**, 7B



Courtesy Photo

A giant Jack bean vine grows at the Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson.

## SOUTHERN GARDENING

# Recycled wheelbarrow gets new life as planter

**EDDIE SMITH**  
MSU Extension Service



Eddie Smith

Recycling objects and turning them into container planters can be fun, and it is a unique way to add visual interest to your landscape. If the object can hold soil, it can be used as a planter.

An old wheelbarrow turned into a beautiful container planting adds a whimsical, country feel to any garden space.

My friend Tim has a wheelbarrow planter in his yard. He painted the wheelbarrow a traditional dark green and placed it on an old tree stump. This means the stump was also recycled— as a planter pedestal. Its size and height provide the perfect surface for the recycled wheelbarrow planter.

Because of its height, Tim selected trailing plants to fill the wheelbarrow planter.

The leaves of creeping Jenny are small and rounded with wavy edges. They line up

opposite each other on thin, trailing stems. The circular leaves are smooth and shiny, and some say they look like a string of small coins.

Creeping Jenny's foliage ranges from lime green in part- to full-sun to soft chartreuse in shade. As it continues to grow, it will cascade over the sides of the wheelbarrow and flow down the tree stump.

In the back of the planter, Tim added Rio purslanes for a pop of color with their yellow, magenta, orange and scarlet blooms. These plants grow up to 8 inches tall and spread to 18 inches. The stems are purplish-green, and the leaves are bright green.

A tropical hibiscus is nestled in the center of the planter. Its dark green foliage and bright yellow blooms add height and beauty to the planter combination.

Here are the steps you can follow to create a beautiful



Photo by MSU Extension/Eddie Smith

Any old container that can hold soil can be recycled as a planter. This old wheelbarrow found new life sitting on a tree stump.

wheelbarrow planter of your own.

To prepare the wheelbarrow, drill drainage holes in the bottom. This is very important because too much water can cause root rot, and the plants will die.

Next, decide if you want to paint the wheelbarrow or leave it in its natural state. Painting a metal wheelbarrow helps to preserve it so it will last for

many years. This is where you can be creative and use your artistic talents.

Then, select a good bagged potting soil mix and fill the wheelbarrow with soil to about 1 inch from the top. You can make your own blend of potting soil using equal parts peat moss, compost and sand, or use a similar blend of organic ingredients.

Finally, select plants for

your new planter. Consider using filler, thriller and spiller plants.

Filler plants take up the middle space in the planter and fill out the arrangement. Coleus is a great choice as a filler plant, as its kaleidoscope of colors adds beauty and appeal.

A spiller plant's main role is to sprawl out and over the planter to soften its edges and tumble toward the ground. In addition to creeping Jenny, potato vine and verbena make good spiller plants.

Thriller plants add height and interest to a planter. Papyrus, dwarf canna lilies and hibiscus are just a few plants that can be used as thrillers in a planter.

As you can see, an old, recycled wheelbarrow can make a beautiful container planter. Consider adding one to your landscape.

*Eddie Smith is a gardening specialist and Pearl River County Coordinator with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. He is also host of the popular Southern Gardening television program.*

# SCT fundraiser show aims to uplift audiences

FROM STARKVILLE  
COMMUNITY THEATRE

Starkville Community Theatre has been staging an uplifting play aimed at reminding audiences of the beautiful things in life even as it addresses difficult topics.

"Every Brilliant Thing," written by Duncan MacMillan with Jenny Donahue, is being staged at SCT's Playhouse on Main. There were two performances on Thursday and Friday, and the show will be performed again on Sunday at 2 p.m. A fundraiser production for SCT, the show is directed by Pattye Archer and stars Elizabeth Davis Williams.

"Every Brilliant Thing" is a serious story, told in an uplifting way," said Archer, who has directed several productions for SCT. "The show's narrator shares her journey as a child with a clinically



Courtesy photo

Elizabeth Davis Williams rehearses a scene from Duncan MacMillan and Joy Donahue's play "Every Brilliant Thing," which is being staged as a fundraiser production at Starkville Community Theatre's Playhouse on Main Street.

depressed mother who attempts suicide, into an adult who also struggles with the same serious issue. As a hopeful and joyful child, she decides to make a list of 'every brilliant thing' in the world, as a gift for her mom. Throughout her

life, the list takes on new meanings – but always serves as a reminder that things get better."

"Every Brilliant Thing" is an audience-interactive production, Archer said, as the play unfolds as a conversation between Williams' character and the audience members.

"We invite them to become a part of her world and share in her joys and sadness," Archer said. "Because they are encouraged to be involved, every performance will be different."

Portraying the central character's journey has significant personal meaning, including confronting issues surrounding mental illness, Williams said.

"There is a lot of overlap between this character and me," Williams said. "Like many people in our world— 1 in 5, as a matter of fact— I, too, have personally faced

the trials of depression and anxiety. The stigma of mental illness makes it very difficult to openly discuss with others."

"However, as the character in this play develops, she realizes that the hardest things to talk about are also the most important," Williams added. "In addition to peeling back the layers of how mental illness and suicide impacts a person and their families, the playwright provides factual information on the topic which I think is vital to the play and its audience."

For Archer, directing the "powerful" production reminds her to seek the joy and beauty in life, especially with so many negative things in the world, she said. Finding that joy— even when dealing with difficult topics as suicide and mental illness— is why people should see the performance, Archer said.

"Life can be hard," Archer said. "The news can be overwhelmingly negative, but I believe there is joy and beauty everywhere you look if you open your eyes and take the time to see and feel it. When I first saw this show, I went home and bought a journal so I could create my own life. It is rare for a show to have that kind of an impact on a person. But it did on me. And I knew immediately I wanted to create the show here, and hopefully share that joy with someone else."

"I really want to encourage people to come see this show," Archer added. "I know that depression is a serious subject, and we take presenting a show on that subject very seriously. We also see value in the conversations that this show can lead to – and in the reminder that life can be brilliant."

Even with the difficult

topics it addresses, the ultimate messages of "Every Brilliant Thing" are ones of "hope, grace and gratitude," Williams said.

"We all have trials and traumas in our lives, but they don't have to define us," Williams said. "This play has been a very good reminder that there are so many things in my life and in the world. Hope is built on being able to see those 'brilliant things' around us and being willing to trust that tomorrow will be even better than today. The world is not here to make or ruin my life; it is my responsibility alone to be observant enough to see and to list those things worth living for."

Tickets for "Every Brilliant Thing" may be purchased by calling the SCT Box Office at (662) 323-6855 or by going online to <https://starkville-community-theatre.ticketleap.com/brilliant>.

# CALENDAR

## Saturday, Aug. 26

■ **Reading Railroad:** Junior Auxiliary of Starkville, Reading-2 Succeed and Friends of J.L. King are hosting the Reading Railroad at the J.L. King Center from 9-11 a.m. There will be crafts, snacks, books and a story walk.

■ **Afternoon:** Friendly City Books is hosting authors Christie Collins, Tyriek White and Ellen Ann Fentress to read and sign their work at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., respectively.

■ **Singer Songwriter Competition:** The Starkville Area Arts Council is hosting a Singer Songwriter Competition Showcase at Dave's Dark Horse Tavern from 7:30-9:30 p.m., where singers and songwriters go head-to-head for a chance to perform live at the Cotton District Arts Festival.

■ **Denim and Diamonds:** The Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum is hosting its annual fundraiser at the museum from 6-9 p.m.

## Sunday, Aug. 27

■ **"Every Brilliant Thing":** The Starkville Community Theatre will be staging a performance of the interactive show "Every Brilliant Thing" at its Main Street location at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale through the box office, by calling 662-323-6855 or online.

■ **Backpack Meals Benefit Concert:** Jason Baker, Tiffany Ferguson, Julia Huffman, Haley Luther and Garrison Walker will be performing in a benefit concert at the Starkville First United Methodist Church Connection Building at 101 West Lampkin St. at 4 p.m. Admission is free and donations will go towards providing food to Starkville school children in need.

## Monday, Aug. 28

■ **Book Tour:** Former Disney art director and children's book author Andy Harkness will be visiting the Starkville Public Library at 6 p.m. for a Book Talk and a Meet and Greet event.

## Tuesday, Aug. 29

■ **Book Tour:** Former Disney art director and children's book author Andy Harkness will be visiting the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library at 5 p.m. for a storytime session.

## Wednesday, Aug. 30

■ **Get Swept Up!** The Greater Starkville Development Partnership is hosting its annual Get Swept Up! event, where teams of volunteers and city residents clean up litter, spruce up landscaping and otherwise prepare the city for the upcoming football season from 8-11 a.m.

## Book Talk

Continued from Page 5B

White's rendering of New York is hyper-realistic in its detail, giving the reader a vivid portrait of each character's world, from the garden Audrey tends that she fears losing as she faces eviction to the department store where Key works before finding her calling as a doula to Colly's internship behind the scenes of the Museum of Modern Art.

Although White has some new writing projects in the works, he told The Dispatch in an interview that he's glad to spend more time with "We are a Haunting" as he looks forward to its paperback release next year.

"My hope is that I get to explore more of the world I've built with this novel, while also creating something larger," he said. "I won't feel bad for continuing to write the lives of working-class people with care and devotion."

This interview has been lightly edited for clarity and length.

### Why did you decide to move from New York to Mississippi? Have you gotten any surprising reactions?

I wanted the opportunity to work with Kiese Laymon. He was at the University of Mississippi at the time and I had just read most of "Heavy" in one night. I couldn't shake the feeling it gave me.

People were shocked when I told them I was moving here. Then folk were concerned. I think Mississippi conjures up a time more than a place. My family's roots are mostly in North Caroli-

na, but that isn't the Deep South. Even now, when I tell people I meet where I live now, it's a bit fun watching them process that info.

### What led to the idea of giving the main characters in "We Are a Haunting" the ability to move between the living and the dead?

The idea came from several things, but I think the most important was losing my grandmother and figuring out how to deal with the loss of a loved one. I was asking myself how to keep her with me— how to grieve and still honor her life. I kept picturing this kid who believes he can see his mother's ghost. Through their gifts, Colly and his mom interject themselves in this multigenerational project of discovery, the story of their lineage wrapped up in the history of a place.

### In addition to writing, you're also a musician. How does music influence your writing, and does your writing or reading practice influence the music you create?

What's the famous Basquiat quote? "Art is how we decorate space, music is how we decorate time." I think music in particular is such an exercise in movement and improvisation and getting the most meaning out of moments of brevity. I'm constantly reaching for that in my writing.

On the flipside, reading and writing always made me feel a part

of something bigger, like I was a part of a larger conversation with literature. For me, sampling the soul music and or the jazz riffs of our predecessors does something very similar. It's a form of intertextuality I'd like to achieve in my own music.

### I read a story that you were supposed to read "Gone with the Wind" for a class but couldn't get through it. If you got to assign a book in the same class now, what would it be and why?

I would probably assign something like "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston, which captures a similar time in post-Civil War Reconstruction America as Margaret Mitchell's work. Zora chooses to explore the lives and traditions of communities on the margins of mainstream society. Her devotion to writing about the lives of Black folk — of depicting the most vulnerable in society — for me, is a more honest representation of American life at the time.

### What are you hoping readers get out of your novel?

I hope people consider the hauntings in their own lives, the ghosts we all carry with us. Looking back as a way forward can only happen if we are honest about our history.

*Emily Liner is the owner of Friendly City Books, an independent bookstore and press in Columbus.*

# CFR

Continued from Page 5B

I was good to go, and understood how to maintain contact with the exit, Estes opened the door, allowing a wall of white smoke to roll out into the garage. Seconds later, Anderson was crawling in and I was following him.

When the wall of white hit my mask, my first impulse was to back out of the room. But then, Anderson called out to me to keep my right hand on the wall, and I saw a flash of something reflective on the back of his tank and pant leg.

When I look at my recording, it says the whole crawl only took three minutes. But it felt like I was in that room for at least 20. All I could see were corners of chairs and tables and white smoke. All I could hear was my own breathing and Anderson. And as we rounded the third corner, I couldn't tell anymore which direction we had come in from, forcing me to cling to the wall.



Photo by Firefighter Rae Von Reese

Lifestyles Editor Abigail Rochester and Probationary Firefighter Zach Anderson emerge from a smoky room, set up in Fire Station 4 as a training simulation.

My ears were ringing when I left the room, my face was red and I felt like I had run a marathon. B Shift immediately congratulated me, while I asked if they could help me out of the mask as quickly as possible, and if we could just sit down and talk for a minute as I recovered.

Quickly, the conversation shifted to why B Shift had gotten into

firefighting. For Anderson, it was community service and finding a job he loved.

"Firefighting is something I've always wanted to do," Anderson said. "... I moved down here, and I owned a trucking company, but I didn't really enjoy doing that kind of work. And for me personally, I wanted to find a way I could serve my community."



Photo by Abigail Sipe Rochester/Dispatch Staff

Capt. Damon Estes demonstrates the proper form for searching a room using a wall as a guide back to the exit, when not attached to a hose or other rescue line.

Several firefighters voiced similar feelings about community service as a reason to become a firefighter. But firefighter Josh Westbrook also pointed out to me that firefighting is not always glamorous, like it is on television and that nobody on B Shift is just a firefighter.

Around the room were firefighters who worked cutting lawns, on bouncy

houses, on air conditioning units, as carpenters, security guards, maintenance men, mechanics or as personal trainers in their downtime. Otherwise they would be "below the poverty line," Westbrook said.

"All of us have our own story of why we do what we do, but ultimately, while we all have different tools in our trade, we have one thing

in common," Westbrook said. "Help. We're here to help."

Estes also reminded me CFR's jobs encompass much more than just fires. Estes said this has been reduced by budget cuts, but CFR responds to help citizens with business inspections, search and rescue operations, sonar searches, car accidents and providing other emergency medical services.

Despite budget cuts, second jobs and running into literal fires, several members of B Shift expressed how much trust they put in each other. Estes even compared the shift to blood relatives.

"We work every third day, 24 hours," Estes said. "Over a 30-year time period, you will spend — if you don't work any overtime — you will spend 10 years of your life ... at a fire station. This does become your second family. There's just no way around it."

# Library

Continued from Page 5B

told The Dispatch her timeline goes back to the earliest mention of a library in the county in 1888.

"The first mention of a public library is in 1888, in the armory," Vance-Ali said. "Basically, when the city said they would help contribute to the funding of building the library, they said if you build this, you have to put the library in it."

Vance-Ali said library usage was restricted based on race, and also could have been restricted in access based on socioeconomic status, which changes the definition of "public library." The library would not be fully accessible to all until after integration.

In 1934, Vance-Ali said the first semblance of the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library as it currently exists emerged as a part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Program, when the Civil Works Administration and Federal Emergency Relief Administration reopened a public library in a room adjacent to the jail in the courthouse.

In the 1940s, the library moved into the Brickell House in the



Courtesy Photo

Former Library Director Chebie Bateman stands in front of the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library building, which would eventually be renamed in her honor in 1995. Library Archivist Mona Vance-Ali shared an abbreviated version of the library's history with The Dispatch this week to celebrate 50 years of service, though a full timeline of the library's presence in the community can be found at the CLPLS website.

1940s. Then, in February 1961, the library moved to the former S.D. Lee High band room, a two-room building next to the current building. Soon, the too-small library would be packed with books.

But the library reached a turning point when Chebie Bateman was also hired in 1960 as the library's sole librarian, and then became the library's director, Vance-Ali said.

"(Bateman) takes

pictures to show what's going on," Vance-Ali said. "They were essentially storing books in their bathroom. You've got the toilet and you've got your books."

Bateman started campaigning for funding for a new building in 1967, asking for federal funds, private funds and city funds for the Seventh Street location. Ground was broken on the building in 1971, and by 1973, the new library building celebrated its dedication and opening.

"We wouldn't have this building (without her)," Vance-Ali said. "We wouldn't have as

advanced of a library as we have. We are a jewel in this state.

The building was renamed the "Chebie G. Bateman Building" on May 21, 1995. Bateman retired in 2004 and passed away in 2010. But since then, the library has continued to grow thanks to Bateman's legacy.

Busbea said the library is "looking good for 50," as it currently hosts children's services, teen services, adult services, a local history department with an archive room, reference services, along with resume help and other services.

"I don't think the public library is going anywhere," Busbea said. "... We're not just books, we're not just computers. I feel like there's always going to be a need. The public library as a whole has always been one to kind of adapt to the changes. We adapt to the changes or we even think ahead of the changes."

Busbea said the library plans to host a public event celebrating the 50th anniversary in the coming months. For a more complete timeline of library history, you can visit <https://www.lowndeslibrary.com/50-years-of-clpls>.

# Felder

Continued from Page 5B

around all day in the newly refurbished Herb and Heirloom Plants Garden and give a talk on them at noon.

With encouragement from legendary Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Buck Ross and guidance from the late Madelene Hill, the South's top authority on growing historic medicinal and culinary herbs, a group of volunteers created the quaint herb garden behind the 1920s-era doctor's office.

Now maintained by specially trained Master Gardeners, the historic garden has been refurbished, its arbors, fence, raised beds and tool shed, which was built to resemble an old outhouse, repaired, and plants consolidated to make sense to modern day visitors.

Without giving too much away about the various traditional medicinal herbs, there is a small new potager-style kitchen garden featuring common, easily grown southern cuisine potherbs and edible flowers. It includes oregano, basil, rosemary, garlic, lemon grass,



Courtesy Photo

A small potager herb garden grows in a raised box, featuring common, easily grown southern potherbs.

spicy peppers, sage, thyme, garlic, chives, perennial Mexican tarragon, kale, violas, parsley, dill and more. Various mints and their relatives have been moved to their own bed where they can co-mingle freely.

Just outside the herb garden's picket fence is the first installment of a new Mississippi Heritage Garden for showing off antique roses and other shrubs, perennials, bulbs and seasonal annuals which have been grown and shared between gardeners of all backgrounds for many decades.

Think orange daylily, the most grown edible pass-along plant on Earth. There are antique roses, iris, milk-and-wine lily, vitex, basil, burgundy okra, heirloom daffodils, four o'clocks, rose of Sharon, tapioca/cassava, authentic tea camellia, canna, purple queen tradescantia, hardy succulents and flowering annuals including cockscomb, touch-me-not, and larkspur, and giant "Jack bean" vine... Most were donated by gardeners, and the old tool shed is being converted into a display of still-useful antique tools, some from my own great-grandmother's garden shed.

If you get a chance, visit that Saturday and let's chat. Any other time of the year, if you have a group interested in herbs and antique plants, give a heads up and arrange for me or Master Gardeners to meet you there!

*Felder Rushing is a Mississippi author, columnist, and host of the "Gestalt Gardener" on MPB Think Radio. Email gardening questions to [rushingfelder@yahoo.com](mailto:rushingfelder@yahoo.com).*

## Lowndes County Imagination Library

### Have **FREE** children's books delivered directly to your mailbox!

The Lowndes County Imagination Library mails a monthly **FREE** book to children under 5 in Lowndes County! Children can be registered at any time between **birth and 5 years old**. Books are high quality and include characters your kids know!

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The Lowndes County Imagination Library is funded through corporate grants, business sponsorships, and donations from community members and organizations. It is **ALWAYS** free for participants. Please consider supporting the Imagination Library in its mission of providing books to children and literacy training to guardians. It only takes \$25 to provide a child in Lowndes County with 12 books over the course of a year and having books in the home is one of the most influential factors in a student's long-term academic success. For more information on the impact your Imagination Library affiliate is having on Lowndes County, visit [lowndesil.org](http://lowndesil.org). We are creating opportunities for children, one free book at a time!

**Email us at [books@cdspatch.com](mailto:books@cdspatch.com) or call us at 662-328-2424 if you have questions or trouble signing up!**

Sponsored locally by:

Contact us at  
**The Commercial Dispatch,**  
 Attn. Imagination Library  
 P.O. Box 511,  
 Columbus, MS 39703  
 662-238-2424

# Scene & Seen

THE DISPATCH ■ CDISPATCH.COM  
 ■ SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 26-27, 2023 ■ 8B



Ruhi and Nisarg Patel, Pallavi Biswas, Kristina, Niyat, Dipti and Jagdish Patel



Kayla, Nayan, Kristina, Prakash and Kareena Patel

## A WEDDING TO REMEMBER

Between Aug. 16-19, Kristina Patel and Niyat Patel each celebrated six events leading up to their wedding at the Trotter Center on Aug. 19. The couple chose to get married there, as Kristina's parents had been married there 32 years prior, and she wore her mother's wedding sari during the Baraat in honor of her. (Courtesy Photos)



Breana Gardner, Divya Patel, Mary Place, Maggie Proffitt, Krisna Patel, Charity Donaldson, Jessica Patel, Priya Patel and Pallavi Biswas



Jay, Kristina and Villas (Julie) Patel



Aakash, Dylan, Kaden, Jay, Villas (Julie) and Akhil Patel, Krishan Kumar



Kristina and Niyat Patel



Lori Froidley and Christian Ewing



John Webb, Vivian and Jordy Miller

## MOTHER GOOSE STORYTIME

On Thursday morning, the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library hosted storytime with Mother Goose for young children to get excited about reading, led by Children's Librarian Edwina Williams (in character as Mother Goose).

If you want your event featured in Scene & Seen, let us know! Email [arochester@cdispach.com](mailto:arochester@cdispach.com).



Kasia and Angelina Jankowski



Anna and Molly Prather



Mother Goose (Edwina Williams) and Clyde Hollis



Janice Hollis and Laney Willcutts

## LEGALS

CALL US: 662-328-2424

**Legal Notices**  
IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EMMETT SHELTON, JR., DECEASED

CORREAN F. EDWARDS, EXECUTOR

NO. 2023-0020-PDE

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

To: Any and all unknown heirs-at-law of Emmett Shelton, Jr., deceased, and to any and all persons claiming to be heirs-at-law of Emmett Shelton, Jr.; and any and all unknown heirs-at-law of Jean Shelton, deceased, and to any and all persons claiming to be heirs-at-law of Jean Shelton; and any and all unknown heirs-at-law of Billy Lee Shelton, deceased, and to any and all persons claiming to be heirs-at-law of Billy Lee Shelton.

You have been made a respondent in the Amended Petition in this Court by Corrae F. Edwards, Executor, seeking a Probate of Will in Solemn Form in the Matter of the Estate of Emmett Shelton, Jr., deceased.

You are summoned to appear and represent your interests against the Amended Petition before the Honorable Paula Drungole-Ellis, Chancellor of the 14th Chancery District, at 9:30 A.M. on the 24th day of October, 2023, in the Chancery Courtroom of the Lowndes County Courthouse in Columbus, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear your interest in this matter will not be considered.

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

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court on this the 22nd day of August, 2023.

CINDY GOODE, CLERK  
CHANCERY COURT OF LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
By: /s/ Tina Fisher

PUBLISH: 8/26, 9/2 & 9/9/2023

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF IRENE GREEN JOHNSON, DECEASED

ELLA MAE JOHNSON PETITIONER

CAUSE NO.: 2023-0834-F

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF LOWNDES

TO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS-AT-LAW OF IRENE GREEN JOHNSON, DECEASED

You have been made a respondent in the Petition to Determine Heirs file with the Court by ELLA MAE JOHNSON seeking a judicial determination of the heirs-at-law of IRENE GREEN JOHNSON.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 a.m. on the 19th day of September 2023, at the Lowndes County Chancery Courthouse, Columbus, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the things demanded in the petition.

You are not required to file an answer or to her pleading but may do so if you desire.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS COURT, this the 31ST day of July, 2023.

(SEAL)  
/s/ Cindy E. Goods, Chancery Clerk  
Chancery Clerk of Lowndes County  
/s/Shantrell W. Granderson, D.C.

Easley Law Firm  
P.O. Box 1472  
Columbus, MS 39703  
Tele: (662)327-1000  
MSB No. 5284  
Email: chuckedasleyattorney@gmail.com

PUBLISH: 8/12, 8/19 & 8/26/2023

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

S. KEITH HOLTON, PLLC d/b/a MAGNOLIA OUTPATIENT REHAB PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

LORETHA DAVIS DEFENDANT

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2022-0510-CV2

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: LORETHA DAVIS  
Last Known Post Office Address: 127 Pinecrest Circle Columbus, MS 39702

You have been named as a Defendant in a Complaint on Open Account filed in this Court by S. Keith Holton, PLLC d/b/a Magnolia Outpatient Rehab seeking judgment against you for an amount owed on goods and services provided to you. There are no other Defendants in this matter other than you.

You are required to mail or hand deliver a written response to the Complaint on Open Account filed against you in this action to Christopher D. Hemphill, Attorney for the Plaintiff, whose mailing Post Office Drawer 1426, Columbus,

## Legal Notices

Mississippi, 39703, and whose street address is 214 5th Street South, Columbus, Mississippi, 39701.

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT SO MAILED OR DELIVERED, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT.

You must also file the original of your Response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 9th day of August 2023.

(SEAL)

HON. TERESA BARKSDALE  
LOWNDES COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK  
POST OFFICE BOX 31  
COLUMBUS, MS 39703

BY: /s/ Taneisha Malone, D.C.

PUBLISH: 8/12, 8/19 & 8/26/2023

**EMPLOYMENT**  
CALL US: 662-328-2424

## General Help Wanted

**PROCESS ENGINEER (ANDRITZ Fabrics & Rolls Inc.; Starkville, MS):** review, modify, approve, issue pdct design info to manuf. dept. inclu. calc. of pdct sizing. Min req: Bach degree in Indus'l Eng'g, Mech'l Eng'g, Eng'g, or rel degree & 2 yrs of exp in Lean Manufacturing or textile manufacturing; must have min. Six sigma green belt cert. +add'l reqs. <10% travel req (primarily domestic w/possibility of intr'l). Send res to: Suzanne Fulton, HR, ANDRITZ Inc. 13560 Morris Rd, Ste 100W, Alpharetta, GA, 30004. Ref: 00045701. An EOE.

Find your dream job in the classifieds.

**RENTALS**  
ADS STARTING AT \$25

## Apts For Rent: Other

**COLEMAN RENTALS**  
TOWNHOUSES & APARTMENTS

1 BEDROOM  
2 BEDROOMS  
3 BEDROOMS

LEASE, DEPOSIT AND CREDIT CHECK

662-329-2323

2411 HWY 45 N  
COLUMBUS, MS

**VIP Rentals**  
Apartments & Houses

1 Bedrooms  
2 Bedrooms  
3 Bedrooms

Furnished & Unfurnished

1, 2, & 3 Baths  
Lease, Deposit & Credit Check

viceinvestments.com  
327-8555

**Houses For Rent: South**

320 12th Ave S 2BR/1BA livingroom & kitchen. Section 8 vouchers accepted. Applicants need landlord references. For more info call 662-425-4489 or 662-425-4491.

## Houses For Sale: North

**OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 • 2:00 - 4:00**



1223 2ND AVENUE N. - COLUMBUS, MS  
\$289,900.00 3 BEDROOMS, 2.5 BATHROOMS

**TERRELL THOMAS, BROKER/REALTOR®**  
Cell: 662-251-7368  
Office: 662-661-5133  
terrellthomas.goldentriangle@yahoo.com

**REGENT REAL ESTATE GROUP**  
145 CHRISTOPHER RD.

## Mobile Homes for Rent

**2 BR MOBILE HOME**  
\$400/month. \$400 dep. Between West Point & Columbus on Hwy. 50. Call 662-364-0105.

**REAL ESTATE**  
ADS STARTING AT \$25

## Lots & Acreage

**LOTS FOR SALE:**  
Good/Bad Credit as low as 50% down & payments as low as \$499/mo. Eaton Land, 662-361-7711.

**GARAGE SALES**  
TWO FREE SIGNS

## Estate Sales

**2263 Ridge Road**  
Saturday, Sept 2nd from 8am to noon. Lots of ladies clothing, bedding, Christmas items and more.

**Brookville Estate Sale**  
14103 East Main St Brookville, MS  
Sun. Sept. 3, 1pm-4  
Mon. Sept. 4, 9am-3  
Tues. Sept. 5, 9am-3

Selling the Living Estate of Judy Bolin. It's a nice old Victorian house with lots of items and yard full of great items. We are starting on Sunday afternoon on this one and running Labor Day and Tuesday after.

Antique furniture, wrought iron patio furniture, lg. concrete planters, figural fountain, porch rockers, fern and plant stands, old dinner bell, server, dining room suite, teacart, Empire coffee table, old Christmas items, MCM chairs, mirrors, lamps, Nikko Christmas china, coming ware, old books, Fostoria Jamestown goblets, old cast iron train & cars, Whitehall glasses, freezer, refrigerator, baskets, rugs, pottery, porcelains, dishes, kitchen items, nice brass & glass coffee table & end tables, sofas, recliners, lift chair, artwork, Dickens Villages, highboy, wicker, chest, Noritake Normandy, 1847 Rogers Bros. Heritage flatware, books, hundreds of items. Over 300 photos @www.estatesale.net Parking in big area east of home. Stewart's Antique & Estate Sales Benny Shelton Columbus, MS 662-251-1515

**UPSCALE SHERWOOD FOREST LIVING ESTATE SALE of ED BLACK**  
203 Maid Marion Starkville, MS 39759

Friday, August 25th 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday, August 26th 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday, August 27th 12 Noon - 3:00 p.m.

See pictures on http://www.estatesales.net

WALKER ESTATE SALES, LLC

For more info contact Joyce Walker @ (662) 361-0000.

**GARAGE SALE**  
Advertise your sale in classifieds for the best results.

## Estate Sales

**Puls Living Estate Sale**  
Fabulous Estate Sale  
24 Par Avenue  
Columbus, MS 39701  
Fri. Aug. 25, 9am-3pm  
Sat. Aug. 26, 9am-3pm  
Sun. Aug. 27, 1pm-4pm

Selling the Living Estate of Florence Hardin Puls. Outstanding collection including Georgian secretary, linen press, Empire chest, fine poster bed, mahogany server, Japanese Imari, Chinese blue and white porcelains, drop-leaf tables, antique mirrors, Staffordshire, antique books, Belgium tapestry, Chippendale camel back sofa, antique Queen Anne shell crest dining chairs, walnut banquet table, walnut fern stands, Dresden figures, old wicker, antique French ladies' desk, painted French console table, pair of fine French mirrors, beautiful artwork, oil paintings, bamboo shelves & tables, stools, monumental, fine Jewelry, French glass top coffee table, Haviland Golden Quail china, Noritake Royal Hunt china, Chinese fishbowls, Chinese garden stools, benches, Majolica, fine crystal, Roseville, cast iron, stainless cookware, Spode, George Briard "Peony", sterling, silverplate, pair of fine Blackmoor lamps, antique boxes, lap desk on stand, antique tole tin items, fine French tole chandelier, Empire chandelier, basket collection, pottery, brass, patio items, flowerpots, Christmas items, washer & dryer, too much to list.

One of the finest sales of the year, see photos @www.estatesales.net Stewart's Antiques & Estate Sales Benny Shelton Columbus, MS 662-251-1515

## Garage Sales: Caledonia

**19 Kareda Drive** Huge yard sale with furniture, decorative pieces, clothing, military foot lockers, full size bed, appliances, a little bit of everything. Starting 7 am Friday and Saturday. No early birds

## Too much STUFF?



Start your de-cluttering by placing a garage sale ad today!

Ads starting at...  
1 day \$10  
3 day \$18  
6 day \$34

Price includes 4 lines of text. \$1/line after base cost.

## MERCHANDISE

ADS STARTING AT \$12

## Bargain Column

**2 Oak straight high back chairs** Light oak color, matching chairs. Won't sell separate. 15.00 each. Call 6624974626.

## VEHICLES

ADS STARTING AT \$12

## Autos For Sale

**2003 VOLKSWAGON Convertible.** Very good condition. \$6,200. Located in Aberdeen. Call 662-304-6486.

**2012 NISSAN ROUGE**  
177,600 miles, clean, cold a/c, heat. \$5,900 OBO. Call 662-435-7428.

**2013 FORD F-150 4x4**  
168K miles. One owner. Never in mud. Perfect condition. \$23,750. Located in Starkville. Call 601-927-0092.

## COMMUNITY

ADS STARTING AT \$12

## Pets

**FOR SALE:**  
Registered Miniature Dachshund Puppies 205-596-3264.



**Extra Newsprint**  
is a great, inexpensive solution for...

- Firestarter
- Packing Materials
- Shipping Materials
- Art Projects
- Window Cleaning

Visit **THE COMMERCIAL DISPATCH**  
Office at 516 Main Street Columbus, MS

**Lowndes County Imagination Library**  
Give the Gift of Books!

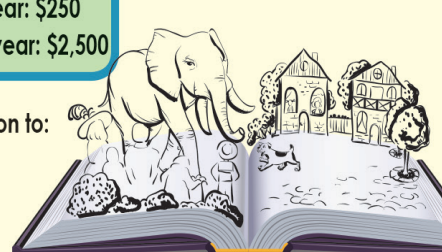
Books make a great gift in memory of or in honor of friends and family. Help children experience the magic of books. Your donation to Lowndes County Imagination Library provides one book a month for a Lowndes County pre-schooler.

- Sponsor 1 child for one year: \$25
- Sponsor 4 children for one year: \$100
- Sponsor 10 children for one year: \$250
- Sponsor 100 children for one year: \$2,500

Send your tax-deductible donation to:  
Lowndes County Imagination Library  
P.O. Box 511  
Columbus, MS 39703

To Donate Or For More Information Call: 662-328-2424

Sponsored locally by: **THE DISPATCH**




**REUSE THE NEWS**  
RECYCLE this NEWSPAPER

DISPATCH

## Five Questions:

- 1 Israel's
- 2 St. Petersburg
- 3 The tomato
- 4 The left side
- 5 Dean

No. 091A

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**HOT OFF THE PRESS**

GENERAL

Would you like...

# SERVICE DIRECTORY

PROMOTE YOUR SMALL BUSINESS STARTING AT ONLY \$25

<p><b>General Services</b></p> <p><b>K-5 After School Tutoring, LLC</b> Vanessa Williams, Owner/Operator Tutoring for all levels of students in grades K-5. Call 662-889-3874 http://k-5afterschooltutoringllc.com</p>	<p><b>General Services</b></p> <p><b>WORK WANTED:</b> Licensed &amp; Bonded. New Gutter Installation, Carpentry, minor electrical, minor plumbing, roof repair, roof cleaning, insulation, painting, demolition, gutters cleaned, pressure washing, landscaping, &amp; cleanup work, moving help. 662-242-3608.</p> <p><b>Lawn Care / Landscaping</b></p> <p><b>JESSE &amp; BEVERLY'S LAWN SERVICE</b> Mulching, Mowing, Tree Cutting, Landscaping, Sodding, Bush Hogging &amp; Pressure Washing 662-356-6525</p>	<p><b>Moving &amp; Storage</b></p> <p><b>CARGO TRANSPORT &amp; DELIVERY</b> Professional large capacity enclosed transport of cargo large and small. Local and long distance service available. Best rate guarantee. Call Dennis Harris with On-Time Cargo. 662-251-6059</p> <p>ads.cdispatch.com</p>	<p><b>Painting &amp; Papering</b></p> <p><b>QUALITY PAINTING</b> Ext/Int Painting Sheet Rock Hang, Finish &amp; Repair. Pressure Washing. Free Estimates. Larry Webber, 662-242-4932.</p> <p><b>Tree Services</b></p> <p><b>A &amp; T TREE SERVICES</b> Bucket truck &amp; stump removal. Free est. Serving Columbus since 1987. Senior citizen disc. Call Alvin @ 242-0324/241-4447 "We'll go out on a limb for you!"</p> <p>Read local.</p>
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If you don't advertise your business, how are they gonna know?

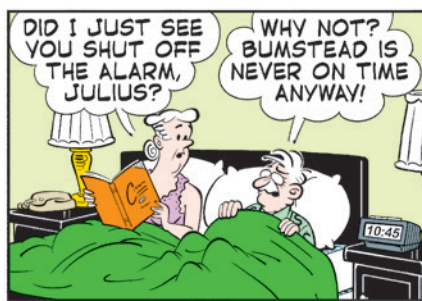
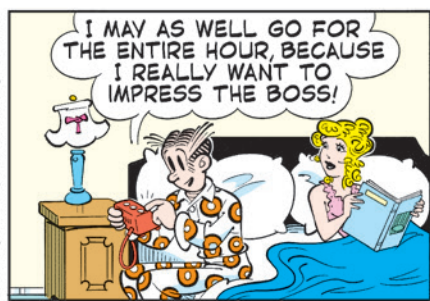
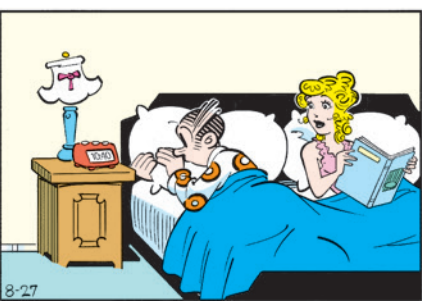
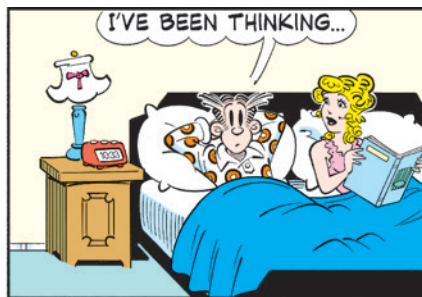
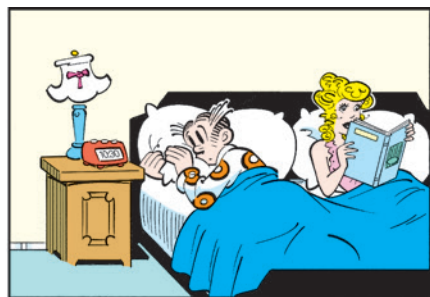
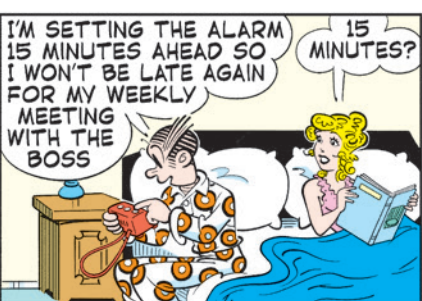
Looking for goods or services?  
Find it in the classifieds!





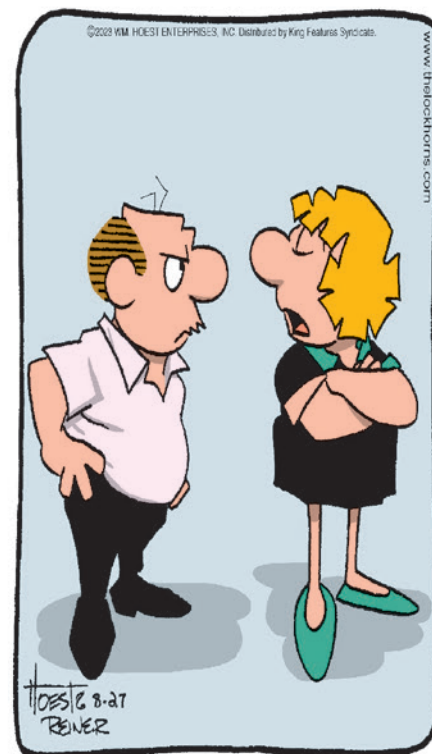
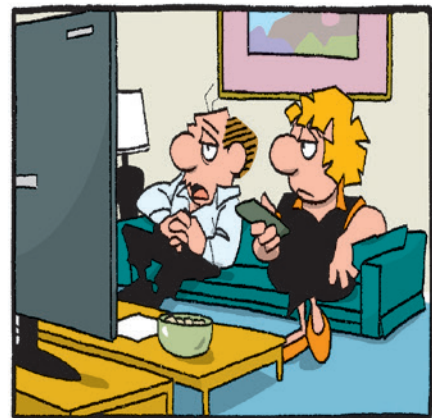
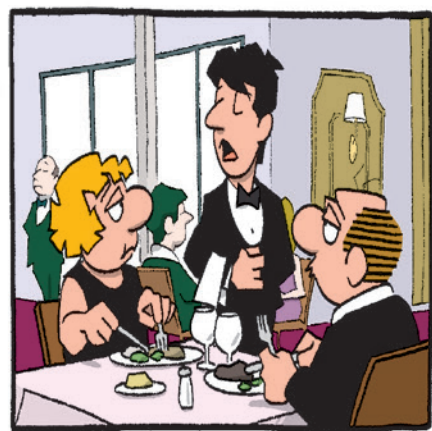
## BLONDIE

BY DEAN YEAGERS & JOHN MARSHALL



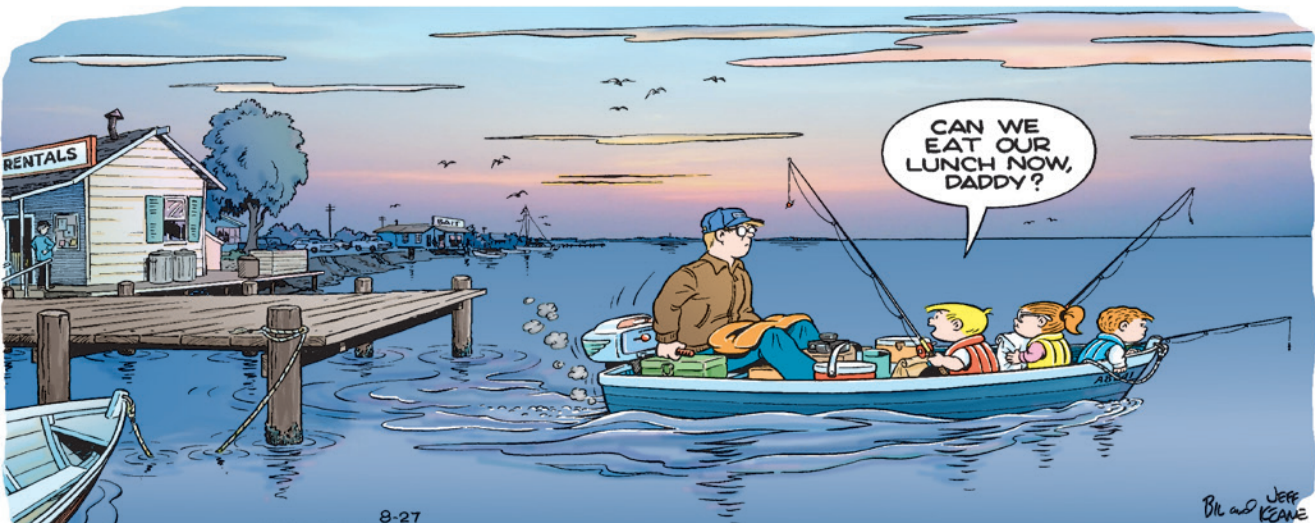
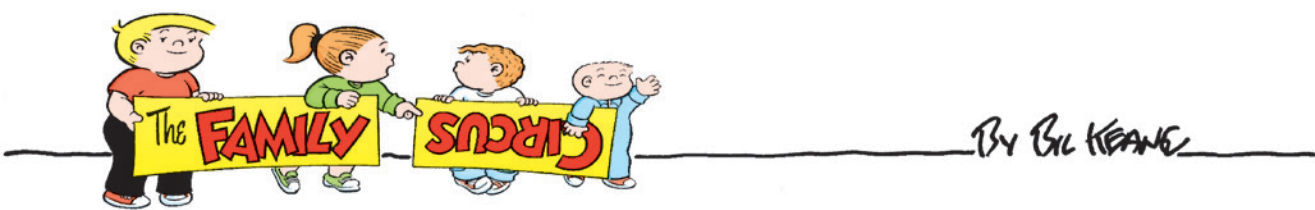
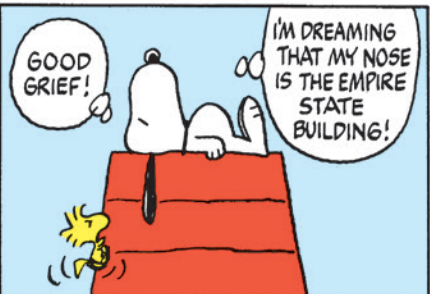
## THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER



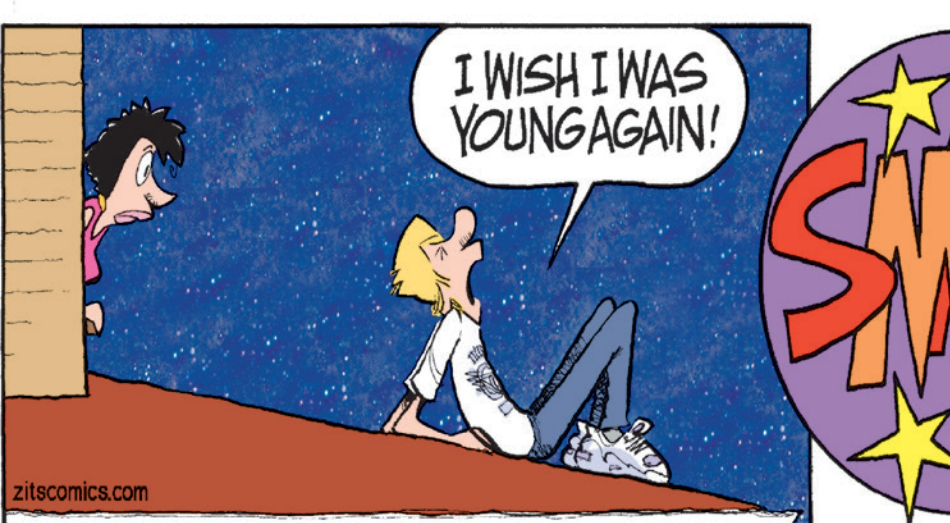
## PEANUTS

featuring "Good ol' Charlie Brown" by SCHULZ



## ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN





WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME, MOOCH? TO A SHECRET BEACH!

HOW EXCITING AND MYSTERIOUS! YESH.

AND HERE WE ARE!

WHA!?! IT'S PACKED!!!

YOU KNOW I CAN'T KEEP A SHECRET.

I'VE NEVER BEEN VERY GOOD AT GOLF IT'S A TOUGH GAME

DANG!

I'LL NEVER GET THE HANG OF THIS GAME I CAN GIVE YOU A FEW TIPS

BEND WAY OVER, SPREAD YOUR ARMS OUT LIKE WINGS, TURN YOUR FEET OUT, GRIP REAL TIGHT...

KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND SWING AS HARD AS YOU CAN!

I'LL VIDEO YOU SO YOU'LL REMEMBER HOW TO DO IT RIGHT

YOU'RE POSTING THIS ONLINE, AREN'T YOU? YOU BET!

PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE

OKAY, EVERYBODY GET AWAY. THERE'S NO BACON HERE!

I REPEAT... THERE IS NO BACON HERE!

I SMELL LIKE BACON BECAUSE I COOKED SOME FOR BREAKFAST, BUT IT'S ALL GONE NOW. UNDERSTAND? SO BEAT IT!

AND STOP LICKING MY LEG, ROSCOE!

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: A cousin I hardly know (he's 20 years older than I am and has lived hundreds of miles away my entire life) was visiting. He offered to drive me to his brother's house out in the country, about 30 miles from here, for dinner.

The last 15 miles were on narrow country roads. Five miles from our destination, he stopped to buy beer. As we drove off, he asked his girlfriend to pop one open for him and he drank it while he was driving. It never occurred to me that he, a well-off professional, would do something so stupid.

If this were to happen again, I think I would politely ask, "Would you please wait until you're not behind the wheel?" If he were unreceptive, I would add

(truthfully), "I lost a friend to someone who drank and drove, so I would really prefer that you don't." However, had he refused, I would have been in a bind.

I don't want to be in a car with a drinker, and I wasn't in a position to get out of the car. As noted, we were in the middle of nowhere, and I don't have a smartphone, so I couldn't have ordered an Uber or searched for nearby taxi service. Now I know never to accept a ride unless I've been clear (in a cordial way) with the driver ahead of time — but in that situation, what could I have done? — UNHAPPY PASSENGER IN MARYLAND

DEAR PASSENGER: You have learned an important lesson. Other than to voice your discomfort, there was nothing you

could have done. The best way to get out of a jam is not to get into one in the first place. In the future, if this person offers you a ride, take your own car and follow.

P.S. PLEASE consider getting a smartphone — for safety purposes.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter married her second husband in 2004. Because I was having cancer treatments with all the side effects, I didn't go to her wedding. Fast-forward to 2011. My granddaughter (her daughter) got married two weeks after I had another cancer surgery. I missed that milestone, too, and both of them hold this against me! My daughter told me she would crawl on her belly to go to HER daughter's or granddaughter's wedding.

I have never met my great-granddaughter or my granddaughter's husband, and she hasn't spoken to me in almost 10 years. I don't understand why. Am I wrong to think they are unreasonable, or should I have dragged myself to the weddings anyway? They

Horoscopes

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 26).** You'll grow yourself through an experimental process and become a different person, yet somehow also more yourself than ever. This solar return warms you up, softens your heart and makes you attractive to the situations and people who will make life sing. More highlights: A winning ticket, new business, and wonderful relationships that are not expensive. Leo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 14, 3, 37 and 11.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The one who tells another person's secret will tell yours too. You'll figure out who to trust. And, if you're not sure whether trust is warranted, err on the side of caution and discretion.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Self-esteem isn't a fixed thing. It may seem to waver more than usual throughout the day. But whether you feel strong or scared, you'll go ahead with your plans, which is what matters. Action creates energy.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** If you feel like someone is trying to persuade or control you, you'll resist. But it's when you don't feel pressured that you should really watch out. Skillfully manipulative people get what they want without making the others feel manipulated.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You're like an exotic orchid that needs a specific kind of attention. Even you are not sure what you need to thrive, but it probably has to do with the right kind of light. Sunny people will offer it.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your compassionate energy radiates. There's not a situation out there that more kindness won't improve. There are many forms this takes. Sometimes kindness is a silent resonance. Sometimes it's a smile.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Leadership looks like a mouthpiece, but it's actually an ear. An improvement mission is underway. Your best plans and ideas come after you've listened to people from every section of the hierarchy -- low- and high-ranking alike.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The question of standards will come up. Look around, do your research, understand the full range of what's possible, especially on the lower side — then set the bar.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're not trying to be competitive or show anyone up. But as you follow your heart, you gain insight, skill and other qualities that make the people around you want to up their game.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** If the water is muddy, you won't be able to tell how deep it is. It's better not to take chances with murky situations. Let things settle so you can see the bottom. And if they're not settling, don't cross. Some territory is best avoided altogether.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** It's easy to tell others what to do, and also ineffective. They will only want to follow examples. Being the example is harder. Making yourself do all the things is so tricky, but worthy of your complete focus.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Emotional bumpers can be deployed like airbags at the first sign of relationship turmoil. Challenge yourself to relax your defenses. Protection devices prevent injury but also prevent closeness. Determine what's really necessary.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** No one is counting your mistakes except you. What you get right will count a great deal as long as you're not pulling the focus away by talking or thinking about what you did wrong.

Puzzle solutions

Crossword by Thomas Joseph

A	R	O	W	A	M	I	G	A	
T	H	I	E	F	T	O	N	E	R
T	I	L	E	R	O	B	A	M	A
I	N	S	E	I	N	R	I	B	
C	O	U	S	I	N	S	U	N	S
S	P	A	G	H	E	T	T	I	
M	E	A	T	B	A	L	L	S	
B	O	N	N	I	M	L	A	T	E
E	R	R	A	T	E	T	A	X	
S	T	A	B	S	L	O	I	R	E
T	A	G	U	P	S	O	N	I	C
S	L	E	D	S	F	A	N	S	

Cryptoquote answer: SUMMER'S LEASE HATH ALL TOO SHORT A DATE. — WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

King Classic Sudoku

3	9	1	6	2	4	5	7	8
7	6	2	5	1	8	3	9	4
4	5	8	7	3	9	1	2	6
9	8	5	2	7	1	4	6	3
6	7	4	9	8	3	2	5	1
2	1	3	4	6	5	9	8	7
8	3	7	1	5	2	6	4	9
5	4	6	3	9	7	8	1	2
1	2	9	8	4	6	7	3	5

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/26

Theme: Back to School

M	C	A	T	M	A	P	L	E	I			
E	U	R	O	R	I	P	E	D	W	E	E	B
G	R	I	M	A	D	A	R	O	R	A	L	S
B	A	C	K	P	A	C	K	Z	I	P	S	
A	N	I	S	E	P	E	T					
M	O	L	T	E	N	M	A	N	I	O	C	S
E	R	A	L	E	T	H	A	L	N	A	R	C
D	I	D	S	T	W	A	G	A	G	R	E	E
I	N	L	Y	M	O	N	I	S	M	E	E	N
A	G	E	N	D	A	S	M	I	D	D	L	E
O	U	T	G	O	O	S	E					
V	A	N	E	L	U	N	C	H	B	O	X	
B	E	R	Y	L	O	M	S	K	A	R	M	S
A	R	U	M	S	C	U	E	S	S	C	A	T
G	Y	M	O	P	T	E	A	S	Y			

Sudoku

5	3	6	9	4	2	1	7	8
7	8	2	3	1	6	9	4	5
9	1	4	5	7	8	6	2	3
2	4	1	7	9	3	8	5	6
8	7	3	6	5	4	2	9	1
6	5	9	2	8	1	7	3	4
1	2	5	4	6	7	3	8	9
3	9	8	1	2	5	4	6	7
4	6	7	8	3	9	5	1	2

Whatzit Solution: Amirite?

Jumble

Jumbles: HABIT MOUND DELUGE SHRUNK

Answer: They couldn't afford to pay off their credit cards in full, but they were able to — MAKE "DUE"